

The Volunteer

Volume 2 - Issue 21 - September 2011

Voice



**Twentysomething
Karina
Mendoza-Ruiz
Assists in Clinic**



**DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES**

Riverside County Community Health Agency

Cover Story

“ I am so happy to learn and give back to the community because of my love for animals, I have been allowed to meet and greet new people who also share my interest. I love being here, helping, even if it is just cleaning cages or giving an animal a blanket.”

— Karina Mendoza-Ruiz,
Clinic Volunteer

You'd think the mother of two youngsters would love some time off to take a breather. Karina Mendoza-Ruiz isn't the type to put her feet up on the coffee table and lounge all day long. She likes to keep busy. How busy? Try this: She's logged more than 160 hours at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter in Jurupa Valley.

More than 10 months ago, Karina came to the shelter to volunteer. She started off cleaning cages, filling syringes, then surgical packs. Now she is prepping animals for surgery — and she assists in the pets' after-surgery care. She even assists in helping patrons with any key questions.

When she first started wearing the bright, orange volunteer shirt for Animal Services, she helped walk dogs, cleaned kennels and assisted visitors trying to reunite with their wayward pet. But it was in the veterinary clinic that Karina found her true niche. That makes sense, since she just wrapped up her degree in animal science in 2010 from Cal Poly Pomona. She is planning a career in veterinary medicine.

Karina, 26, is a wife and mother to two children (a 5-year-old daughter and a 2-year-old son). She wanted to volunteer at the shelter to gain valuable experience for her career plans.

Her can-do attitude, outstanding camaraderie with employees and fellow volunteers, made her an outstanding candidate for The Volunteer Voice Cover Story. She's beloved by the shelter's clinic staff.

Karina said she is very thankful for the time she's volunteered at the shelter, especially since several employees made her feel like she had a lot to offer — and was more than capable to handle the tasks handed her.



Did you know?

Here are some key topics/tips to know:

If you arrive before the shelter opens, you can go into the Lost/Turn In (Admissions) and use the side door that leads to the hallway by the clinic.

If you are scheduled to volunteer, but cannot make your shift, you need to e-mail Candace or Nicole. If you can't email them, you need to call them at (951) 358-7380 or (951)7973. Please give at least a 24-hour notice.

Volunteers are NOT allowed to visit the horses and barn animals.

If you open a gate or door, you need to make sure to close it all the way behind you.

If someone is asking about an animal that was euthanized, let the ACTs speak with the guest.

If you are looking for the best time to assist the shelter, the 3 p.m.-to-5:30 p.m. period on weekdays is very busy. Saturdays (10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) are always busy. And help is always appreciated on Sundays (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). The first

Wednesdays feature a vaccination clinic and volunteers are super appreciated. The clinics run 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Do not encourage people to bring their pets after hours and use the Night Drop Box. The drop boxes fill up quick and not everyone fills out an information card. The drop boxes are NOT for owner turn-ins. They were built to assist Good Samaritans finding stray pets during our after-hours period.

Remember that ONLY Animal Care Technicians handle all the "Meet-and-Greet" requests by potential adopters who bring their family pet to interact with a shelter dog.

Remember to sign in/out. Make sure you print clearly so your hours can be logged. Only fill out the time you left when you are actually leaving — NOT when you are signing in. Thank you!

It is recommended that you leave all valuables locked in your vehicle. (Please note that there is no liability coverage for anything lost in vehicles.)

There are lockers in the Volunteer Office. If you use a locker, you need to bring a lock with you.

Don't forget to take the lock off so it can be use by another volunteer.

If you are interested in helping to move dogs from the Wait/Stray area to the Adoptable Kennels you need to be 16 years old or older. This helps animals to be seen by the public, keeps them healthy and adoptable. See the volunteer office to sign up. Barbara Davis, a well known dog handler, conducts training for volunteers.

Volunteers MUST wear closed-toed shoes, long pants, and volunteer shirts and/or apron their name badge if they have one.

Volunteers who are not wearing their shirt/ apron cannot volunteer and will be considered guests. Volunteer's showing up in shorts and/or sandals may be asked to sign out and go home.

Finally: Please know that staff and animals need you to help us improve the community. Your help makes pets adoptable, reunites owners with their long-lost pet, and creates an exciting energy for all the employees. You make our dogs' tails wag. Thank you for your dedication!

Volunteer of the Month

Breanna Saucedo



How fortunate are we? Very fortunate. We, after all, got to know Breanna Saucedo very well.

