Summer 2021
690 Humane Way
San Jacinto, CA 92582
(951) 654-8002
Website: www.ramonahumanesociety.org

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"Paws"itive News
Newsletter of
Ramona Humane Society Dedication to giving animals a voice in the San Jacinto Valley and surrounding communities.

How to Contact Us:
690 Humane Way
San Jacinto, CA 92582
(951) 654-8002

Mask are currently required when visiting any of our facilities!

Shelter lobby hours are Monday through Saturday from 8-3:30pm. Closed Sundays.

Appts required for Owner Surrenders and Owner Requested Euthanasia: (951) 654-8002

Shelter kennel hours are Monday through Saturday from 9am-3pm. We are observing local guidelines and limiting access to our kennels as necessary.

Spay/Neuter Clinic: Is located adjacent to the shelter. Hours are 7am-6pm Weds-Saturday.

Walk-in vaccines from 9-2pm. You must have an appt for spay/neuter. Call: (951) 654-3110

Animal Control is located at 438 S. State St. Hours: M-F from 8am-5pm (closed 12-1pm). Closed Sat & Sun. Available for after hour emergencies. Call Animal Control at (951) 487-6565

Web Address: www.ramonahumanesociety.org

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram too!

Inside this Issue:
Do pets need a vaccine?
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Board President Hands Over the Reins
Andrew Vallejos ends term as RHS Board President

It was almost two years ago that Andrew Vallejos was selected to lead the Ramona Humane Society Board of Directors. As board president, Andrew was the glue holding our organization together in tough times. It isn’t uncommon for the board president to wear many hats, including oversight of organizational finances, vision, mission, and long-term goal setting. Luckily, Andrew wore each of those hats like a pro! We took a moment to ask Andrew about his time as President, and what he feels most proud of. Andrew was most proud of being associated with the Ramona Humane Society employees and the work they do every day saving animals. “Jeff Sheppard and his team,” Andrew said, “were instrumental to the situation around the COVID-19 pandemic and were continually focused on how to best support our employees, community and most importantly the animals we shelter.” COVID-19 devastated so many nonprofit partners—with many needing to close offices, re-think programming, cancel crucial fundraising and/or revenue-generating events and consider staff furloughs and layoffs. “RHS was able to quickly stabilize.” Andrew appreciated the hard work our staff performed to have as little direct impact on our communities as possible. “We wanted Jeff, his team and the community to know that they could count on us,” Andrew said. “We knew that we had to support our community. We didn’t know if we would see an increase in animals being surrendered or a decrease. We were committed to being flexible, innovative and nimble to respond rapidly as needed.” Andrew appreciated that “we were still able to get some goals accomplished. The proudest moment I have had through it all is watching the dedication of our staff and their love for animals and this Valley come together stronger than ever before. I am glad I was able to be part of that, and I hope forward to helping the next president continue our mission.” Some people don’t understand why I help animals in need. I don’t understand why you wouldn’t. Thank you Andrew for your amazing leadership!

On the cover...
It’s Independence Day. For our shelter animals, any day they get adopted and find their forever home is Independence Day. It means freedom from the care and safety of our shelter, and a life full of love with a new family. This little pup found his forever home a few years back, and his owner wrote to let us know how happy he is with his new found freedom. Speaking of Independence Day, please keep your pets safe and inside. July 5th is often the busiest day for animal shelters, any day they get adopted. But watch out! Your pet still needs OTHER vaccines! In fact, vaccinating your pet may be mandatory. For example, in some states (including California) a rabies vaccination is required by law. Vaccinating your pet against dangerous diseases, such as rabies and distemper, seems like a no-brainer. But there is recent evidence that some pet owners may be hesitating to get their pets these and other standard shots. When you adopt an animal from the Ramona Humane Society, it may have already received its initial vaccines, but they will need to be updated on a regular basis. You should review your pet’s vaccine schedule with your pet’s veterinarian. A specific vaccine protocol will depend on your pet’s age, its lifestyle, and the area where you live. Once again, your vet will get over these vaccines with you. Other than rabies, the most common vaccines include distemper, parvovirus, Bordetella, canine influenza, and infectious hepatitis. Our Ramona Humane Society Clinic offers low cost vaccinations so your pet will stay safe and healthy. You can now schedule your pet’s vaccinations on our website: www.RamonaHumaneSociety.org

