



3,344	animals saved
49,471	ground transport miles
319	pets adopted through Petco
3,681	vaccinations given at clinics
1239	microchips given at clinics
\$175,158	med. procedures
\$53,699	spay/neuter surgeries



*The last of the rescued Persians are now rehomed.*

## LIVES SAVED, LIVES REDEEMED

For more than twenty-two years now, New Beginnings has served as a rescue for animals in our county. Believe it—that has given us plenty to do! On occasion however, when we can, we have become involved in emergency situations in nearby areas outside of Merced County. Such was the case when we recently assisted with two hoarding locations in Ceres.

It all began in late November when Sharon was contacted by two people, one from the Stanislaus County Animal Shelter and the other a concerned citizen. Both contacts were in relation to two sites with overwhelming numbers of chihuahuas, and there were hopes that we could help retrieve and rehome them.

In the first location the renter had been evicted and the property owner had been seeking help for over six months. These unfortunate critters were living in a house, garage and back yard but were used to roaming freely all over, ending disastrously for some. In the second location we were only able to make a small dent in the problem because the owner was uncooperative and unwilling to change his ways. In either location, none were socialized. All were terrified. Not a recipe for an uncomplicated seizure. For sure, there was not one who was inclined to jump into its rescuer's arms! Instead, the three people who accompanied Sharon on this venture had to chase them into a corner and encase them in a blanket, not only to ease capture but to prevent biting.

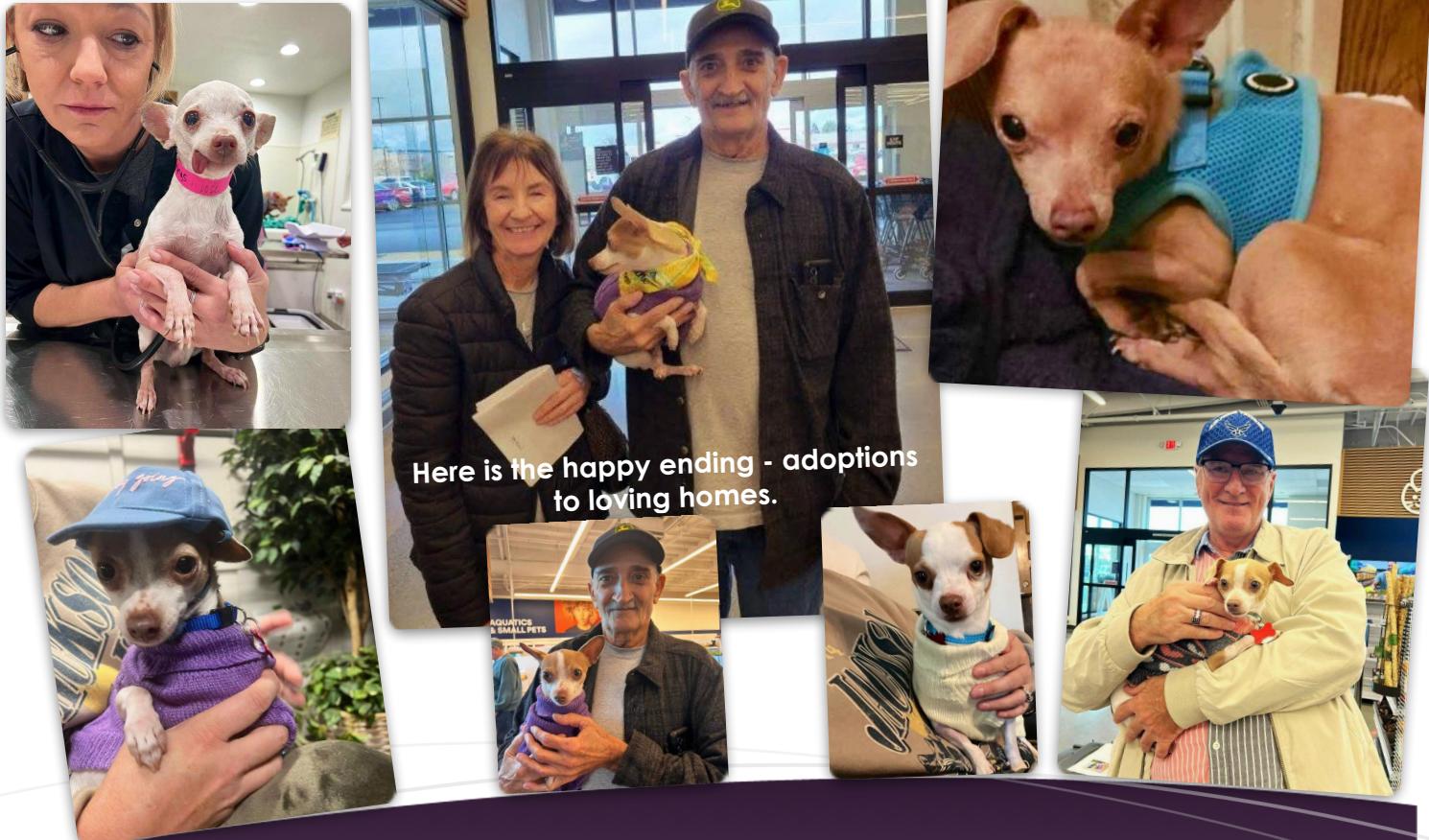
Over the course of three days, thirty-six little "Chis" started on their journey to being a cherished member of a loving family. The first day Sharon and her team nabbed thirteen from one location and ten from the other, a total of twenty-three wriggling, nipping, whirling cyclones. Two days later, ten more. Awaiting them at Sharon's were twenty welcoming angels (otherwise known as fosters). Since the dogs had been in tribes that functioned together, the goal was for each one to have at least one buddy initially. Before going home with a foster, each one was vaccinated and an attempt was made to assess its teeth. Then, they left with a caregiver armed with food, bedding, toys and a boatload of nurturing spirit and determination. It's impossible to say too much about these fosters. They knew they were entering into a long-term commitment with ill-mannered things that could injure them, but they agreed to it anyway!

