OC Animal Care Recognizes Volunteers

On January 29th, OC Animal Care staff, volunteers and their families gathered at the Delhi Center in Santa Ana to enjoy a catered lunch and to celebrate the service of our volunteers. Volunteer of the Year was Christy C., and Foster Caretaker of the year was Cindy S. with more than 349 days of fostering animals in her home. We also awarded Bronze (100+ Hours) Silver (250+ Hours), Gold service and Outstanding Foster (500+ Hours) for their hours of service as well as the top service hours in Dog Walking (Sue K.), Cat Socializing (Celesta P.), Kitten Nursery (Valerie G.), Public Education (Debbie B.), Rabbit Socializing (Cindy W.) and Grooming (Kim K.). We also honored five exceptional volunteers who have made huge impacts in our programs including Linda L., Rhonda G., Heather M., Ray H. and Amy S. as well as our Rookie of the Year MJ! The Orange County Excellence in Volunteerism Award which was given to Dona M. for her incredible dedication to our shelter cats and foster programs.

Volunteers and guests received goodie bags and volunteers were eligible for 27 amazing door prizes. We are so proud of our incredible volunteer family and were thrilled to celebrate their accomplishments at their annual luncheon.

For more information on becoming an OC Animal Care Volunteer, Please visit: http://www.ocpetinfo.com/involve/volunteer/adult or call our Volunteer Coordinator at (714) 796-6427.

OC Animal Care Night at Honda Center!

On March 26th, OC Animal Care attended the annual night out at Honda Center with the Anaheim Ducks! Staff, volunteers and shelter dogs had a blast meeting Ducks fans, the Power Players and the Duck’s Mascot; Wild Wing.

During this fun-filled event, the shelter received an enormous amount of donations from fans including bags of pet food, dog and cat toys, blankets and more!

It was a memorable experience and this event would not be possible without the Anaheim Ducks and the hockey fans who came out to show their support for our shelter. OC Animal Care is looking forward to our continued partnership and future events with the Anaheim Ducks Foundation!

Volunteer of the Year, Christy C. (right), and Public Education Officer, Brittany H. (left).

Shelter Dogs, OCAC Volunteers, Wild Wing and the Power Players having a blast! Go Ducks!
29 Animals Adopted During Spay Day USA!

On February 25th, OC Animal Care highlighted the importance of fixing your pets by hosting Spay Day USA! A total of 29 shelter animals (9 cats, 18 dogs and 2 bunnies) found homes.

Animals who were adopted on this day received a free spay or neuter, which not only helps decrease the homeless pet population, but reduces the risk of certain cancers and other diseases for your furry friends!

Thank you to all community members, staff and volunteers who came out and joined in the festivities.

Visit www.ocpetinfo.com to check out when OC Animal Care hosts low-cost spay/neuter clinics or where you can find local low-cost clinics near you!

ACO’s Save the Day!

In late February, 4 Animal Control Officers and their Sergeant saved the day after rescuing an injured coyote on school grounds in Huntington Beach. The rescue took place before an event that was estimated to have over 500 people, including children of elementary school ages.

The main priority was public safety, and ACO’s Suggett, Davis, Natalizio and Kaiser along with SGT. Jones did not hesitate to take action. They quickly worked together to devise a plan that would ensure the capture of the coyote.

This group coordinated an approach strategy that consisted of a backup scenario on what to do in case the coyote broke free. After securing the area, it was time to take action and carry out their well thought out plan.

3 ACO’s were leading the frontline equipped with a Ketch-all and nets to obtain the injured animal. 2 ACO’s followed up behind to ensure capture if the coyote somehow made it past this first obstacle.

Thanks to this well orchestrated plan and the skills of the shelter’s ACOs, the wild animal was caught during the first attempt. After being apprehended, the injured coyote was treated with dignity and respect.

This group stayed calm and approached the situation with confidence and trusted in the capabilities of their team to work together during this high stress situation. Special thank you to all Animal Control Staff members, they are considered our animal care heroes!

Spring is here along with Warmer Weather!

Spring is here and with that comes warmer weather. It may seem like common sense, but too often we see people leaving their dogs or other pets inside of a hot vehicle.

Did you know that on a 78-degree day, temperatures can rise to over 100-degrees in minutes? It only takes around 15 minutes for an animal to suffer from brain damage or die from heatstroke.

Hot pavement can also pose a threat. If it’s too hot for you to walk around barefoot, it’s too hot for your dog too! Hot pavement can cause sores, burns and leave your dog in pain and discomfort. Walking your pets during the early morning and late evening can help.

Do your part and educate friends and family on the dangers that come with warmer weather for your pets.

Remember, if you ever see a dog or any animal left alone in a hot car, call the local police or OC Animal Care immediately.
**A Foster Tale**

It’s always exciting to bring kittens home and see how they have fun exploring and getting used to a clean, loving and happy environment. Bruno and Lucy were quick to acclimate to their new temporary home.

However, I soon was faced with my first crisis. Bruno and Lucy turned out to be very picky eaters. My high quality “go to” kitten foods did not appeal to these two, so for the next couple of weeks, the kittens and I were on a PetCo and PetsMart rollercoaster, trying every stinky wet kitten food I could put my hands on.