Kitten Nursery: How You Can Make A Big Impact

Everyone loves kittens. We romanticize the idea of going to the animal shelter and bringing home a wee kitten or two to love and care for. This time of year abandoned kittens are brought to the shelter in boxes, crates, laundry baskets and an occasional flower pot or two. Kittens are born in large numbers around the beginning of summer, with large influxes of young kittens into shelters between May and July. Most shelters run out of space and don’t have room or staff to properly care for them and the sad reality is that they risk being euthanized. So far this year RHS has received around 350 kittens, most of them underage, with not many options other than foster, rescue or euthanasia. Running out of fosters and rescues with only one option left, something had to be done to save these tiny lives that depend on us. Our mission is to save all adoptable animals so euthanasia is not an option. This was the inspiration behind Ramona Humane Society’s new kitten nursery. The nursery is not one quiet section of our facility, but the patients need little space. Tiny kittens with their mom or orphaned babies just learning to eat and walk on their own are helped along by our dedicated staff and volunteers. Just a few cages to start off with but a dream of something bigger one day. A space where they can grow and learn while waiting on a foster home to help take over their care. Sometimes it’s the little things that have a big impact. There are many ways to get involved and help the kittens. Volunteers are needed to help clean and socialize. Foster homes are needed for kittens being bottle fed or who are old enough to eat independently but not quite big enough to be spayed or neutered before adoption. Donations of supplies are also welcome, and the kittens appreciate items such as blankets, toys, formula and bottles. Donations of funds are also critical. Together we can meet our goal to save as many lives as we can one little face at a time.

Bubbles & Bows Salon
New grooming services now open
Everyday is a good day! And how about a shampoo? A trip to the spa is nice for everyone, including your pet. However, finding a groomer that you and your pooch can trust and who loves your pet almost as much as you do is a hard job made even more difficult by the lack of local grooming services. That’s why we are excited to announce the opening of our local “Bubbles & Bows Salon” located inside the Small Animal Care Center in San Jacinto. Our outstanding groomer provides full grooming services, teeth brushing, facials, nail trimming, and, yes even the dreaded anal gland expression (yuck!). Check out our services and pricing at smallanimalcarecenter.com/bubbles-bows-salon/

A happy Bubbles & Bows client shows off her bows and teeth.

Speaking of Vaccines...Do Pets Need them too?
No doubt you have heard over and over about the benefits of getting your vaccine—particularly against COVID-19. Well, don’t forget your pets need some vaccines too. But wait!! Your pet still needs OTHER vaccines! In fact, vaccinating your pet may be mandatory. For example, in some states (including California) a rabies vaccination is required by law. Vaccinating your pet against dangerous diseases, such as rabies and distemper, seems like a no-brainer. But there is recent evidence that some pet owners may be hesitating to get their pets these and other standard shots. When you adopt an animal from the Ramona Humane Society, it may have already received its initial vaccines, but they will need to be updated on a regular basis. You should review your pet’s vaccine schedule with your pet’s veterinarian. A specific vaccine protocol will depend on your pet’s age, its lifestyle, and the area where you live. Once again, your vet will get over these vaccines with you. Other than rabies, the most common vaccines include distemper, parvovirus, Bordetella, canine influenza, and infectious hepatitis. Our Ramona Humane Society Clinic offers low cost vaccinations so your pet will stay safe and healthy. You can now schedule your pet’s vaccinations on our website: www.RamonaHumaneSociety.org

Ramona Animal Clinic
Low Cost Spay and Neuter
831 W. 7th St. in San Jacinto (Adjacent to the Ramona Humane Society Shelter)

