



North Bay Pets

Saving Lives in Sonoma County for 80 Years

Ensuring every animal receives protection, compassion, love and care.

Winter 2011, Vol. 23, No. 2

Jackson

A Tale of Intensive Caring

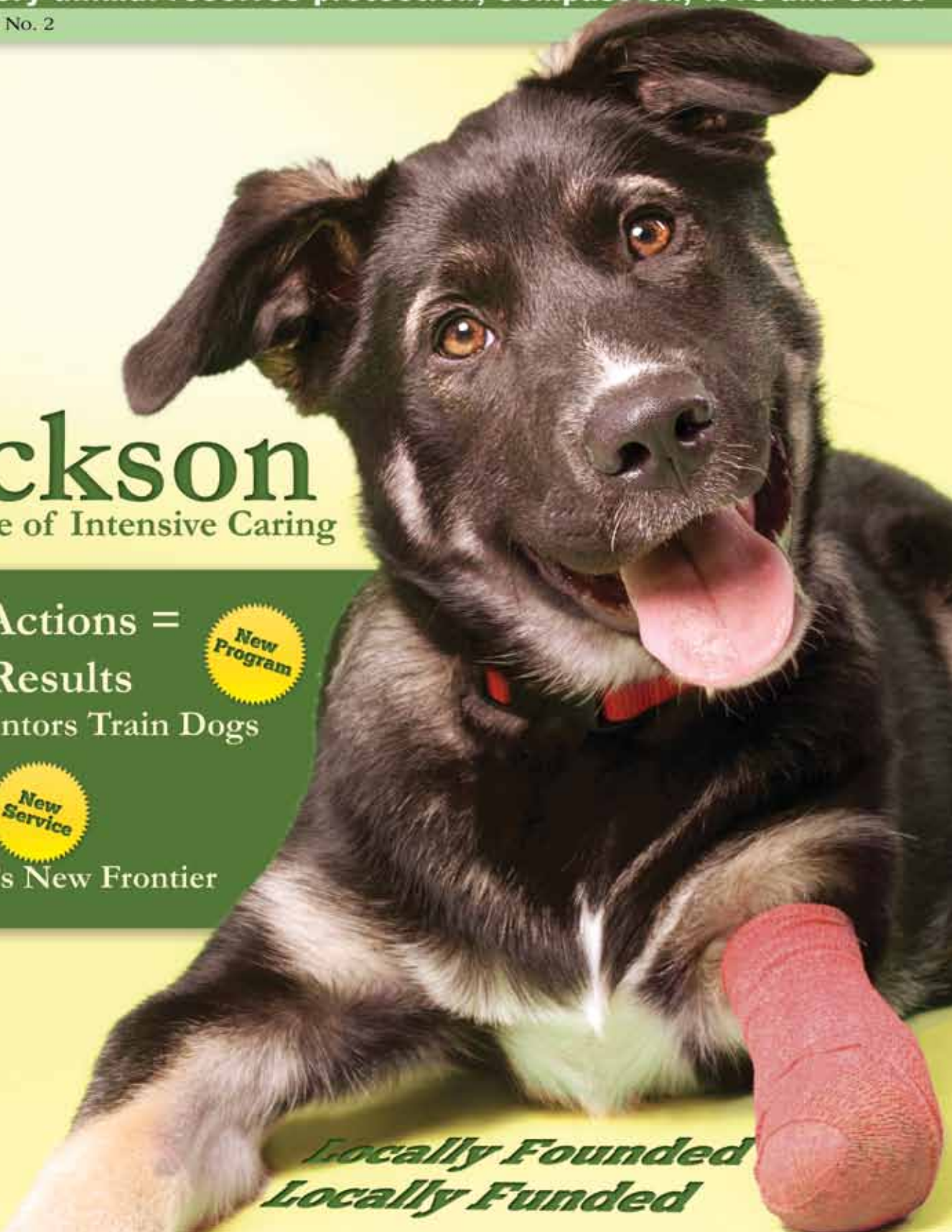
Positive Actions =
Positive Results
Teens & Mentors Train Dogs

**New
Program**

Fospice
Compassion's New Frontier

**New
Service**

*Locally Founded
Locally Funded*



Robert Russell: A 50-year Friend to Animals

Giving thanks: At the Sonoma Humane Society we are continually grateful for the outpouring of support which comes from our community. Thankful for the adopters who give our animals new homes, for the volunteers who devote their time selflessly, and for the donors whose financial contributions cover our costs of animal care. Oftentimes, it feels that there just aren't thanks enough – especially for those who make giving a way of life.

