



DEPARTMENT OF
GENERAL SERVICES

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

2127 Front Street
Sacramento, CA 95818

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES
DIVISION

Phone: 916-808-7387
Fax: 916-808-5386

CITY ANIMAL CARE VOLUNTEER HAPPENINGS!! May 2009 Report to the Advisory Committee For the month of: April, 2009

MAY 19, 2009

VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR APRIL, 2009

In April, 159 volunteers booked 4357 hours. Of these hours, 1380 hours were provided by 33 Foster Care Providers who cared for 46 animals in our foster program.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ Our Community spay/neuter clinic was held on Sunday, April 19. Volunteer vets, UCD vet students and our shelter volunteers helped 12 dogs get altered and processed 47 animals through our walk up vaccination clinic. The feline program within our Community spay neuter program transported 44 cats to the Animal Spay Neuter Clinic in Auburn on April 1 and 16.
- ❖ On Tuesday, April 14, volunteers set up an educational booth and brought adoptable dogs to the north steps of the Capitol. We joined several other groups to help promote Assembly Bill 233 and talk about shelter animals. Below is a capsule of the Bill's intent. I've also attached the legislative discussion of the bill which includes those organizations that support and oppose this bill. I received a very nice personal thank you from Assembly member Smyth for our attendance.

SUBJECT : Personal income tax: deductions: pet adoption costs

SUMMARY : Allows a deduction under the Personal Income Tax Law for qualified costs paid or incurred by a taxpayer for the adoption of a pet from a qualified animal rescue organization. Specifically, this bill :

1)Allows a deduction, for each taxable year beginning on or

after January 1, 2010, and before January 1, 2015, for "qualified costs" paid or incurred during the taxable year by a taxpayer for the adoption of a "pet" from a "qualified animal rescue organization".

- ❖ On Sunday, April 19, volunteers took 6 adoptable dogs walking at Capitol Park and then on to Petco for an adoption showcase.
- ❖ On April 15, 25 potential volunteers attended Volunteer Orientation. All of them continued on to take their "General Shelter", "Canine Capers" dog training, "Feline Follies" cat training as well as Rabbit Training class. These classes were followed up by "Lead Volunteers" mentoring each new volunteer and their "Good Manners" dog training classes taught by volunteer and dog trainer, Melinda Hutchings.

UPCOMING AND RECENT EVENTS

- ❖ On May 9th we participated in the "Latino Folk Art Festival". We staffed a booth that provided scheduling for spay/neuter appointments for low income pets and handed out information on licensing, vaccination clinics and pet education. We showcased 4 dogs, one of which was subsequently adopted.
- ❖ On Saturday, May 23, we will provide a booth and animal education during the grand opening of a new dog park in Councilmember Steve Cohn's District (3).
- ❖ On Saturday, May 30, our volunteers will participate in the SSPCA's "Doggie Dash" by entering our own shelter dogs in the 5K run. Our dogs will sport their "Adopt Me" capes.
- ❖ We will soon be setting up for adoptions on Sundays (dogs, only at this time) at PetSmart in Elk Grove.
- ❖ On June 18, our Community Spay Neuter group of volunteers will be targeting the New Helvetia public housing facility (Broadway at 6th St.) to transport at least 20 unaltered cats to the Animal Spay Neuter Clinic in Auburn.
- ❖ On June 27, we will join the "Bike Safety" event at New Helvetia to provide education about spaying and neutering and demonstrations on dog safety for kids.

CURRENT PROJECTS

In an effort to provide the Advisory Committee with a complete detail of what the volunteer department is doing, I will begin including the additional projects I am working on that involve the shelter and volunteers.

- ❖ **CAT HOARDING; WILLIAMS CATS:** The "Williams Cats" project is a case resulting from a neighbor complaint of too many cats. I am working with Officer Ricardo Gaitan to reduce the 24 cats in the household to the legal limit of 7. We have visited the home, photographed the cats and taken detailed information. I have scheduled the cats for spay/neuter surgery on May 28 and arranged with Animal

Outreach of the Motherlode to take the cats into their adoption facility in early June. This will eliminate the impact of bringing the cats to the shelter.