Breanna is a 15-year-old sophomore in high school who plans to go to college and then pursue a career as a pediatrician. She said she figured working at the shelter — and the clinic area — would help get familiar with a health-related environment that is always busy. And she's right. The clinic is always buzzing with excitement.

The great thing about Breanna is that she's also assisted the Animal Care Technician area as a volunteer adoption assistant.

Breanna has been with us from the age of 13, logging more than 422 volunteer hours. Wow! She has worked in just about every area at the shelter. She's so trustworthy, she is one of the very few volunteers allowed to work in the receiving area, due to her attention to detail and hard work.

It makes sense that Breanna would have four dogs of her own (oh, and one cat!). Three of her five pets came straight from the shelter. Assisting in the adoption process is one of her favorite roles — and something that keeps bringing her back to help. In fact, she donated many hours during the summer months. She said she enjoys all the new volunteers that she meets and the wonderful employees at the shelter. Breanna said she feels that everyone has helped her gain new experiences while sharing their knowledge about animals with her. Volunteering has taught her the meaning of a strong work ethic.

Breanna loves helping customers to find their way through the shelter. She's easy to spot. She's the one with the beaming smile as she greets each visit, and while helping them to find new life long pets. She greets every customer with a smile.

When she's not at the shelter volunteering, her favorite place in the world is Disneyland. Would you believe she's even a bit of a prankster? She said she likes joking around with her family and close friends.

Thank you, Breanna Saucedo! And congratulations for being named September's Volunteer of the Month!



First Day of Life Saverz 2011

Written by Ashley Teen Life Saver Volunteer



Finally, it was time to return to the training room to discuss our likes and dislikes. One of the most popular jobs was assisting in adoptions. Since helping the animals find homes is the most important part of the program, it is not surprising that it was the most exciting. Then we were given our first week's homework assignment. What? This sort of shocked some of us. We didn't know we were going to get homework! The homework was a fun topic, though: We were asked to do research on a dog from the herding group.

The first day of Life Saverz was only the beginning of a program that will surely change all our lives. We are going to grow from the experiences. Hopefully we will all learn life lessons that we are unable to learn elsewhere. It was a day of pure excitement and nervousness that has prepared us for what is to come. Now all we can do is use what we have learned on this day and apply it to the rest of the program.

Our first day volunteering at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter was a day most Life Saverz had been anxiously awaiting. Finally! Here we had the great opportunity to be judged by our competency and morals — as opposed to our age. After all, you shouldn't have to be 18 to work for a great cause and save lives. You simply should be willing to offer up yourself and abilities.

On day No. 1, Nicole reintroduced the program a little bit and allowed us to paint our shirts. Then we were divided into dog/cat groups where a supervisor gave us more in-depth guidelines for caring for the animals and showing animals available for adoptions. However, it wasn't until the shelter opened that the work really began.

Many of us made our first adoptions while others continued to politely persuade customers on the benefits of adoptions. As each hour passed, performing the tasks seemed more straightforward and enjoyable. By the end of the day, all our worries were all but forgotten.



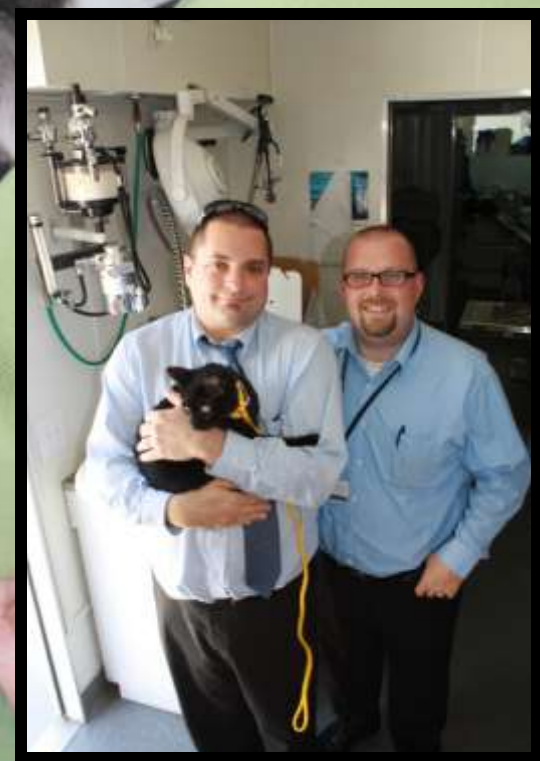
Docent Volunteer Lara Winchester and a team of volunteers have been making stops all over the city of Riverside. They have traveled to City Hall and to the County Administration Center. They have made treks to a Petco store on Van Buren Boulevard in the Woodcrest area.