Special thanks are also due to the people at River Oak Veterinary Hospital who performed free spay-neuters, dental procedures, flea treatments and vaccinations, fitting in as many as they could into their already busy schedule. They were able to do quite a few and then New Beginnings assumed the cost for the others. (Continued page 2)

# LIVES SAVED, LIVES REDEEMED...continued

Now for the rest of the story. Our fosters accomplished what they aimed to do, turning wild objects into adoring tail wagers. In early January ten were transported, including two moms with puppies. Seven were adopted at an adoption event at Petco, with the adopters agreeing to continue the little bit of socialization they still needed. Still others were continuing their "education" with their fosters but are ready for their new families now.

Some might wonder why we do this when we know it will involve an inordinate amount of time, effort and funds. Well, as long as we are able, how can we not? If we can make this world a little better for someone, why wouldn't we? Our motto is, "Turning Compassion Into Action." That's exactly what was going on here.



## In Memory & Honor

We are honored to have received memorial donations in the names of:

**Marie Fowler**  
**Stanley Callan**  
**Pam Petersen**  
**Lucy Zimmer**  
**Gene Sanford**  
**Norman Rolfe**  
**Frank Freitas**  
**Jane Markiano**

**Adrian Bowers**  
**Scott Hoyt**  
**Weezy and Ace**  
**Kitty Stella**  
**Kitty Cooper Robertson**  
**Larry Silva and Tito**  
**Mitten and Millie**  
**Chad, Oso, Dottie and Chance**

We are honored to have received tributes in the names of:

