NEW BEGINNINGS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026 - ISSUE 50

New BEGINNINGS
FOR MERCED COUNTY ANIMALS
Turning compassion into action

We Were Busy in 2025

3,344 | animals saved
49,471 | ground transport miles
319 | pets adopted through Petco
3,681 | vaccinations given at clinics
1,239 | microchips given at clinics
$175,158 | med. procedures
$53,699 | spay/neuter surgeries



President's Message

Happy Holidays! Around this time of the year, excitement builds, people get busier, waiting becomes harder and harder and secrets are kept waiting for the big day.

Did you all think I was talking about Christmas and the holidays? No, I am talking about waiting for our low-cost spay/neuter clinic announcement!

Excitement is certainly high as we not-so-patiently wait to announce the spay/neuter facility details. It has become harder and harder to not be able to tell you where we are in this process.

But we will keep waiting for the big day! New Beginnings has been told we are going to be able to announce all the details about two weeks after the New Year. Think we're busy now? Once we can announce all the details, watch how the level of activity explodes as we move towards the completion of the building!

When the site is done, we will also be able to keep all of our supplies together. Being able to do this will be a tremendous help, since we now have crates and supplies in several places. We will have an area where the animals needing fostering can be dropped off, checked by the vet, vaccinated, dewormed and treated for fleas before being picked up.

There will be an area for our vans to park! They are in different places currently. A place where we can clean and store the crates. This is certainly a big need as we currently meet at my home and then have to transfer the crates to the shelter. So much more to come….

As we enter this time of love, kindness and giving, please consider New Beginnings for Merced County Animals. If you look at all we have done just this year you know how costly it is to do what we do. Food costs for the animals have risen, fuel has risen and all necessities like crates, veterinary procedures and medications have become very expensive.

We have worked tirelessly the last two decades to bring us to this exciting point where we can absolutely make a difference in the numbers of unwanted animals. And New Beginnings is so grateful for all the help from each one of you. Blessings, we love you!

FOLLOW US

Vaccine Clinic

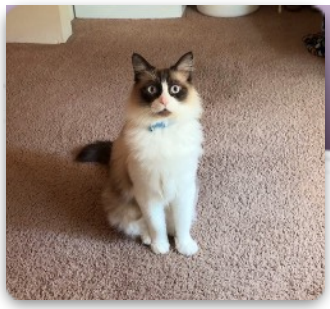
They were there at the American Legion Hall in Merced at 7:00 am, way before our 9:30 start time, and proceeded to wrap around the block to receive health-giving vaccinations and microchips. And it was a perfect day! Sunny, low 70's, and people were happy to be there. One person way back in the line was pleased to report that it was moving pretty fast! This was our fourth and last clinic of the year and the largest. Partnering with Petco Love who provided the vaccines, New Beginnings supplemented with rabies shots and microchips, all for free. Our records show that of the 510 animals that were served, 345 dogs received the DHPP vaccination, 149 cats received the FVRCP vaccination, 426 pets were given rabies and 310 were microchipped. Below are some of the animals who attended, now protected because of the complementary services offered that day.









CRUSH UPDATE

Remember me? I'm the gorgeous Snowshoe Siamese who was inexplicably entangled in the underpinnings of a car. A large swatch of skin had been pulled away from my side; I hurt so much. Well, thanks to some tenderhearted people who refused to give up on me, the car was partially disassembled until I was freed. Then it was off to Dr. Lauppe at Valley Medical Center for surgery and treatments that took a long time.



It felt like normalcy had returned when I was moved to a foster's home to continue my recovery. Not for long! Suddenly I was put into a carrier and loaded into a cylinder that was full of dogs and cats, some not so quiet. Fortunately, everyone settled down and soon this thing started barreling forward and began to float! I'm a pretty chill cat so I got used to it and after a couple more takeoffs and landings I arrived in my new town, Spokane.

Now it was time for a loving family to find me. Everyone in kennels nearby were chasing around and acting silly. Me? I was just chillin' and that's what attracted three college roommates; a calm cat was just what Breelyn, Samantha and Cadence were looking for. The fact that my stitches were still visible didn't seem to bother them at all. Soon I was in my forever home.



Even my moms aren't sure how my new name, Frank, came to be. But they did keep Crush as my middle name. In my new home, I'm king of the cat tree—no other pets. At first I was a bit shy and didn't play much but now I love my laser-light toy. I'm warm, well fed, totally loved and my coat is now completely regrown. My new home is fantastic, an indescribable improvement over the underpinnings of a car!



It will definitely be a "Night of Pawsabilities" at this spay/neuter clinic fundraiser. Get a 2027 calendar and circle April 17th.

In Memory & Honor

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

Roger Wood
Chuck Meyer
Toni Beuerman
Joanna Lennox
Lucy Zimmer
Ralph Fosnaugh
Loretta Robles
Jane Markiano
Pat Rogers
Pat Hillier
Beloved Cash
Covert
Holly Price
Prince Price
Moe
Constance Baumgartner

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

Ian and Delia's birthday





TRANSPORT

The October 27th transport was a really big one! Sound familiar? We've been saying that a lot lately. We filled the plane with 98 dogs and 60 cats who flew to Portland, Seattle, Spokane and British Columbia. Imagine the preparation all our darling little creatures go through to get to this point. One thing is being in a carrier, totally unfamiliar to many. Then health checks where there are unfamiliar dogs and cats all around, strangers handling them, needles coming at them from various angles, UV lights shone in their faces and pokes and prods by the vet.





After a few days' reprieve at home, there's that carrier again, they're loaded into a van, driven to the tarmac and piled into a metal tube that leaves the ground! We tell them, "This is a good thing…" and it's amazing how well they do, despite it all. What they will come to know is that their real lives have just begun.















YARD SALE

Yes, it's hot, sweaty work but boy is it worth it! Our "Queens of Collectibles," Morgan and her mom Patti, have again managed a successful sale to the tune of $10,600. Every penny is for the animals (If they only knew what we go through for them!!). Thank you, ladies, for donating weeks of your time and energy to New Beginnings and our worthy little charges.



SCAN ME

amazon

BAKE SALE

Ok, let's conjure up a little Bing Crosby here….It's beginning to look a lot like bake sale…Again this year at MAC. Take a look at the breads and cakes…treats that our bakers bake, Trees and wreaths and gifts—nothing lacks….

Just to be clear, MAC is the Multicultural Art Center, 645 W. Main in Merced and our event is on December 12th from 10-3. Our fourth year there! Come find a whopping assortment of baked goods, candies, jams, fruits, vinegars, nut assortments—you never know what might turn up. Be dazzled by a wide variety of high value gift baskets, sparkling trees and wreaths, New Beginnings apparel and lots of small gift items for yourself, your pets or others. Keep in mind your friends, teachers, relatives, co-workers, neighbors et al., who might enjoy a nice, seasonal remembrance. An added bonus is that the Arbor Art Gallery is located inside the center and offers top-of-the-line paintings, jewelry, cards, pottery, scarves and more all by local artists.





Now bakers, our VIPs—scan through your recipes looking for something enticing—something to titillate the most discriminating palate! Something tasty, maybe even a little out-of-the ordinary. And don't feel you have to stop at one! Protect each in attractive packaging and bring them to the alley entrance behind the MAC (between Main and 18th) the day before the sale, Friday, December 11 from 11am to 2pm. Someone will be there to accept your donations. Bakers, it's helpful if we have an idea of what's coming, so please call Marie in advance at 209-777-2190 with your planned donations or questions. For ease of organization we greatly appreciate the Friday drop-off but if that's impossible, items can be brought the morning of the sale.

This is a fundraiser as well as a very warm, festive event. The whole point is to help our furry counterparts who need us. With El Nino upon us it's likely to be raining. Don't let that stop you. To collect your purchases you can drive right up to the back door and we'll have people on hand to deliver your goods. SEE YOU THERE!



Rose Gold Tree



White Bird Tree



Crystal Tree

New Beginnings for Merced County Animals

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