



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

Congratulations! We just celebrated twenty-two years of rescue. Twenty-two years in and it hasn't slowed down in all that time. We have this all wrong! We were supposed to have less animals in that time, not more.

What is the only answer? By now, I think we all know—spay/neuter is the only answer to lower the number of unwanted animals. We will never adopt or rescue our way out of this nationwide crisis. Each time we have a transport I think, "How can this be happening?" While it is wonderful to see so many animals make it out alive, we should be sending less, not more, each time. We just had our largest transport out. That shouldn't be happening after TWENTY-TWO years of rescuing animals in Merced County.

As I start into my twenty-third year, we are not giving up on having a dedicated, very low-cost Merced County Spay and Neuter Clinic here. I have often heard, "Two steps forward and one step back." I can't say I like that saying but it is true for us right now.

We are patiently waiting—well, we are not that patient—to hear when we will be able to announce where the center will be and when we can start building. It has been a long wait.

Even though we can't say more now, please know that we are continuing to work on this. It's the best answer. When it happens? Oh, you will know!



VACCINE CLINIC

Our first free vaccine clinic of the year was held in Winton on February 22nd. A total of 448 rabies shots, 389 DHPP (dog) and 116 FVRCP (cat) vaccines and 375 microchips were administered that day. A million thanks to our partners, Petco Love, for providing the dog and cat vaccines. Enjoy the pictures below of animals now on course for a healthy year.



FOLLOW US

TRANSPORT

On April 21 st we sent off probably our biggest bunch of lovebugs EVER! On board were 60 dogs, 147 cats and 2 guinea pigs for a total of 209 headed to renewed lives in British Columbia, Oregon and Washington. Our little Kindergarten friends came to help load. They even got to tour the plane.

As we go through all the preparations for a transport—selections, listing, health checks, loading—we often wonder, “When will this come to a stop? Can it ever?” It’s sobering to think, “...and this is just little Merced County.” The only way we see to slow it down is through spay and neuter. If you were ever pondering a good cause for a donation, keep in mind our dream of opening a clinic here. Read more about that in Sharon’s President’s letter on page one.



K-Kids hard at work



Helpful volunteers



Teacher Lori Silva



Water cups, a new requirement



Thank you, volunteers



PETCO KITTENS

Marla, our kitten lady, is asking, “Who wouldn’t want a cute, bouncy, adorable, affectionate little ball of fluff for a BFF?” They have been available for adoption in the Atwater Petco for years and now she is also putting them in the new Merced store. All have been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, flea treated and microchipped—fully ready to roar around your house and entertain. Stop by and become entranced!



In Memory & Honor

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

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

Gregory McNett
Kevin Collins
Stan Callan
Lucy Zimmer
Pat Hillier

Carolyn Medina
Violette Walker
Elizabeth Wallace
Dad and Mom Bates
Gabel
Sammy

Brownie Borrink



A DOG'S LIFE



“Why are they leaving me?” I thought sadly as I sat in the unfamiliar orchard watching the departing car carry away the only people I'd ever known—the ones who were supposed to take care of me. “They must need me to stay here for a little while. After that they'll surely come back.” But I waited... and waited...no one came. One day turned into the next, and the next,

and the next. I was lonely and hungry and thirsty but I finally had to accept that for now at least, I was on my own. Maybe later they'll come back.

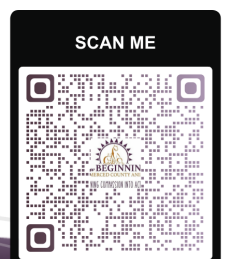
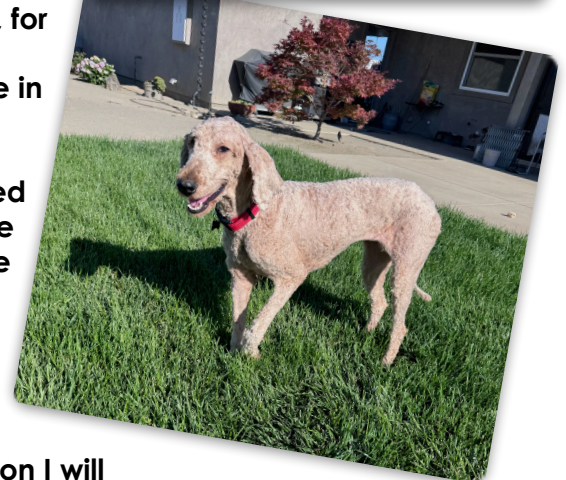
I had been in poor condition way before they discarded me—too thin for as long as I can remember and aching horribly from my coat being matted right down to my skin. It was hard to walk because, for some reason, my feet were hurting really badly. Somehow, I was going to have to learn how to ignore pain and fend for myself. Life in the wild is tough for a homeless pet. When will they come back?

Even though hesitant, I was persuaded to be “caught” and I ended up at a nice lady's house—her name is Sharon. Sharon named me Maxine and called me a Labradoodle. She was going to have me stay in her nice big kennel, but I charmed her into letting me be in the house! She took me to the vet for a “medical grooming” under anesthesia that required four people to complete. I was so matted my entire coat came off in one piece. They also discovered many foxtails in my fur including 25 between the pads in my front feet. That's why it has been so painful to walk. Soon I will undergo surgery for their removal. I heard someone say, “Including eight similar cases this year, this is the worst we've ever had.” But wait. soon they'll be saying that about another poodle, rescued just after me, with fox tails in every orifice and skin bloodied under the mats. “Oblivious” is the kindest word I can think of for people who let this happen to us.

Though I may require at least one more surgery, I'm feeling so much better now. They say I may get to go to a place called Seattle. Life is good.

I'm happy they didn't come back.

You often hear, “Thank goodness for Amazon!” Yes, indeed, they are handy. People like being able to check our wish list and then donate directly to us. The wish list is updated weekly so you can be sure you're helping us out with a current need. The QR code here will get you there!



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

We'd like to thank three local groups for their involvement in animal welfare. Each group has repeatedly given contributions to the animals in our name and we are grateful for their continuing faith in us. Returning for the tenth year is our steadfast little class of kindergarteners—yes, kindergarteners, at Franklin Elementary School. Great things come in small packages! With each new class, teachers Lori Silva and Michelle Christiansen do a year-long unit on animal care. They often have a puppy or kitten in the classroom for hands-on experience. Profits from the sale of school supplies, books and snacks are then donated to New Beginnings. It's wonderful to contemplate the degree of empathy and altruism these little kids are internalizing. Way to go teachers and kiddos!

Students at Our Lady of Mercy School pay \$2.00 for the privilege of each free dress day. The money is collected in honor of the birthdays of former mascots who have passed on as well as Lancer and Lady, the present mascots, plus the Pastor's dog, Amica, who visits the kids weekly. Not to be ignored, Sheeba, Monkey, Missy and Flippy, four cats who serve as the school mousers, are well fed, have housing containers on campus and are included in the tribute. Again, young people are being exposed to the correct mindset in terms of the way animals should be regarded and treated. Students, carry these lessons with you always!

InterWest Insurance of Merced has an annual program called "InterWest Gives Back." Every year each office selects four local charities, one for each quarter, collects goods and submits checks to all. Word is, New Beginnings is one of the choices every year! Everyone on the staff confesses to be an ardent animal lover and the enthusiasm is palpable. Thanks so much, InterWest! We feel honored that these groups think the work we do is worthy of their support. That's how we're able to do so much in the way of medical treatments and rehoming—by people trusting us to meet the needs of animals to the best of our ability.



Lancer & Lady



InterWest



Cleaning crates



Our Kids

New Beginnings for Merced County Animals

www.newbeginningsforanimalsmerced.org

(209) 769-2122

P.O. Box 1045

Winton, CA 95388

Tax ID: #36-4704902



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