On October 26, 2010, the Sonoma Humane Society said farewell to one of its most ardent supporters and dearest friends, Robert Russell.

When his obituary appeared in the newspaper, it read, “Bob devoted his whole life to helping others ... He lived simple and died simple.”

We'd say, simply magnificent!

It was in 1961 that Bob met the Sonoma Humane Society's (then) Executive Director, Margaret Richardson, and gave his first \$4 donation. From that moment forward, Bob demonstrated his love for animals and his dedication to their protection with a commitment that is truly rare. For as far back as our donation records can show, Robert sat down and wrote a check to the Sonoma Humane Society ... every single month.

Robert was a history buff and an antiques collector, but beyond these passions, his love for animals was a constant. His lifelong dedication to animal welfare touched the lives of countless animals and people in our community. Today, Robert's legacy of caring continues through his generous planned gift, in the Robert Russell Trust.

We were fortunate to know Robert during his lifetime and honored, now, to carry out his wishes. And, although giving thanks is something we do year-round, today we would like to recognize the important contributions left to the Sonoma Humane Society by our legacy benefactors.



Kiska Icard
Executive Director

Planned gifts, the bequests named in a Will or Trust, provide the Sonoma Humane Society with the means to care for thousands of homeless and neglected animals every year. We are grateful and honored to have been remembered by the following kind and generous benefactors:



Bequest Distributions received between 7/1/2010 - 6/30/2011

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The Merrill Charitable Trust
The Laurence L. Moore Charitable Trust
The Margot Oppenheimer Trust
The Estate of Beverly Rock
The Robert Russell Trust

This Year's Hottest Holiday Gift?

The Sonoma Humane Society Pet Pinup Calendar!



We've got the best holiday gift ever – especially for the animal lovers in your life! The 2012 Pet Pinup Calendar is the product of a wonderful fundraising partnership between the Sonoma Humane Society, KZST 100.1, Studio Bark and our community of animal lovers. Filled with fun and clever images, these unique pet photos will make you smile all year long. Make 2012 the best year yet. Drop by the Sonoma

Humane Society today and purchase your calendar. It will help you get every day off to a great start.

Calendars are priced at just \$10.00 and all sales benefit our animal friends.

The Sonoma Humane Society would like to thank KZST 100.1, Studio Bark and all of those who participated in the Great Pet Pinup Calendar Photo Contest fundraiser. Their support has helped us to provide comfort and compassion to many animals in need.

Photos, animals, promotion + printing all 100% local!

Animal Adventure and Education Camp

What a wonderful way to spend the winter break, learning at the Sonoma Humane Society to help care for the animals while making friends who love animals as much as you do! Each year, hundreds of kids join us for Animal Adventure Camp. Games, crafts and hands-on animal activities all help children develop respect and a positive attitude toward all living beings. We hope you join us and look forward to a fun-filled winter camp season!



Register now online at sonomahumane.org or call (707) 542-0882, ext. 232.

Winter Camps are Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m

Session 1	Dec. 27 - 29, 2011	2nd - 4th grade	\$175.00
Session 2	Jan. 3 - 5, 2012	3rd - 6th grade	\$175.00

This is a recreational camp program. The Sonoma Humane Society is not a licensed child care provider.

Positive Actions = Positive Results

The Dog Behavior and Training Department and the Education Department at Sonoma Humane Society have come together to create a wonderful program in which everyone is a winner.