- ❖ **CAT HOARDING; KLATT CATS:** I am working on a second cat hoarding case with Officer Clinton Nelms know as the “Klatt Cats”. I hope to be able to provide the same services to this household of 45 cats.
- ❖ **AGILITY YARD PROJECT:** I have meet twice with Pete Jensen and once with Architect Keith Stout to move this project forward. This project involves the landscaping of the area behind the behavior evaluation trailer to prepare the area as a suitable dog run to include agility equipment. The agility equipment was purchased two years ago by a fund provided by the family of Al Hill (a volunteer) at the time of his death. Keith and I are scheduled to visit the SSPCA to view the artificial turf they have installed.
- ❖ **VOUCHER PROGRAM:** Dr. Laura Warner and I are working on a spay/neuter voucher program that can be used by our shelter for “needy” clients. We have addressed the SVVMA in writing and they have given us their support and access to their newsletter. We are evaluating the co-pay structure and preparing the vouchers. We hope to speak to the general membership of the SVVMA in June.
- ❖ **NEW VOLUNTEER ATTIRE:** With the wear and tear on our volunteer aprons, it seemed time to evaluate the volunteer uniforms. After much thought, I decided the volunteers needed to have t-shirts that they maintain and wear when volunteering. The new t-shirts and “waiters” aprons will be purchased by each volunteer. The t-shirts are purple with City ACS logo and the aprons are black with the same logo. The aprons will be cleaned and kept at the shelter. The t-shirts should be ready for volunteer purchase by the end of this week.
- ❖ **NEW CAT KENNEL HEALTH STATUS FORMS:** I created the cat kennel daily check sheets for the ACTs. Following a complaint to the Local 39 about volunteers “refreshing” the cat cages and “taking over” the work of ACTs, we have determined that an evaluation of CA, KP, CS, CQ, NCA and KA must be done in the mornings prior to volunteers refreshing the cages. The forms allow an ACT to quickly evaluate the status of each cat prior to refreshing of the cages. In addition, Dr. Warner can review these forms with health concerns noted daily on each cat.
- ❖ **ANIMAL SPAY NEUTER/AUBURN:** We have a PO with Animal Spay Neuter Clinic through the end of the fiscal year that exceeded what we thought we could do with twice monthly clinics. Working with our Community s/n volunteers and Lynn Wiley, we will be transporting cats to Auburn once a week until the end of the fiscal year.
- ❖ **PETSMART, ELK GROVE:** As noted in upcoming events, I am working with the assistant manager at PetsMart in Elk Grove to begin a new program for adopting dogs at their facility.

- ❖ **PIT BULL DOG TRAINING CLASSES:** I am working with volunteer, Becky Correia to facilitate the creation of a pit bull dog training class at the shelter. This class would be offered to all those who adopt a pit bull from the shelter. This specialized class for bullie breeds would supplant the requirement we have of mandatory dog training classes. While it's easy to find a dog training class for other breeds, it is nearly impossible to find them for the bullie breeds. Becky has created a thorough class plan and protocol and we are now evaluating the liability of such classes.
- ❖ **ADDITIONAL PROJECTS:** research on "pet friendly rentals"; improving foster care provider education through specific training; attempting to negotiate exotics room "refreshing" of cages with ACTs; planning for a major clean up of sheds and shelter areas; recruitment of veterinarians for upcoming s/n clinics as well as 2010 clinics; improvements in City website, volunteer department postings.

TRAININGS

- I provided 6 classroom presentations during the month of April which included 4 elementary schools 1 Middle school and one High School Senior Project evening presentation.
- I conducted 8 volunteer trainings including General Shelter Training, Canine Capers, Rabbit training and Feline Follies.

Claudia Schlachter
Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator