



Volunteer
voices



Claire Takeshita
 2013 November's
 Volunteer of the Month

Riverside Edition

November 2013

Issue 11

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Save the Date

- **November 13th: Eat at Panda Express Fundraiser! 20% of your meal purchase will go to the Volunteer Department!**
- **November 14th: Volunteer Fundraising Committee in the Training Center, 5pm—6pm**
- **November 15th: Volunteer and Staff Movie Night! 6pm—9pm**
- **November 16th: Shot Clinic Day, 10am—1pm**
- **November 21st: Shelter Closing at 4:00pm**
- **November 28th and November 29th: Shelter Closed due to Thanksgiving**

Reminders

KIOSK: We are in need of volunteers to help at the front desk. If you're able to volunteer, even for a couple of hours, please e-mail Shea at srossite@rcdas.org

BATHING/BRUSHING CLASS: We will be having bathing/brushing classes on Fridays from 10:30am to 12pm provided by volunteer, Maria Byron. If you're interested in signing up for these classes, please contact us ahead of time to check for availability.

EVENTS: If you sign up for an event, please make sure to stay the entire designated hours. If you need to leave beforehand or cannot make it at all, please give the Volunteer Department a call/e-mail.

SOCIALIZATION NOTEBOOKS: Make sure to sign in any animals you've socialized with during the day in our logbooks. We want to make sure we give credit to volunteers for your hard work!

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Interested in helping raise funds for special volunteer events, such as our summer picnic and annual appreciation dinner? Then join the fundraising committee! We need lots of help and ideas! E-mail Skyla for more information at ssalisbu@rcdas.org

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: Make sure to follow the volunteer pages! Facebook: RCDAS Volunteers; Instagram: [@RCDAS_Volunteers](https://www.instagram.com/RCDAS_Volunteers)








Volunteer of the Month

Claire Takeshita

Claire has been volunteering at the Riverside County animal shelter for more than 2 years. Her mom recommended that she apply for the teen program. She was interviewed and accepted into the program and has given more than 460 hours of service to the animal shelter. She likes to volunteer in Receiving because it is interesting and she meets and works with a lot of cool people. She likes to share with her family and friends all of her encounters with the different types of wildlife brought in by the Animal Control Officers. When asked to relay one of her favorite experiences at the shelter, she thought of the time when an injured dog was brought in and was very unresponsive to the staff. Eventually, the owner came in and the dog “lit up.” She stated that it was a very emotional and happy day. She has two cats named Boots and Beanie. Boots is calm and low energy. She said that Beanie is hyper and a “little maniac.” She also has two chickens, named Saffy and Iris, and she fosters animals for the shelter. When she first visited the shelter, Claire was struck by the large number of homeless pets. She believes that we have a lot of homeless pets because owners are not spaying and neutering. She would like to share this message with other volunteers: “Get to know people. They are really cool. Make sure you learn something. They have a lot to teach you!”



RANDOM FACTS ABOUT CLAIRE TAKESHITA!

-  Her favorite movie is “Moulin Rouge.”
-  The craziest things that she has ever eaten were shrimp heads and snails.
-  If she were stranded on an island and could only bring three things, she would bring food, water, and a boat.
-  Her favorite color is lime green.
-  If she could choose a superpower, it would be to solve problems.
-  If she were an animal, she would be a cat because they just sleep and eat.
-  Her favorite food is chocolate.

Meet the Employee

Shea Rossiter



Meet the Volunteer Department's new Coordinator!

Shea Rossiter recently moved to California from New Mexico. Having worked with the organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, **Shea** has had experience working and interacting with volunteers, which is what drew her into Animal Services.





She's been sharing stories of the different animals we have throughout the shelter. **Shea** believes we have so many homeless pets because not enough owners spay or neuter their pets. She also believes not enough people research or are properly prepared to take on the financial responsibility of owning an animal.

Shea has a cat of her own named Summer, but she's affectionately called Miss Kitty. Her cat has an interesting habit of monitoring her son when he is getting ready for school. She will follow him throughout the house, almost seeming to make sure he gets to school on time.

In her free time, **Shea** volunteers in a group for her church called the "Young Women Church Group". She mentors and assists young women, ranging from ages 12 to 17, in their extra curricular activities.

Shea finds it nice to see so many volunteers who donate their time to our animals. To our volunteers, she would like to say, "Always know what you're doing does make a difference and is appreciated."

RANDOM FACTS ABOUT SHEA ROSSITER!

-  She has a phobia of snakes and rodents.
-  If she could trade places with anyone for a week, she would trade places with Emily Jones, reporter for the Texas Rangers.
-  If she could have a superpower, it would be to teleport.
-  She adopted a new dog from the shelter. He is pictured with her above and his name is Speedy.

Volunteer Voices

Samantha Erickson

RANDOM FACTS ABOUT SAMANTHA ERICKSON!



- 🦃 She enjoys assisting with adoptions because it gives her an accomplishing feeling to save lives.
- 🦃 The farthest location she has ever traveled was to Hawaii, which she found extravagant.
- 🦃 Her favorite song is “Breathe Me” by Sia.
- 🦃 The craziest thing she has eaten is seaweed.
- 🦃 Her favorite cereal is Honeycomb.
- 🦃 Her favorite candies are Snickers.
- 🦃 Her message to volunteers, “Remember to use collaboration well.”

Erik Patterson

RANDOM FACTS ABOUT ERIK PATTERSON!