The Foster Youth Development Mentoring Program, which pairs at-risk youth with adult volunteer mentors, is now helping shelter dogs learn better manners! In this program, adult mentors guide the teens through the steps of dog care and positive reinforcement training with dogs at the Sonoma Humane Society shelter. While the dogs are receiving kennel enrichment, exercise, and training, the teens are gaining the benefit of added responsibility, compassion, and seeing the positive results of their work when a lucky dog finds a forever home.

The Mentor/Mentee teams start by learning how dogs communicate and how human body language is interpreted by a dog. They have the responsibility of cleaning up after their canine “students” and learn to spend quiet time with the dogs in their rooms. When teens have accomplished the steps that prepare them to safely handle and work with a dog, the real training begins.

The kids who show the most interest and desire to learn are invited to join the Behavior and Training Department’s “Good Manners” classes, which are designed to teach positive reinforcement training methods. Positive reinforcement training is based on rewarding behaviors you want to see happen, as opposed to punitive or correction based training (which has damaged many dogs’ and children’s psyches). Many of the dogs, as well as the teens, come from traumatic backgrounds, where being rewarded for positive behavior was not a regular part of their lives.

Positive reinforcement training requires that the dog and the handler be active participants in the training process. The dog needs to think in order to get the desired behavior correctly. The handler needs to have good timing and know exactly what they are asking of the dog; ask too much too fast and the exercise will fall apart. Act too slowly, and they reward the wrong behavior.

In the course of their training, dogs gain confidence, respect, and develop relationships with the teens -- all of which transfer over to help the dog adjust in a new home. In return, the teens gain valuable work experience to help them as they enter into adulthood, a sense of accomplishment and, more importantly, they have the benefit of seeing the positive results of their efforts.

This program is a win/win idea for Sonoma Humane Society, the at-risk youth, the shelter dogs and the community as a whole, as these dogs and teens go out into the world to start new and richer lives.

By Suzanne Kernek



Mentor Christine and her mentee focus on Cooper.

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Calendar of Events

Dec. 6 Holiday Dog Treats. Learn to make tasty and adorable dog bone cookies for your dog. 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$35 per attendee. People only, please. Call (707) 542-0882.

Dec. 12 Fido, Come! An evening of fun "come when called" exercises with your dog. 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$40 per dog. Call (707) 542-0882.

Dec. 14 Play to Train. Learn games that integrate obedience work with fun. 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$40 per dog. Call (707) 542-0882.

Dec. 27-29, 2011 Winter Camp Session 1

Jan. 3 -5, 2012 Winter Camp Session 2
\$175 per session. Register now online at sonomahumane.org or call (707) 542-0882, ext. 232. Winter Camps are Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ONGOING

Dog and Puppy training classes. For complete current schedule go to sonomahumane.org

Bunny Playground. Saturdays at 1 p.m. at the Sonoma Humane Society.

FAPP Vegan Potluck, 5-7 p.m. Third Wednesday of every month. Free. Donations welcome. Details at sonomahumane.org

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Fospice

Compassion's New Frontier

A few months ago, a cat named Tiger arrived at our shelter. Tiger had been adopted from Sonoma Humane Society as a kitten 18 years ago and was being surrendered due to a change in the household. Tiger was an old cat, but a very robust one, and his charm was immediately evident.

At the same time, a very vocal geriatric stray cat (subsequently named Pavarotti for his strong voice) was brought in. Pavarotti was friendly and gregarious, but with mild kidney disease and relatively advanced heart disease.

Because of their age and health challenges, these two cats were not good candidates for our adoption center. Although both were experiencing a good quality of life and were delightful felines with lots of love and companionship to share, each only had a short time to live and weren't the type of cat a typical adopter would take into their home.

These fine animals, each a dignified soul whose eyes still shone with light and a desire to live, prompted the Sonoma Humane Society to create a Fospice Program.

Fospice, a blend of foster and hospice, is a program which allows animals with life-limiting conditions to be

placed into loving homes with permanent "foster" parents. The idea is that the foster parents provide the love, nurturing, and affection for these animals during their final days and SHS provides all the medical care and costs associated with their care.