They have been putting in lots of hours on hot days during Animal Services' "Cats on Tour" promotion. They have been so dedicated to helping our felines find Purr..fect Pals. (The photos featured on this page feature some of these new pals.)

Thanks to these tireless volunteers' efforts, more than 400 cats have been adopted in the field and at the shelters during the ASPCA Challenge. (Read more about this at www.rcdas.org.)

Want to be part of the new Volunteer Event Team? Want to help connect pets with forever families? Please contact the Volunteer Department!

CATS On Tour



The Events!

Your Help Is Needed. To sign up for any up coming events call

Nicole at 951-358-7380

Or email

Nwarring@rivcocha.org

Past Events

August

- Shot Clinic

Every First Wednesday of the month from 6 pm to 11pm and every third Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

- Cats On Tour

Every Saturday in August At the Petco on Van Buren

Upcoming Events

September

- Shot Clinic

Every First Wednesday of the month from 6 pm to 11pm and every third Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

- \$40 Fidos Recruitment information to be announced

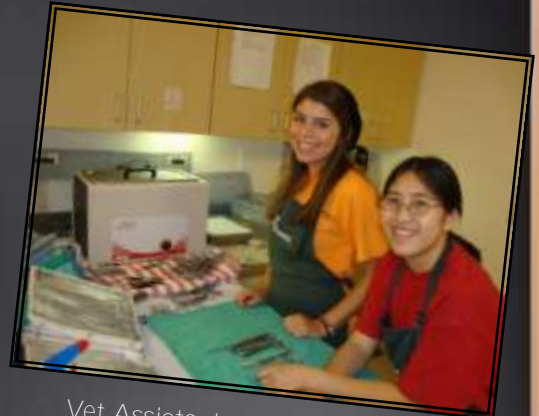
October

- Shimmy for Critters 8th, at the Riverside Shelter
- Dogtoberfest 29th at Skip Fordyce Harley Davidson

Volunteers in Action



Adoption Assistant



Vet Assistant



Adoption Assistant



Cat Socializing



Adoption Assistant



Training New Volunteers



HELPIN' HUSKIES — Lisa Chavez is a huge fan of huskies. This dog above became one of Lisa's "project dogs." Her dedication to this dog helped make the homeless pet much more adoptable.

Volunteers' Choice: Employee of the Month: Lisa Chavez

Lisa is an Animal Care Technician who has been working for Animal Services for 15 years. She works very hard in the lobby and Wond-Purr-Land to make sure the volunteers working in those areas are well trained and always busy.

Many of the teen volunteers call her "MOM," because of her kind nature and the way she takes them under her wing and makes sure they stay on the right track.

Last November, on her own time, Lisa showed up at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to let the volunteers know how grateful she was to them for all of their help. She also assisted in passing out Certificates of Appreciation. But she took it even further. She brought along some gift cards that she had paid for out of her own pocket.

When her name was called to give a brief speech, the volunteers cheered for her enthusiastically. They all were happy that Lisa came out to enjoy and share the evening with them.

When Lisa asks the volunteers for some assistance on various tasks, she guides them through the learning process by sharing her knowledge about animals and her work ethic. Lisa likes letting the young volunteers know how valuable they are in making the animals are much more adoptable.

The volunteers have repeatedly expressed their gratitude to Lisa. Many of them expressed their gratitude to her for being a trainer, mentor and friend.

But Lisa also helps make sure the volunteers stay on track. She wants them to have fun — but also to stay motivated to make sure they know they are playing a vital role in the animal's future.

Lisa said she cares for and respects the volunteers in a way that words will never express. She has made Wond-Purr-Land the shelter spot where most of the teen volunteers want to be.

Thank you Lisa Chavez your heart and time has been so helpful to us as volunteers and fellow co workers!