Vaccinate
Microchip
Save Lives
Spay & Neuter

Call (951) 654-3110 for Appointment

A happy kitten’s face makes all the hard work worth it!
**2020...A Year Unlike Any Other!**

**The year we all asked, “What just happened?”**

It is impossible to start a conversation about the year 2020 without talking about the Coronavirus pandemic. Now that 2021 seems to be bringing a bit of better news on that front, we wanted to take a moment to tell you about some of the things we were STILL able to accomplish—even as it seemed the world was crumbling around us. First, we were able to make progress in our mission to reduce pet overpopulation. In fact, our medical team safely performed 7,072 spay/neuter surgeries, both for our shelter animals and for pets in our community. As reported in a separate article in this newsletter, we transitioned to an online appointment system for simple and distant adoptions, as well as adoption counseling. Allowing our customers to make appointments and sometimes meet online has reduced friction, increased convenience, and provided a safe outlet for our community to interact with us during the pandemic. Due to the overwhelming number of underage kittens coming into the shelter, we created a new nursery to care for kittens until they could be fostered or adopted. RHS was also proud to continue supporting our partnership with the California Family Pet Care Center to Empower Youth and its youth employment training programs. We increased our use of foster families so kittens, puppies, pregnant pets, and pet litters could be well cared for as shelter operations were drastically reduced due to COVID-19 restrictions. We are so proud of our staff who—throughout this year like no other—had only one focus: helping our shelter animals! We are oping 2021 keeps improving.

**Our Fabulous Fosters!**

You can’t adopt? Why not foster?

Fostering is a unique opportunity to help a shelter animal experience what life is like in a home by temporarily sheltering them with you until they are adopted. The need right now is growing...for one specific reason: Spring litters. Most unaltered animals—particularly cats—go into “heat” starting in March and continuing through October. Litter after litter of kittens and puppies are dropped off at shelters across the country at this time causing an incredible burden on shelter resources. Additionally, shelters are definitely not safe for newborn animals which have yet to develop critical immunity and resistance to common viruses and germs in super-populated shelters. This is where our fabulous fosters step up to help. But we need more. Our fosters take the place of nurturing and open their homes temporarily to give these young animals a chance to thrive in a safe and comfortable environment until they become strong enough to be adopted. Fostering also helps some of our most vulnerable animals—like those who may be recuperating, or who find the shelter too terrifying and noisy to relax. It is statistically proven that the comfort, training, and positive experiences these animals get from our fosters makes them far more adoptable and sociable when they are ready for their forever homes. The shelter provides all veterinary care and we also give support to our foster families the moment you take an animal temporarily into your home. Our fabulous fosters continually tell us how a positive and rewarding experience it is to foster an animal. Don’t believe us? Just take a look at the smiles of some of these fosters and the animals in their care pictured below. Talk to us about fostering today. Email us at: volunteer@ramonahumane society.org

**Renaming a Shelter Pet...Yes or No?**

You’ve come to the shelter to search for that perfect canoe or feline companion. You walk up and down the aisles and stare into the eyes of the animals you are considering adopting. Is there any way you can just adopt them all? But logic takes over when you finally look into the face of the perfect animal buddy. You look at the kennel card posted there and check the information shelter staff gathered about the pet—the date it was found or surrendered, the likely age, and weight, and finally you notice a name. “Darn, I don’t want my new dog to be called “Duke” or “I wanted my new kitty to be named Fluffy, not Bella.” Our shelter visitors always ask if they can change the name the pets have at the kennel. Still others might wonder why there was no name listed on the kennel card. If you are looking to adopt an animal, you should give it the name YOU want. Your adopted dog or cat was likely renamed in the shelter anyway. If there was no way to identify them, shelter staff sometimes pick a name they think will appeal to the animal. It could be that your dog was found at night and warranted the name Shadow, or they may have narrowly missed being run down on the highway and quite rightly rock the name Lucky. Regardless, they probably aren’t all that attached to the name they have. So don’t feel like your new dog or cat’s whole identity is tied to what they’ve been called so far. A new name might actually be excellent strategy in creating a better bond between the two of you. Depending on the history of your shelter dog or cat—if they were mistreated, for example—they could have better recognize a name they were regularly called by their name just before an incident. They may have negative associations with that name. So it might actually remove some stress and anxiety if you call them something else. You have a better chance of helping them associate their new name with good things. You’ll also like the name you give your dog or cat because you chose it. So what are some names to choose from? We asked some of our Ramona Humane Society adopters what names they chose for their new shelter pet. Here’s just a few of our favorites: Mouse, Jinx, Koda, Anchor, Peyton, Odin, Merlin, Pepsi, Coconut, Moose, Kit Kat, Cheeto, Lumpy, Gunner, Willow, Sahara, Bobba, Lollipop, Shiloh, Chance, Fiona, Alexandra, Ruby, O’Mally, Snickers, Einstein, and Kingsley. Thank you to our recent adopters for giving these homeless animals more than just a new name.

**New Pet Day Care and Boarding!**

As pandemic restrictions are lifted and businesses begin to open up, many pet owners in the Hemet and San Jacinto areas of the Inland Empire are once again faced with the serious question, “What do I do with my dog now that I’m going back to work and/or school?” And as summer approaches, many of us are itching to get out of the house and take a long vacation. Local pet owners are now faced with the option of finding friends or family to watch their pets, or, are forced to find a place where their pets can join them. Local dog day care and boarding establishments are miles outside the city. We want to feel comfortable that we are leaving our pets at a safe and secure place. What can you do? We are excited to announce that a new local dog day care and overnight pet boarding facility has opened called the “Bed & Biscuit Inn.” Located at San Jacinto’s Small Animal Care Center, the newly designed and renovated play yard is secure and provides a spacious and fun place for your dog to enjoy group play sessions and exercise while you are busy doing what you need to do. And for those longer visits, Bed & Biscuit also provides safe and fun day care services. Our small pet training program is available for your pets. In order to ensure a safe and friendly environment for our canine visitors, we do require a current rabies and distemper vaccination for all animals. We continue to post pictures of your pet at play on our Facebook page. More information and pricing for the Bed & Biscuit Inn can be found on the Small Animal Care Center website: SmallAnimalCareCenter.com/bed-biscuit-inn/

**Finding innovative ways to facilitate adoptions**

Asking the community to think of shelter pets as “friends” instead of “strangers” can go a long way toward changing the perception of shelters and pets. The interest in “husky parenting” has been exciting for our customers who are now faced with the challenge of finding innovative ways to facilitate adoptions and keeping our shelter operations legal, safe and efficient. We have been busy setting up our adoption counseling and limited services and appointments for your convenience, and provided a safe outlet for our community to interact with us during the pandemic. Due to the overwhelming number of underage kittens coming into the shelter, we created a new nursery to care for kittens until they could be fostered or adopted. RHS was also proud to continue supporting our partnership with the California Family Pet Care Center to Empower Youth and its youth employment training programs. We increased our use of foster families so kittens, puppies, pregnant pets, and pet litters could be well cared for as shelter operations were drastically reduced due to COVID-19 restrictions. We are so proud of our staff who—throughout this year like no other—had only one focus: helping our shelter animals! We are oping 2021 keeps improving.

**Just a few of our happy doggie day care visitors as they enjoy play in our secure yard.**

**Small Animal Care Center website:** SmallAnimalCareCenter.com/bed-biscuit-inn/
New RHS Website Now Offers Online Services

www.RamonaHumaneSociety.org a great way to do so much...right online!