This innovative program allows animals who are not suffering, who are at the end of their lives, to experience warmth, love, and compassion during that precious time. Fospice is a natural evolution of Sonoma Humane Society's dedication to ensuring that all animals receive the love, medical care and respect they deserve.

Both cats have been out in Fospice for several months and are doing well. Their amazing Fospice parents, Lori Pahler and Sue Jenkins, report that both cats have settled in and each is a delight to have in their home.

As a shelter veterinarian, I am proud to be part of this ground-breaking program, and grateful to all who help to make it a reality.

By Dr. Christi Cambor, DVM

Jackson

A Tale of Intensive Caring

Sonoma Humane Society veterinarian Dr. Christi Cambor well remembers her reaction upon seeing the savagely wounded puppy: “It looked bad.” As the doctor prepped for emergency surgery so she could fully assess and treat this patient – to start with, one foot was missing and a second was badly damaged – she reasonably wondered: Even if he survives, will this work?

A few weeks later a couple who’d fallen for this disabled dog had some well-founded hesitations about adopting him. After all, they were two very busy people who, while quite anxious to make time for a dog, weren’t sure they were fully prepared. This was a puppy whose special needs would last a lifetime, so they rightly wondered: Will this work?

Some weeks after that, the little dog, scooting around on three legs, was tentatively enrolled in a Sonoma Humane Society (SHS) training class. The instructor, knowing that each dog in the class would be meeting and interacting with half a dozen new dogs and that this pup had been traumatically mauled by another dog, naturally wondered: Will this work?

Of course, Jackson, as he came to be named, never replied directly to this question that was posed constantly throughout his early life. He did, however, supply an answer: Yes, it can work. Beautifully.

All Jackson photos, including cover, courtesy Sibylla Herbrich / Studio Bark

At the beginning, though, there was no reason for optimism. Besides severe wounds to his feet, skin was torn away from his chest, and his rear leg was covered in blood. Moreover, the two-month-old pup was in poor condition overall and was barely responsive, and the injuries were at least a few days old.

To the people who’d brought him, the problem was minor. They said he’d been attacked by another dog (it sure looked that way), said they didn’t have money for medical care and made it clear they were not emotionally attached to this animal. Was it a problem, then, if they surrendered the young dog to the humane society? No problem.

The moment the pup was handed to her, the doctor – backed by the Sonoma Humane Society’s Angels Fund – began first aid, giving the pup pain medication and

injecting fluids into his limp body. Then she anesthetized the patient to get a better look at the various injuries and take X-rays.

Dogs, particularly young ones, can adapt well to life with three legs. But this dog might be left with just two legs – and on the same side. Dr. Cambor



would make every effort to save that rear leg.

Thus began weeks of intensive care. Luckily, there was no internal damage. For the two injured feet, Dr. Cambor used what's known as a wet to dry dressing, which prevents infection and encourages the body to rebuild tissue. A similar strategy is used for burn victims. The serious drawback is that the healed part of the wound – that is, the top surface – must be removed each day. If it sounds painful to rip the bandaging off a partly healed wound, it is. Jackson had to be anesthetized every day before this procedure.

Because Jackson required constant treatment, Dr. Cambor had to be nearby 24 hours, so by day, he stayed safely in a playpen in her office; by night, he went home with her.

Only two days after arriving at SHS, the revived pup was up and walking. And after a week he was doing his darnedest to run around on those damaged and heavily bandaged feet – and largely succeeding. This presented a huge challenge to his rehabilitation. Yet, realistically, there was no way to keep him from disrupting the dressings, a problem throughout his long recovery.

Once Jackson was safely past the intensive-care stage (it took an entire month), he could move to a fostering situation in someone's home. By this time, everyone at SHS knew Jackson, and no less than three SHS staff members volunteered, rotating "Jackson duty." Jackson spent evenings in the company of caring humans and their various friendly dogs, and spent his waking hours at what amounted to day camp – playing and socializing – at SHS. Jackson, in fact, was an early beneficiary of the new Foster Youth Development Mentoring Program (see pg. 4) with teens lavishing even more one-on-one attention on him.