**Karen Camp**  
**Nate and Shelby Ford**  
**Jim and Donna Merkey**  
**Yonker Young**  
**Perry**



# OUR “BIGGEST EVER” TRANSPORT

That's what Sharon called the flight that left on January 27 bound for six rescues in Montana, British Columbia and Washington. In a very busy transport month, in which we also had flights on January 9 and 13, the 27th came in first, number wise that is, carrying 101 dogs and 75 cats and included several big dogs, which happens all too infrequently these days. Added to flights on the 9th which included 28 dogs and 21 cats, and the 13th which carried 76 dogs and 24 cats, we can boast a subtotal of 205 dogs and 120 cats. That brings us to a shimmering January total of 325 rescued sweethearts heading to renewed lives. Below are pictures of some of them.



## BAKE SALE RECAP



The outcome of our annual holiday bake sale held last December was exhilarating! To avoid disappointment, we had hoped to at least match 2024 totals. Well, we topped that by over \$3,000, bringing in a grand total of \$13,500! Not too shabby for a bake sale! Actually, the event has morphed into something larger, so we now refer to it as the Bake Sale and Gift Shoppe.

We'd like to thank everyone who attended, purchased, volunteered and donated baked goods and baskets. Thanks also to the Multicultural Arts Center for continuing to house our event year after year at a very affordable price. We're already scheduled to hold it there again this year. Pens ready—mark your calendars for December 12.

## SALUTING OUR FRIENDS AT PETCO LOVE

How can we adequately thank supporters who express faith in us year after year?

Well, we just continue working hard to utilize their grants in the best way we can for the benefit of animals. Our friends at Petco Love trust New Beginnings to do that.



Recently we were presented with an award of \$35,000 from Petco Love and will use it to continue transporting unfortunate animals who, by no fault of their own, have lost their homes. We are also honored to partner with them on our quarterly clinics and in the adoption of MANY cats and kittens through the Petco stores in Atwater and Merced.

Petco Love bestows grants to New Beginnings because we are known for our firm commitment to meet the needs of animals to the highest level of our ability. Well, to our friends at Petco Love we have to say, “Back atcha!” That's what we see in you, too.

## KIDS FOR CRITTERS

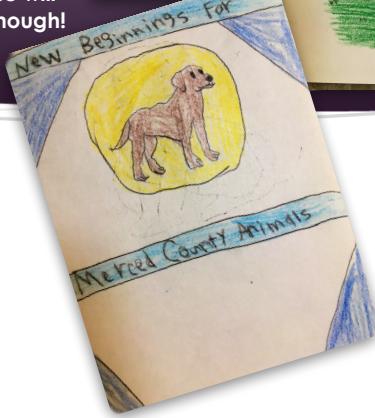
Thanks to thoughtful guidance from a teacher in our area, kids are combining writing and artistic skills with altruism, all centered around a love of animals.

Mrs. Avellar at Winton Middle School gives her sixth graders the opportunity to learn selflessness by asking them to donate money to a charity rather than receive a Christmas gift from her. Fifteen students selected New Beginnings as their charity and created cards explaining their reasons for choosing us. Demonstrating maturity beyond their years, they wrote things such as, "I like how your mission is to end suffering of animals," and, "Animals have to have a home like we do. Thanks for changing the world." And, "You help sick and injured animals and help them find a kind and loving family." As a result of their thoughtfulness New Beginnings received a donation of \$150.00

These students are being given valuable lessons to carry throughout life and they are our future. Having leaders with values like these will ensure that we'll be in good hands. Kids, we can't thank you enough!

## SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC UPDATE

Well, what can we say? Things don't always go as planned. The property discussed in our last edition didn't pan out so we are once again on the lookout! As it turns out we're checking into a lot we looked at before—maybe it will work out this time. This has to happen—it WILL happen. It's just a matter of time...hopefully not a lot of that!



## New Beginnings for Merced County Animals

[www.newbeginningsforanimalsmerced.org](http://www.newbeginningsforanimalsmerced.org)

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## 2025 EXPENSES