Volunteer September 2011 Birthdays

Derek Hayes	9/1	Durrah Muhammad	9/13	Lori Beard	9/25
Krishonna Chatham	9/1	Nancy Metcalf	9/15	Ashley Tejada	9/26
Jennifer Hinojosa	9/1	Gabriel Marquecho	9/15	Nicole Proels	9/26
Chere Johnson	9/1	Karla Rivera	9/15	Alison Melhouse	9/26
Michelle Thompson	9/2	Amber Avila	9/16	Julianne Tong	9/26
Vanessa Moreno	9/2	Kailee Stool	9/16	Skylar Rogalia	9/27
Stephanie Barrios	9/3	Bianca Rodriguez	9/17	Erica Galindo	9/27
Robert Sanchez	9/4	Alyssa Hall	9/17	Bronwyn Prentice	9/28
Matt Bergeland	9/4	Kaitlin McMillan	9/17	Payton Prentice	9/28
Mary Manouchehri	9/5	Joaquin Hernandez Jr	9/18	Arturo Garcia	9/28
Wendy Greenwood	9/6	Sage Villanueva	9/18	Erica Tovar	9/28
Jennifer Dunn-Ryan	9/7	Neil Tomunson	9/18	Penny Quinday	9/28
Suleyma Garcia	9/7	Rebecca Kahn	9/19	Serena Johnson	9/28
Kathleen Crutchfield	9/8	Robert Jones Jr	9/19	Jermeil Brown	9/28
Renee Syries	9/8	Lorena Arrocha	9/19	Yosilyn Hernandez	9/29
Maria Gonzalez	9/8	John Kilgore	9/20		
Katherine Rosales	9/9	Veronica Estrada	9/21		
Gloria Ruvalcaba	9/9	Priscilla Barnes	9/21		
Omar Mariscal	9/10	Hope Gilbert	9/21		
Brandee Guzman	9/10	Alexandria Macias	9/21		
Chanel Daniel	9/11	Kannai Jan	9/22		
Nicholas Barnhisel	9/11	Alexis Ruiall	9/22		
Timothy VanHove	9/11	Peyvand Mirzadeh	9/22		
Corey Gonzales	9/11	Alyssa Palmquist	9/23		
David Nguyen	9/11	Crystal Mongello	9/24		
Brenda Quiroz	9/13	Angelica Horton-Alejo	9/24		
Kelly Lafon	9/13	Emily Sicklesteel	9/25		



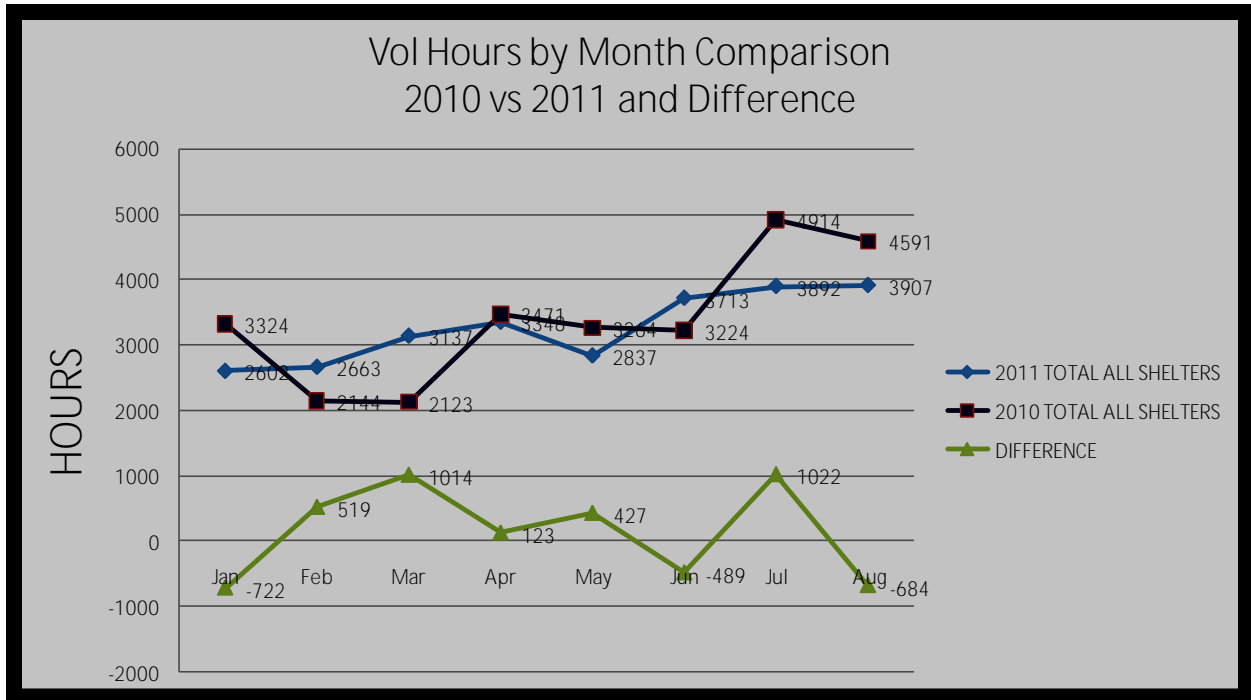
Welcome All Of Our New Volunteers

Akins, Serah
 Barley, Maureen
 Braun, Rene
 Davidson, Charlotte
 Garcia, Janet
 Gates, Megan
 Harris, Melissa
 Hernandez, Teresa
 Hermosillo, Katherine
 Garcia, Suleyma
 Kunde, Marcy
 Langley, Jill
 Mack -Simen, Ethan Alexander
 Manning, Amy
 Marrs, Katharine

