

The PAWSitive

A publication of Riverside County Animal Services * APRIL 2015 * Vol. 1, Issue No. 3

*** COVER STORY ***

Kevin the Cat: Travelin' Tabby Flies Home to South Carolina



Please go to page 4 for Kevin's story.

**Online Art Auction
Fundraiser Runs
April 7 to April 21;
Go to rcdas.org**



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ASK Foundation Helps Pet Owners in Need

Giving pet owners some additional help in keeping their pets is one of the goals of the Animal Solutions Konection (ASK) Foundation. And in trying to put that goal to action, the ASK Foundation has been providing free pet food to needy owners for several consecutive months now.

The ASK Café, as it is called, provides food to those on limited income. The free pet food giveaways actually started more than two years ago, but funding to keep the program consistent, combined with a low-cost bulk food source, put the ASK Café on hiatus for a period. Now it's back up and running and helping pet owners save a few dollars.

Barbara Davis, one of the volunteer board members with the ASK Foundation, has been orchestrating the pet food giveaways. On Wednesday, April 1, she got special help from her daughter, Katherine, age 9, who was on her spring break from school.

Katherine seemed to be enjoying lugging big bags of food for pet owners and loading up their cars. She was a little dynamo. The ASK Café provides free pet food on the first Wednesday of each month. To qualify, the participants must bring a photo ID and provide proof of residence in Riverside County. In addition, proof of need, such as MediCal ID, WIC ID, etc., should be provided.

The next ASK Café is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, at 10 a.m. at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter, 6851 Van Buren Blvd., Jurupa Valley, Calif. 92509.



Katherine Darois, top and left, provided help and an amazing smile to those who came to the April 1 ASK Café. Her mom, Barbara Davis, far left, an ASK Foundation volunteer board member, coordinates the monthly pet food distribution to needy animal owners.

EVENTS, PROGRAMS, FREE WORKSHOPS, VACCINATION CLINICS, SPECIALS, ETC. ETC. ETC. EVENTS, PROGRAMS, FREE WORKSHOPS, VACCINATION CLINICS, SPECIALS ETC. ETC. ETC. EVENTS, PROGRAMS, FREE WORKSHOPS, VACCINATION CLINICS, SPECIALS, ETC. ETC.

ART FOR THE ANIMALS ONLINE AUCTION PERIOD: If you missed out on last month's live art auction event, you still have an opportunity to help homeless pets. Local artwork is now available for bidding online. The Art for the Animals online auction runs April 7 to April 21. Visit www.rcdas.org for all the details.

NATIONAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS APPRECIATION WEEK: Have you hugged your local animal control officer today? If one of our officers recently helped you, feel free to drop them a card or e-mail. They'd love to hear from you. National Animal Control Officers Appreciation Week runs April 12-18. Read more about this week's significance here: <http://www.nacanet.org/?page=appreciationweek>

LOW-COST VACCINATION CLINICS: First Wednesday night of every month and third Saturday of every month at the county's main shelter, 6851 Van Buren Blvd., Jurupa Valley, CA. (NOTE: Walk-in vaccinations are available 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays at the San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus, 581 S. Grand Ave., San Jacinto.

SALUTE TO VETERANS PARADE IN RIVERSIDE: Riverside County Animal Services employees are participating in the Salute to Veterans Parade again this year. The parade is Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. to noon in downtown Riverside. The parade route begins at Riverside Community College at Magnolia Avenue and Ramona Drive. Participants will head north along Magnolia, turn right on 10th Street, then right on Main Street before ending at the historic Riverside County Courthouse at Main and 12th. Come on out and show your support!

THE ELEVATED TEE CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT: The Coachella Valley Animal Campus and its homeless shelter animals will be the beneficiary on Saturday, April 18, when The Elevated Tee golf tournament goes down at the Marriott's Shadow Ridge Golf Club in Palm Desert. There are many prizes planned that day. The Elevated Tee is a radio program on KPSI 920 AM. Check out all the details at the-elevated-tee.com

FREE DOG TRAINING WORKSHOPS: The next FREE training seminar is April 20 at the main shelter, 6851 Van Buren Blvd., Jurupa Valley. It starts at 6 p.m. This workshop will deal with housetraining and some behavior issues. (And, oh, the workshops are for the humans only; please leave your dogs at home.)



FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF MAIN SHELTER: Riverside County Animal Services' main shelter, the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter, located at 6851 Van Buren Blvd. in Jurupa Valley, opened on May 8, 2010. To commemorate the five-year anniversary of the shelter's grand opening, all dogs will be just \$5 during the week of May 4 to May 9. Come down and drop an Abe Lincoln for your lifelong buddy. That's right. We said it. Five bucks for any dog or any cat. And that still includes the spay or neuter surgery, vaccinations and a microchip. Dog adopters still have to cover the license (\$16) if they live in Riverside County's jurisdiction.

PARK N BARK CAR SHOW & SPECIAL ADOPTION EVENT: Saturday, May 30. Check out cool cars and take home a lifelong buddy all in the same day. Adoption specials 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at

the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter, 6851 Van Buren Blvd., Jurupa Valley, CA. The car show runs earlier. Check out the cool cars until about noon. Plus: Opportunity drawings! A fun event for the family — all thanks to our friends at the Inland Empire Classic Mustang Club. See you there!

*** COVER STORY ***

TRAVELIN' TABBY: CAT FLIES HOME TO SOUTH CAROLINA

A cat somehow made its way from South Carolina to California and Riverside County Animal Services coordinated getting the "Travelin' Tabby" back to his owner.

The Shelter Transport Animal Rescue Team (S.T.A.R.T. Rescue), the Animal Solutions Connection (ASK) Foundation and shelter employees made donations to pay for the cat's journey home. START Rescue and the ASK Foundation are two nonprofit organizations that work closely with Riverside County in saving pets and programs that benefit shelter animals.

The orange tabby was very stealth in his travels. Early in March, he made it all the way to the Arizona-California border without detection. His stowaway days ended after a state Food & Agriculture inspector performed a routine check on a U-Haul trailer that was being towed by a woman. The inspector asked the driver to open the trailer.

The woman complied and that's when the inspector heard a muffled "meow, meow, meow."

The inspector asked the woman if she knew a cat was in the trailer. The woman said no – and also informed the inspector that she didn't own a cat. One of the great mysteries of the story is how long the cat was inside the trailer. (It was uncertain just how long the woman had been traveling across the country.) Nonetheless, the inspection station worker took custody of the cat and later drove him to Riverside County Animal Services' Blythe shelter. Once there, the dehydrated orange tabby was examined, scanned for a chip and provided nourishment and water. Employees at the Blythe Animal Shelter discovered that the cat did, indeed, have a microchip embedded under its skin – and the presumed owner of the cat was tracked to a South Carolina location.

"We have handled some pets with crazy back stories, and this is one more for the list," Animal Services Director Robert Miller said. "The good news is we were able to make contact with the owner and she was delighted to be able to reunite with her long-lost pet. Thanks to our friends at START and the ASK Foundation, we were able to make that happen."

We caught up with Cheryl Walls, an Anderson, S.C. resident and the cat's rightful owner, by telephone. Ms. Walls adopted "Kevin" from her local shelter in June 2013. He was primarily an indoor cat, she said, "but he acted unhappy." One day she allowed him to go outside. He would come back, but one day in the fall of 2013, Kevin was gone. "I assumed someone must have picked him up," Ms. Walls said. "Now," she joked, "he has seen more of the country than me."

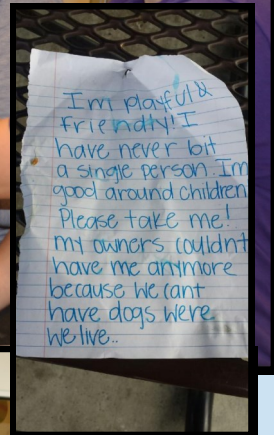
Multiple media outlets from California to South Carolina and New York, including national news programs such as "Good Morning America," covered the story of Kevin the Cat. The middle photo, above, was sent, via Twitter, by a South Carolina-based television journalist. The story was even covered by The Daily Mail, the United Kingdom's second-largest newspaper.

Kevin the Cat was transported from the county's Blythe shelter to the Coachella Valley Animal Campus in Thousand Palms. The transfer was made to get Kevin closer to the Palm Springs International Airport, where he eventually hopped aboard a flight for his cross-country journey. That nearly 2,300-mile journey went a lot faster than his first trip.



STORIES WITH A FONTANA FLAIR

Fontana began contracting with Riverside County Animal Services earlier this year to provide shelter for all impounds from Fontana's streets. The partnership has already illustrated a fair number of significant stories. We've seen some strange tales, sad tales and some terrible tales — but also “tails” with some very happy endings. In the past month, Fontana's animal control officers have impounded a Tegu lizard (notice the reunion photo here), a beautiful pit bull left abandoned in a city park (we've posted the happy adoption, top right), and a pair of poodles abandoned and discovered with rubber bands. We're pleased to report that both poodles (featured below) are now off to better futures. The poodles both headed out on Pacific Northwest-bound transports this month. The male poodle was loaded up on a transport truck on April 9, thanks to the Shelter Transport Animal Rescue Team (S.T.A.R.T.) and headed to Oregon Dog Rescue. The female poodle was transferred on April 14 to Safe Haven, also based in Oregon, courtesy of a truck transport funded by the American Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).