Jackson's future, while not bright, now showed some light at the end of the tunnel.

Meanwhile, on a packed-gravel trail in the Sonoma County countryside, a woman named Deb Skinner and her friend, who works at the Sonoma Humane Society, were chatting in the middle of their running routine. Deb's SHS friend mentioned the sad case of this remarkably resilient pup now well enough to move to a foster home, if only the right foster parent could be found. Requiring close supervision each day, continued hands-on wound care, frequent checkups by the veterinarian and who knows what else – how do you house-train a dog that can't walk? – it would be a case of Extreme Fostering.

Intrigued, Deb asked her friend to send her more information about this poor pup. Deb and her husband Tom had been contemplating adopting a dog, though not anytime soon. To begin with, they were far apart on what kind of dog.

True, fostering is, by definition, a temp job. But the last time Deb had taken on a foster role, she couldn't bring herself to give up her wards; that's why the couple now had two cats. Tom, also the loyal type, was leery about bringing a dog into their lives to care for, only to give up the animal after a few weeks. (Repeat foster parents learn to let go because they know they can welcome another needy animal or two; still, when it comes to animals, many of us humans just aren't wired that way.) Jackson, of course, required an inordinate amount of care and attention now and in the future.

Three days after Jackson crossed the threshold, he made his public debut at the SHS Gala, foster mom Deb cradling him in her arms. SHS staff were eager to find him a permanent home, so what better venue than a large roomful of animal enthusiasts? By then, however, love had blossomed; Deb and Tom had already pledged themselves to Jackson.

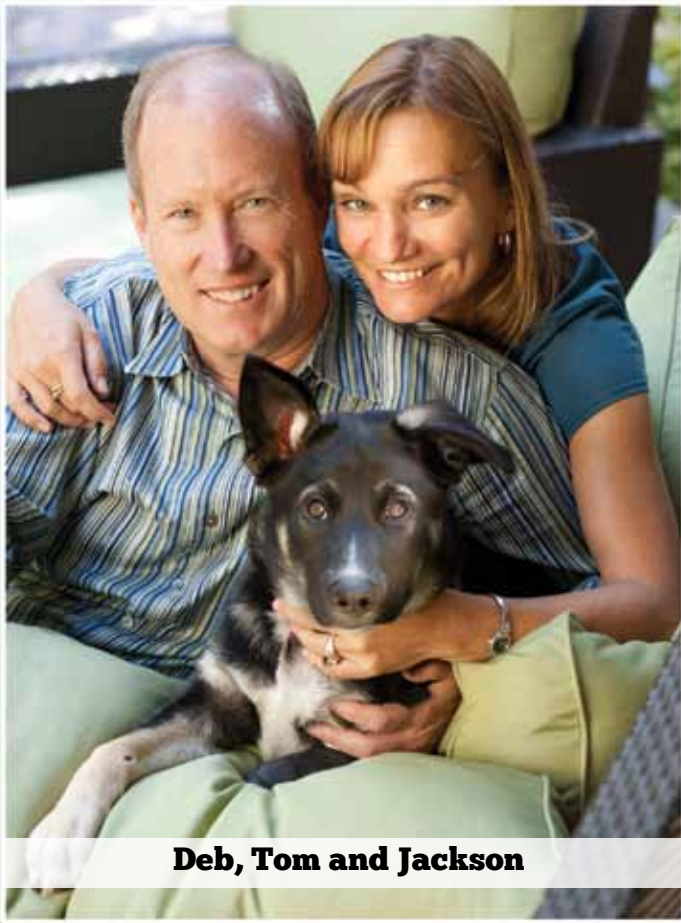
They had their work cut out for them. Foremost were the doctor's orders about that rear foot: Keep it bandaged! Jackson didn't share this goal. The bandage was knocked off or it got wet or Jackson playfully chewed it off.