Unfortunately, inconsistency in the kitten’s diet nearly always results in soft stool (if you’re lucky), or diarrhea (if you’re not so lucky). Bruno is made of hearty stuff, but Lucy began to struggle with soft stool and diarrhea - and still no one was taken with my food choices.

We are so lucky to have such a knowledgeable, supportive and understanding Community Outreach Team. They never fail to bolster my confidence and offer hints, tips and hand holding to get me through the biggest or smallest crisis.

After many e-mails to Erica, the Volunteer Coordinator, a few visits to the shelter Vet, daily NutriCal and FortiFlora probiotics, and lots of hand wringing, a slow, steady weight gain started to materialize.

I have been fostering underage kittens for years, but that never stops me from worrying about my kittens. The foster mom or dad’s job is to socialize the kittens and raise them until they are over two pounds - thus ready for adoption. For me, it comes down to the fact that I, the foster mom, am the only one that can give these foster kittens the successful entree into the life they so deserve. It is a great honor and privilege, but the mantle of responsibility can be heavy and the nights sometimes sleepless. The joy, laughter, and ear to ear smiles that the kittens deliver, far surpass any effort on my part.

As I begin planning for Lucy and Bruno’s spay/neuter and return to the shelter for adoption, I reflect on the most significant memories and milestones of this foster experience.

- The first time Lucy, then Bruno, purred when I petted them
- Every evening when both babies fall asleep next to me or in my lap
- The adorable way they look in their Bee and Lion costumes
- The way my husband tries (unsuccessfully) to hide his affection for the babies
- The way they are so happy and content because I am in the room with them

I am always ecstatic when my foster kittens are placed in great homes for adoption, but I always miss them and their sweet, funny antics. To anyone who has extra room in their home and heart, please consider fostering. It makes life so much richer and full of love!

Debbie has been a foster with OC Animal Care for over 5 years and helps tremendously with all of the shelter’s tours and educational programs. We asked her to share her foster experience and she sent us this wonderful piece to share with you!

**Make a Difference! Join our Foster Program!**

We are seeking foster homes for dogs and cats who need a place to grow up, heal or simply need a break from the stressful shelter environment. If you would like to sign up to become a lifesaving foster home, please visit our website at: [http://www.ocpetinfo.com/involve/volunteer/adult/foster](http://www.ocpetinfo.com/involve/volunteer/adult/foster)
**What should you do if you find Newborn Kittens?**

Kitten season is here and there are ways you can help these adorable babies! Many times people bring kittens to the shelter because they think they have been abandoned by their mom, but in reality the mom might just be looking for food or in the process of moving her family.

*If you find kittens, always observe them from a distance to see if their mother returns. This could take several hours. If the mother comes back help out by feeding them from a distance.*

*If the mother does not return, remove the kittens to a safe environment. Their best chance is for you to bottle feed the kittens until they are big enough for adoption.

*There are many resources online that teach how to properly feed and care for your bottle kittens. If you are unable to care for them, reach out to a local cat rescue group or bring them to your local shelter.*

Feral cats can be brought to our shelter, if we service the city they were found in, and they will be vaccinated, spayed/neutered and “eartipped” before they are returned to their outdoor home.

When a feral cat is under anesthesia as they are being fixed, the tip of the ear is painlessly removed. An eartip on a cat is the universal symbol that a feral cat is fixed and vaccinated.

Since OC Animal Care’s Spay, Neuter Release (SNR) program began in April 2013, more than 3,000 cats and kittens have been saved!

Volunteers collect cats, and return them to the address they came from. If you are interested in helping out with this lifesaving program, please consider joining the SNR team run by Cats in Need Yorba Linda! Releases take place on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings.

*If you can help out, please contact Celesta Peterson at: celestap@yahoo.com or call (714) 998-6360.*

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**Upcoming Events**

Checkout these awesome events we have coming up over the next few months!

- **Spring Fling Adoption Event** - April 29
- **America’s Pet Expo (offsite)** - April 28-29
- **Low-Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic** - May 21
- **Animals for Armed Forces** - May 27-28
- **Pet Tag Awareness Month** - June
- **Irvine Pet Adoption Event (offsite)** - June 4
- **Happily Ever After Pet Fair** - June 17

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**SNR Program is Saving Lives!**

This feral cat has an eartip, the universal symbol that means they’re fixed and vaccinated.

Since OC Animal Care's Spay, Neuter Release (SNR) program began in April 2013, more than 3,000 cats and kittens have been saved!

**Have a Question for OC Animal Care?**
You can ask one of our experts by emailing your question to: OCCRocpetinfo@occr.ocgov.com with the subject “Ask the Expert”

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**Adoption Numbers**

From January 1st, 2017 to March 31st, 2017:

- 1,350 Adoptions (372 Cats, 813 Dogs, 66 Rabbits)
- 689 Returned to Owner
- 284 Transfer to Rescue/Vet/Shelter
- 247 TNR Releases

*Numbers do not include exotics or wildlife releases*

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**Ask OC Animal Care**

**Meet Squeaks! A bottle baby saved through our foster program.**

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**OC Animal Care**

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/OCAnimalCare