- 🦃 He likes assisting with dog adoptions.
- 🦃 He has two dogs, Kobe and Sadie.
- 🦃 If he could be an animal, he would like to be a hawk or falcon because he loves to fly.
- 🦃 His favorite movie is “Airplane!” with Leslie Nielsen.
- 🦃 If he could have a super power, it would be the power to “freeze.”
- 🦃 Jolly Ranchers are his favorite candy.
- 🦃 His message to volunteers: “Volunteering at the shelter is the best way to embrace something you enjoy.”



Adoptions & Socialization

Special recognition goes out to the following Volunteers:

For assisting with the most cat adoptions: **Samantha Erickson** with 13 adoptions and **Jesse Argueta** with 5 adoptions!

For assisting with the most dog adoptions: **Abi Hwang-Nable** with 10 adoptions and **Victoria Pacillas** with 9 adoptions!

For socializing the most dogs: **Frances Ngo** with 7 dogs!

To **Joan Doup, Cindy Gomez, Jonathan Chen, Karen Griffith, Yara Camarena, Angelica Guadron, Maria Byron, Monique Garcia, Noemi Villareal, Brieauna Foraker,** and **Marie Foraker** for collaboratively bathing and grooming more than 28 dogs!

Valerie Chavez took 157 new photos of our animals with the assistance of other Volunteers!

Years of Service

A VERY big thank you to the following volunteers for their years of service!

Colby McCall with 4 years of service!

Deonna Diaz with 4 years of service!

Dominique Abarquez-Pelaske with 2 years of service!

Brendon Dembinski with 2 years of service!

Pauline Purcell with 2 years of service!

October New Volunteers

Kathleen Bridges

Javier De La O

Brieauna Foraker

Marie Foraker

Angeles Martinez

Paola Parobok

Daniela Ramirez

Theresa Ramirez

Jennifer Ruiz

Margarita Vargas

Noemi Villarreal

Diana Castillo

Abigail Aguilar

Nancy Abdelrahman

November Birthdays

Let's wish the following volunteers a very special day!

William Pendleton 11/1

Genesis Navarro 11/1

Kim Stover 11/1

Amanda Hall 11/3

Andrea Chavez 11/4

Joseph Nelson 11/6

Jessica Robison 11/6

Jessica Salgado 11/7

Marissa Saucedo 11/7

Cassandra Ruiz 11/7

Anthony Conley 11/10

Brieauna Foraker 11/10

Jacqueline Walker 11/11

Melissa Gutierrez 11/11

Claire Takeshita 11/14

Alexandra Fisher 11/14

Miranda Trevino 11/14

Sara Labor 11/16

Aidan Van Gossen 11/16

Liyiani Santamaria 11/16

Jonni Placencia 11/18

Frances Ngo 11/19

Christina Garza 11/19

Ashley Rojas 11/20

Marcos Luevanos 11/23

Audrey Bell 11/23

Megan Sandoval 11/24

Hanna Kang 11/24

Eli Rivera 11/25

Julia Hernandez 11/26

Denise Morgan 11/26

Patricia DeLaCruz 11/30

Alyssa Veliz 11/30

Jesse Argueta 11/30



Pet Corner!

Here are some Thanksgiving safety tips taken from the ASPCA website:

1. **Talkin' Turkey** — If you decide to feed your pet a little nibble of turkey, make sure it's boneless and well-cooked. Don't offer her raw or undercooked turkey, which may contain salmonella bacteria.
2. **Sage Advice** — Sage can make your Thanksgiving stuffing taste delish, but it and many other herbs contain essential oils and resins that can cause gastrointestinal upset and central nervous system depression to pets if eaten in large quantities. Cats are especially sensitive to the effects of certain essential oils.
3. **No Bread Dough** — Don't spoil your pet's holiday by giving him raw bread dough. According to ASPCA experts, when raw bread dough is ingested, an animal's body heat causes the dough to rise in his stomach, as it expands, the pet may experience vomiting, severe abdominal pain and bloating, which could become a life-threatening emergency, requiring surgery.
4. **Don't Let Them Eat Cake** — If you're baking up thanksgiving cakes, be sure your pets keep their noses out of the batter, especially if it includes raw eggs, they could contain salmonella bacteria that may lead to food poisoning.
5. **Too Much of a Good Thing** — A few small boneless pieces of cooked turkey, a taste of mashed potato or even a lick of pumpkin pie shouldn't pose a problem. However, don't allow your pets to overindulge, as they could wind up with a case of stomach upset, diarrhea or even worse — An inflammatory condition of the pancreas known as pancreatitis. In fact, it's best keep pets on their regular diets during the holidays.
6. **A Feast Fit for a Kong** — While the humans are chowing down, give your cat and dog their own little feast. Offer them Nylabones or made-for-pet chew bones. Or stuff their usual dinner — perhaps with a few added tidbits of turkey, vegetables (try sweet potato or green beans) and dribbles of gravy — inside a Kong toy. They'll be happily occupied for awhile, working hard to extract their dinner from the toy.



Shelter Happenings

Here are some photos of our Volunteer/Employee Family Fiesta! Thanks to all who joined in on the fun... and for those who couldn't make it, we hope to see you next time!



Can't have a fiesta without a piñata!



Volunteers, Mekenna Alvarez and Sara Fredricks!



Mekenna Alvarez and Candace McGrew with the money lei!



Natalie Swickle, piñata, Alex Melanson, and Denise Morgan!

Volunteers, employees, and family playing musical chairs!



Water balloon toss...



And for the winner of the \$100 money lei grand prize...

Congratulations to Lindsey Schwartz!