There was no getting around two or three dressing changes a day. Fortunately, by this time the bandage-changing procedure was past the painful stage; it was more a matter of keeping Jackson still enough to do the deed. Still, squirming pup though he was, Jackson remained essentially immobile. Each morning Deb or Tom had to carry him outside to pee.

Plus there was the social side to take care of. A young dog needs to be sensitized (go to many places to get used to various sights, sounds and sensations) and must be socialized (meet many people and other dogs) so he's comfortable and confident in the world and doesn't act with alarm in a new situation.

Deb took him everywhere. One day, Deb was pleased to see that Jackson, usually the junior partner in any canine encounter, made friends with a quite small dog and let the little one playfully jump all over him.





Deb, Tom and Jackson

Deb and Jackson also shuttled often to SHS for his doctor visits. For Jackson, a visit to the veterinarian is nothing but a party, a chance to see Dr. Cambolor and all his other two-legged friends at SHS, who greet him with squealing voices.

At home, life with felines evolved nicely. The cats quickly learned that they could outrun him, and Jackson never showed any aggression toward them. The curious kitties delicately approached and inspected him while he slept, eventually deciding to accept him.

Soon it was time for Jackson to attend puppy school, a test of his physical and psychological progress. Dr. Cambolor hoped that even with three out of four toes (and pads) missing, Jackson's rear foot would regenerate enough tissue so Jackson could nevertheless rely on it, and that over time and through use, his foot would build up a protective callus on which Jackson could walk. SHS training instructor Suzanne Kernek, well aware of Jackson's history, expressed concern.

Things that happen to a pup between one and four months of age make lifelong impressions. Would Jackson tolerate, much less get along with, unknown canine classmates? Instead of showing fear, Jackson was fearless, insisting on attention from and eager to play with other dogs. In this way (thankfully) he was a typical adolescent pup; he had to learn to balance his curiosity about other dogs with obedience toward humans. A bigger problem for Jackson, his teacher recalls, was not knowing his limitations. "Jackson plays hard,"

she says. "He tends to ignore that he's missing a leg." Medically, that was the whole idea.

Deb speaks with profound understatement when she says taking care of Jackson has been "quite a learning experience." It's also been a lot of laughs, from watching him drag around his favorite squeaky toy, which is three feet long, to witnessing him suddenly switch into "turbo mode," a burst of energy that sends him wildly scampering through the house.

Needless to say, Jackson gets lots of attention wherever he and "mom" go. "He's a question magnet," Deb says, "a sort of ambassador for special-needs animals." At the pet supply store, Jackson rolls on his back for strangers, hoping for a tummy rub. "He seems to have no bad feelings toward anyone," Deb marvels. Twice a week Jackson even goes to a doggy daycare center.

In the spring Jackson will visit a specialist, a pooch prosthetist who may create an artificial front paw for him. By then Deb and Tom's little puppy will likely weigh around 70 pounds and will have grown fully into his regal shepherd shape. An artificial limb may or may not work for Jackson, but either way, this dog will be all right.

Deb's studying to be a marriage and family therapist. Maybe Jackson can follow in her footsteps and become a therapy dog. As living proof that a past trauma need not define your character, could he not reassure a hospitalized child or lift the spirits of a sad adult?

In Jackson's case, it's certainly not too much to hope for.



If Something Unexpected Happens to You, Will Your Pets be Safe?

When it comes to our beloved pets, we try to think of everything:

