



H.A.L.O. VOLUNTEERS

Issue 1, Volume 1

Upcoming Events

- ★ Animals on Broadway!
Saturday May 14
Contact Karen Kops
- ★ Fix Our Ferals!
Sunday May 1
Oakland SPCA
- ★ Home and Garden Show
Saturday May 21
Oakley
- ★ Yard Sale! Sat & Sun May 21
& 22 Contact Lee
Morningstar for
contributions & volunteering
- ★ 7th Annual Ramble 'Round
the Reservoir!
Sunday, June 12
Contact Karen Kops

Special Projects

We are looking for volunteers to do the following tasks:

- ★ Assist in producing a video about H.A.L.O. activities for training, community events, and after-school programs. (*Funding has been made available through the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund.*)

Volunteer contact information is available from BJ Lauver at Starfire9@sbcglobal.net or Karen Kops at (925) 783-3790.

Fond Farewells

- ★ Danielle Delema (as Youth Director)
- ★ Karen Harrison

Volunteer Newsletter Debuts!

We have planned to have a volunteer newsletter for a long time. It will help keep us connected and informed about current events, policies, and information specific to our volunteers.

The current title "HALO Volunteers" is only a working title. We need you to help name your newsletter. Submit your ideas to Karen at eichkops@infionline.net. You can also send us suggestions for future issues.

Please check our H.A.L.O. web site at <http://www.eccchalo.org> for updates and more information about upcoming events. You will also find email addresses of board members.

Help!

Every 2 months, we receive food donations from Safeway. We need people to help load the food into the H.A.L.O. storage unit on Bethel Island. Contact Joyce at 679-0667 or ewayne@earthlink.net.

The next delivery will be Thursday, June 9 from approximately noon-2:00pm.

1,300 Hours in January

If we were all paid \$10 an hour, we would have earned \$13,000! These figures could be considered the value of our work to the community. Only about 25% of our regular HALO members reported their hours. Did you? Email Laura Moore at ljmooreh@hotmail.com, or call Karen Kops at (925) 783-3790 to report by phone. The information Karen receives will be forwarded to Laura. Please give us this valuable information so we may use it for grants and community information.

Wish List

- ❁ Vehicle donations
- ❁ Cat and dog supplies
- ❁ Dog food (check with Joyce)
- ❁ Cat food for ferals (any type or brand)
- ❁ Puppy pads
- ❁ Unused BART tickets
- ❁ White computer paper
- ❁ Postage stamps
- ❁ **Any** dog or cat supply!

2005 Adoption Numbers

Cats: 43 (653 total)

Dogs: 38 (694 total)

New Volunteers!

- ★ Gigi Boss, Computer & Dog Program
- ★ Valerie Clark, Dog Program
- ★ Traci Danforth, Webmaster
- ★ Julia Harris, Kitten Bottle Feeder
- ★ Mark & Eileen Hollander, Ramble Committee
- ★ John Krasovec, Computer Assistance
- ★ Kim Lattner, Kitten Bottle Feeder
- ★ Steve Matuska, Feral Cat Network
- ★ Meghan McElwain, Dog Program
- ★ Barbara Richards, Dog Foster
- ★ Becky Schneer, General Help
- ★ Frank Walker, Supply Assistance

Volunteer Dinner a Success!

It was wonderful meeting so many of you at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on March 5, 2005. We were pleased that 66 people attended. Beautiful custom travel mugs and gifts for each person made the evening enjoyable. Five of the six founding members of H.A.L.O. were introduced, and many people were able to place a face with a name and meet for the first time.

Thanks for playing the game in which points were scored for learning which activities our volunteers perform. Our winners: 1st place Darlene Bennett, 2nd place Brenden Maldonado, and 3rd place Georgia Nieves. They received Barnes & Noble gift certificates.

We want you to know how much we appreciate the work you do. We plan to have future events so that we continue to stay connected.

- Lee Morningstar, Volunteer Dinner Chair

My Mutt: Shasta



“The ‘My Mutt’ program is Pet Food Express’ and Virtual Pet Adoption’s attempt to raise awareness of the most popular breed of all, the Mutt.” Thanks to Pet Food Express, animal lovers who donate \$250 can have photographs of their pets made into \$400 posters, which hang in Pet Food Express stores for about 12 months. Those who donate \$500 get to keep the posters. For More information about the My Mutt program, please contact Pet Food Express at (510) 346-7777 ext.1109, bthompson@petfoodexpress.com, or <http://www.virtualpetadoptions.com>.

Christine Mikulice’s dog Shasta is the first H.A.L.O animal to appear on the Web site for a week and to be posted in one of the local stores. Next up: Volunteer Evie Viera presents her dog.

Shasta came into my life soon after my German Shepherd mix, Java, 13, and her Doberman “sister” Eliza, 14, had died. I had just started volunteering with H.A.L.O. When Joyce, the dog adoption manager, heard about Java’s death, she suggested that I meet a German Shepherd puppy that Sunny was fostering. I wasn’t ready for another dog yet, I didn’t want another shepherd mix, and I didn’t want a puppy. Three strikes—I was going to pass on this pooch.

After going to Joyce’s to work with the dogs she had, and to help with adoptions, I thought perhaps I would adopt one of these dogs. However, Joyce continued to talk about Shasta, Sunny’s foster puppy. Finally, I relented and made arrangements to meet her. Shasta was 11 months old, a gangly teenager growing into herself. She had a beautiful smile and a light in her eyes. I fell in love. But, would she pass the cat test? I took her home to meet Patch and Edo. Shasta could have cared less, and Patch walked up and said “Hi.” I had found my girl.

Shasta and her sister Isabel were rescued from the Stockton shelter. Isabel was adopted right away, but Shasta was more difficult to place. She was adopted once before I got her, but returned because she chewed the fence and dug in the yard (not atypical behavior for a puppy). Although Shasta dug up some landscaping and had a special taste for toss pillows, I knew these would pass as she grew up.

Indeed, Shasta doesn’t chew things up anymore. She loves the cats, plays with them, and grooms them. She’s also a H.A.L.O. volunteer, playing with the big dogs. She gets along with almost anything. She loves all of her friends—humans, dogs and cats alike.

I believe that Shasta was destined to be my dog, and I her human. Destiny didn’t care that I wasn’t ready for another dog, I didn’t want a puppy, or that I didn’t want a German Shepherd. Destiny only cared that the right dog found the right human. And she did.

- Christine Mikulice