Meer, Alicia
 Naranjo, Elizabeth
 Potter, Renee
 Pozzobon, Natalie
 Prestigiacomo, Marre
 Prestigiacomo, Sabrina
 Rivera, Karla
 Rodriguez, Crystal
 Shook, Eric
 Torres, Crystal
 Valencia, Sandra
 Vargas, Carlos
 Wagner, Marci
 Wood, Chloe



Updates and Hours



Reminders

- We are also in the process of getting different colored aprons for our volunteers to be identified as to what area they are working in for the day and/or to show the level of experience they have while volunteering. More to come as soon as we place an order for more apron colors.
- Proximity cards and kennel keys will be checked in/out by Nicole and/or Candace. The upstairs keys have been removed. You must turn in car keys or a valid current photo id.
- Let's boost are the hours come volunteer today!



“VOLUNTEERS REGULARLY ASSIST WITH transfers of pets to RESCUE GROUP ORGANIZATIONS....”



Volunteers Helping the Community

Do you ever wonder what volunteers do on their spare time? So did we so we asked Maria Gonzalez a 15 year old volunteer at Animal Services.

And here is what she told us. She makes gift bags that she gives to all the homeless dogs out there with love !! Maria said the bags included a whole bag of piggy knotts, a whole bag of the dental chew bones, a water bottle , a plate , a blanket , a toy, a bag of dry dog food, a can of wet dog food, to fit the size of the dogs and sometimes a outfit to keep the dog warm over night. Maria says “If I have enough money to buy so much more”. She started doing this because she felt the homeless dog owner did not have anything to give to the dog and she felt bad, every time she passed by a homeless person that had a dog. For her to see them sharing their leftovers of food that came from the trash made her feel like she could do more for her community. Maria felt this way the dog could have some food , treats ,water ,toys, blankets and clothes to

keep them warm over night while being a best friend to some one in need. If you want to help Maria please bring in your donations and we will pass them on to her.



Sign Up Now

To Be Part Of Flash Mob 2011!



Maarifa & The ASK Foundation Present:

Saturday October 8, 2011
11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Raffle Prizes!
One raffle ticket with a \$5 Entry Donation

Shimmy for Critters
Fundraiser to Benefit Shelter Animals

"Fire Up Your Performance"
Workshop with **TONYA!**
10-11 a.m. Only \$12
MUST Pre-register
Deadline Sept. 24th
Contact: Maarifa@sbcglobal.net (951) 312-3332

Vendors:
Sign up NOW!
\$20 (Goods)
\$40 (Food)
Bring your own outdoor set-up

Belly Dancing & Drum Circle

Come Flash Mob Dance with Animal Attractions TV's **Megan Blake** and Super Smiley
Dance info @ www.SmileyTheDog.com

Vendor sign-up
Deadline: Sept. 30th
bunnybadger@hotmail.com
(951) 544-9212

Location: Western Riverside Animal Shelter
6851 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside, CA 92509
www.rcdas.org/Shimmy

 **DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES**



"Shimmy 4 Critters"
Fundraiser

Saturday Oct. 8th, 2011
8 am - 5:00 pm

Job Description: Help vendors set up, work the event, adoptions, etc.

Special Guest: MEGAN BLAKE of Animal Attraction TV.
Come Flash Mob Dance with Smiley the Dog and be on Youtube!

PRACTICE THE FLASH MOB DANCE BY CHECKING IT OUT ON: www.SmileyTheDog.com

All day performances (full); Drum Circle (Dancers welcome); Workshop by TONYA 10-11 a.m. Only \$12!

Contact Maarifa:

Maarifa@sbcglobal.net
(951)312-3332

Vendors Wanted-contact

Bunny: Bunnybadger@hotmail.com
(951)544-9212.

Please reply with your first and last name if you plan on volunteering
Nwarring@rivcocha.org