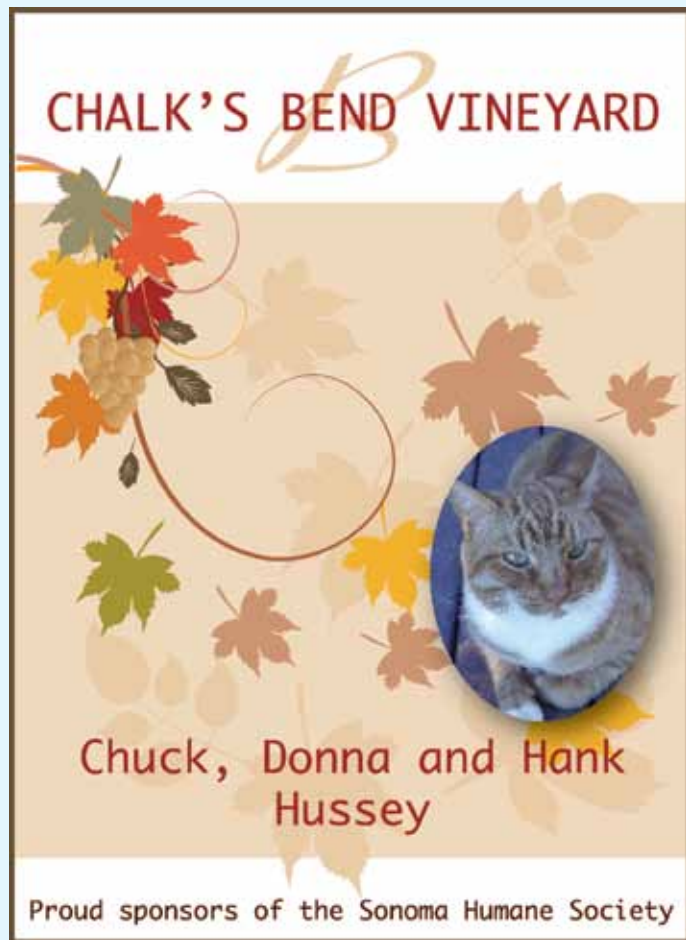
- 1 Pet food
- 2 Annual exams
- 3 Flea applications
- 4 Vaccinations
- 5 Grooming
- 6 Daily exercise
- 7 Training

That's a pretty good list, but what if you're not around to take care of it? Do you have someone lined up who will? If not, the Sonoma Humane Society would like you to consider this important detail.

If something unexpected happens to you, make sure your pets don't get lost in the shuffle. Identify a friend or relative who is able to care for your animals. Put their name and contact information in a prominent place in your home and leave instructions for your pets to be delivered to them if you become incapacitated. Better yet, include these instructions in your Will or Trust and inform your estate planner. If you don't have a friend or family member who can step in, the Sonoma Humane Society can help.

The Loving for Life pet guardianship program provides a plan for the future for your pets – just in case. Under this program, members leave instructions in their Wills that their pets will be bequeathed to the Sonoma Humane Society. Then we will provide for the pet's unique needs, including medical care, and will find a loving, lifetime home.

For details on the program requirements, visit sonomahumane.org or call Cindy Roach at (707) 542-0882, ext. 212.



Seeking Quality Time with Your Best Friend?

Go to Training!

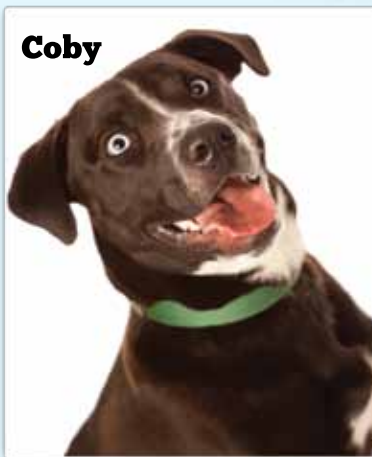
Nope, we're not pulling your chain – in fact, in our dog training classes you won't find any chains to pull. At the Sonoma Humane Society, helping dogs learn better manners is a fun and rewarding experience. It's the best way to bond with your dog and spend some good quality time together.

The philosophy of our dog training department involves using rewards and positive reinforcement to provide a happy, healthy and safe environment for you and your canine companion. Give your pet the structure and support he or she needs, and you'll truly enhance the

relationship you have with your best friend.

Our Dog & Puppy Training Center offers group and private lessons for various levels of dogs or puppies. Both individuals and families are welcome to attend the training classes.

To register for a training class, call (707) 542-0882. Difficult pet problem or serious behavior issue? Don't get mad, get help. Call the Sonoma Humane Society Animal Behavior Hotline at (707) 542-0882 ext. 233.