With the global pandemic grabbing so much of our attention, you may have missed the launch of our newly redesigned and enhanced Ramona Humane Society website. “We recognize so much of what our community wanted to do on our website was either impossible, or was too hard to find on our old website,” says Jeff Sheppard, Ramona Humane Society Chief Executive Officer. “Our new site was created with the goal of putting as much as we could online, and increasing convenience.” With that in mind, the new website allows you to book online appointments for such popular services as spay and neuter services, pet vaccinations, and pet adoptions. You can now also register for events, view our calendar, and see animals that are available for adoption, and browse animals which have been put to death or euthanized within a very short time. Pets coming in with injuries or illnesses that are treatable are also at a high risk of being euthanized if they are not treated properly. These conditions can worsen, cause unnecessary suffering and even lead to death. Many of the animals coming to the Ramona Humane Society are ill, or injured, as a result of abandonment or cruelty. Historically, animal shelters were generally euthanized until they were fully trained and vaccinated. The adopter gets cats that have been spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and treated for parasites and diseases. You will also notice that they have been ear-tipped. Ear-tipping is the humane, safe surgical removal of a tiny piece of the cat’s ear and is a widely accepted means of marking a community cat who has been spayed or neutered. It also often identifies them as being part of a colony rather than a pet of a caretaker. If you have a business or living situation that could benefit from having one of our working cats on your property, please contact us at Recue@ramonahumanesociety.org.

Listen for Rattles!

It’s snake season...here is how to prepare

Suns out... snakes out! Time to start listening for those rattles...and the potential snake bites on the other end. Did you know dogs are 20 times more likely to be bitten at this time of the year? Sadly, they are also 25 times more likely to die after being bitten. Dogs are naturally inquisitive, so just leaving them out in the world sniffling for adventure and excitement. They stick their snouts down a hole to sniff, or put their paws down to dig in the dirt. Snakes strike back in defense. Because of this, snake bites to the dog’s nose and legs are most common. There are ways to mitigate the potential for snake bites. Avoid letting your dog explore or play in areas overgrown with bushes, tall grass, and rocks. These are ideal places where snakes like to hide and hunt. When hiking or walking in an area where snakes are prevalent, keep your dog on a leash. This will allow you to keep control over your dog at all times. It’s extra vigilant when walking your dog at night. Snakes may be more active at night and harder to spot. If your dog is particularly active, consider contacting a “snake training” dog trainer. Remember, snakes strike fast, and they can reach up to half their body length. So if you see a snake keep your distance. Even with extra precautions, dogs still get bitten. The good news is, there is a rattlesnake vaccine available to protect your dogs. The first year dogs need two vaccines and then just one vac- cine annually thereafter. If you have questions, now is the time to discuss them with your veterinarian. And listen for the rattle...it’s a tell-tale sign.

RHS Welcomes New Board Member

Welcome Sean Motlagh

RHS is excited to welcome local community ad- vocate and animal lover Sean Motlagh as the new- est member to our Board of Directors. Sean was born in Hemet, California and has lived in the val- ley most of his life. He currently lives in Temecu- la with his wife and family and his three dogs, two American Pit Bull Terriers and one Belgian Malinois. Sean has been in the civil engineering and construction industries for his entire life (working full time for 15 years). He is a huge ani- mal advocate, and even competes with his Malino- is in Dock Diving and Mondioring. Sean joined the RHS Board of Directors in hopes that he can give back to the local community he loves while helping animals in need at the same time.

Soboba Golf Tournament Benefits RHS Animals

Everyone deserves a second chance, especially animals suf- fering from conditions they have no control over. How does that affect your eyes and ears? We will pay for their medical care is one of the most heart- breaking situations. At the Ramona Hu- mane Society, we pride ourselves on going the extra mile to ensure the care and treatment of homeless animals so they can be adopted into a loving home where they can flourish. We are committed to saving all treatable animals and becoming a No Kill Community. However, we cannot do it without the public’s support and corporate sponsor- ship. Soboba C.A.R.E. has once again stepped up to help our shelter animals. Funds from the re- cent Soboba C.A.R.E. golf tour- nament at the Soboba Casino are shipped over to help the animal shelters at the same time they can flour- ish. We are committed to saving all treatable animals and becoming a No Kill Community. However, we cannot do it without the public’s support and corporate sponsor- ship. Soboba C.A.R.E. has once again stepped up to help our shelter animals. Funds from the re- cent Soboba C.A.R.E. golf tour- nament at the Soboba Casino are shipped over to help the animal shelters at the same time they can flourish.