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Dr. Bennett, Welcome Home



Tessa (left), Dr. Bennett, Penny

In October the Sonoma Humane Society's Public Veterinary Clinic welcomed Dr. Erin Bennett, who moved here with her entire family ... all the way from Dublin, Ireland. Dr. Bennett, (whose family includes two Jack Russell terriers, two cats, and one Irish husband), grew up in Marin County and graduated from the University of Colorado, majoring in kinesiology and environmental biology. However, it was while working as a Veterinary Assistant in Denver and Larkspur that she decided to fulfill her lifelong dream of going to veterinary school.

During veterinary studies at the University College Dublin, Erin met her future husband. This may be one of the reasons that Erin describes her time in Europe as "life changing – an experience I will cherish forever." After graduating with honors, Erin remained in Ireland and worked as a Veterinary Associate at both the Argyle and Bainbridge Veterinary Clinics and at the Dublin Area Emergency Clinic.

But this year she decided it was time to come home. "There is something very meaningful about coming home, and I look forward to my future at Sonoma Humane Society. It is a special place and I am so excited to be a part of it." We're excited, too! Dr. Erin Bennett, who will oversee the daily operation of our public hospital, is a wonderful addition to our

team. We know she'll provide our animal (and human) clients with the compassion, care and dedication that are so much a part of the Sonoma Humane Society mission.

Veterinary Hospital

Did you know that when you bring your pet to our public veterinary hospital for exams and vaccinations it helps us provide services for homeless animals?

Welcome to the Sonoma Humane Society's Veterinary Hospital and Clinic. Our expert staff of veterinarians, technicians and nurses are here to provide you and your pet with quality medical care and friendly service. Exams offer you a private consultation with one of our doctors, an in-depth analysis of your pet's overall health and implementation of a treatment plan. We also recommend special diets and supplements for your pet to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Not only will your pet benefit from the compassionate care of our veterinary staff, but the proceeds from your visit go directly to provide medical care for one of our shelter animals. To schedule an exam, vaccinations or spay/neuter surgery, please call (707) 284-1198.

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2011 Membership Drive

Special thanks to the donors who responded to our annual **Founder's Society** and **Membership** campaigns for 2011. Our Membership Drive provides crucial funding needed to sustain our life-saving programs year after year.

2011 Founder's Society

Many Thanks to these 2011 Founder's Society members whose gifts at the Sustaining Circle (\$1,000) and above were received by August 31, 2011.

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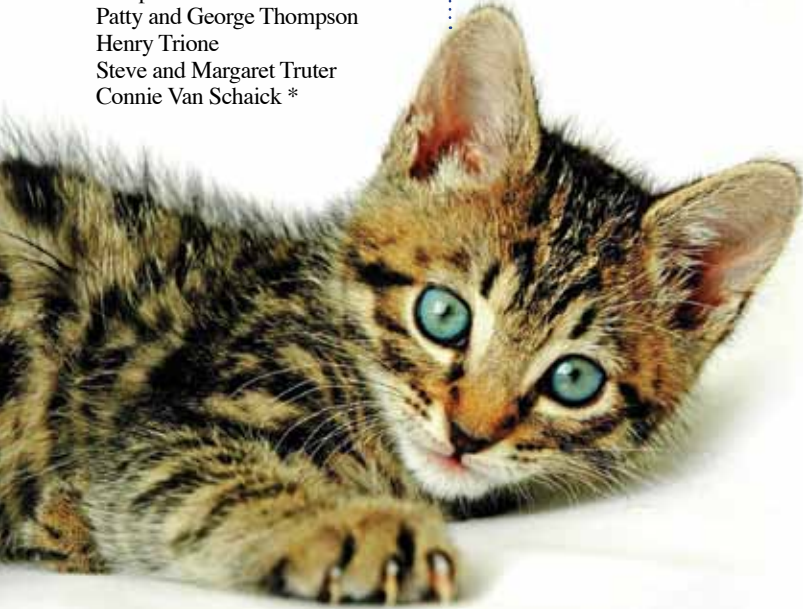
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