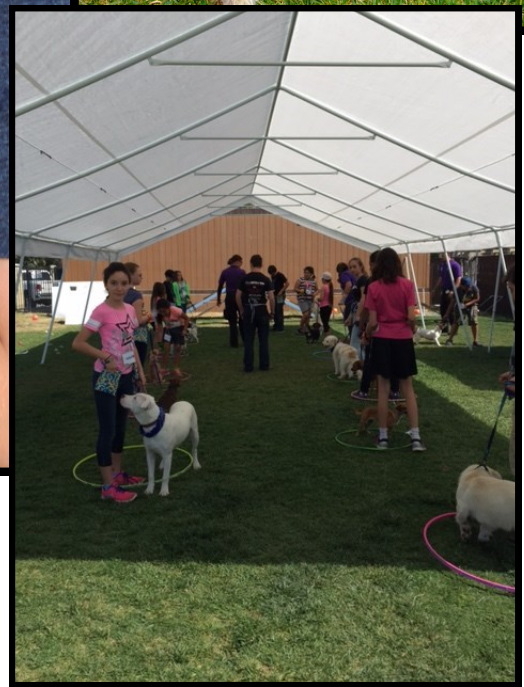
Transport Truck Fills up With Furballs

Homeless Shelter Dogs Head to Rescue Partners; S.T.A.R.T. Paid for Trip

More than 80 dogs left the Riverside County Animal Services main shelter on April 9. The transport truck was loaded up by employees and volunteers from the Shelter Transport Animal Rescue Team (S.T.A.R.T.). S.T.A.R.T. Rescue funded the transport truck and the dogs were scheduled to land at various Pacific Northwest rescue group partner organizations. All the dogs were either spoken for by adopters or foster volunteers. S.T.A.R.T. is a nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles and has a strong relationship with Riverside County Animal Services. Thousands of pets have been rescued by S.T.A.R.T. and many of those animals are former residents in Riverside County shelters. Learn more: <http://startrescue.org>



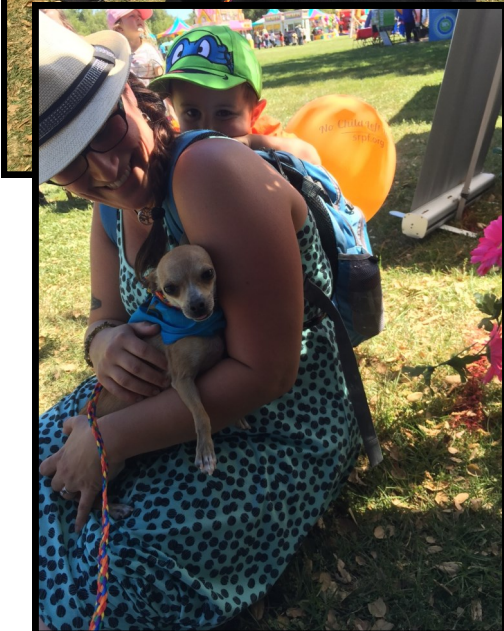
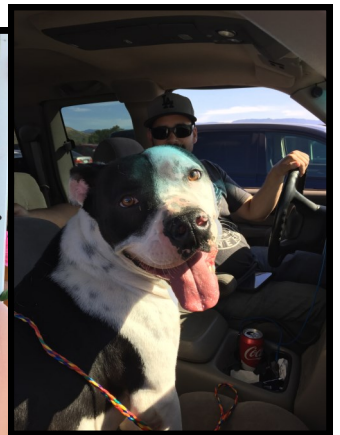
SPRING CAMP BONDS KIDS WITH CANINES



Our spring camp, "Dog Olympics," was once again a huge hit with children and pets alike. The kids worked daily with dogs to teach them how to do agility events, such as running through tubes, up ramps and leaping through hoops. There was also great bonding with the homeless dogs. Ultimately, all the efforts by the children provided great enrichment for the shelter dogs. After the week-long camp ended on April 3, several of the dogs traveled to the OC Pet Expo and were adopted. In fact, every dog that was used in the camp has since been adopted. Yay! If you have children interested in working with animals, our summer camp runs July 13-17 and July 20-24.

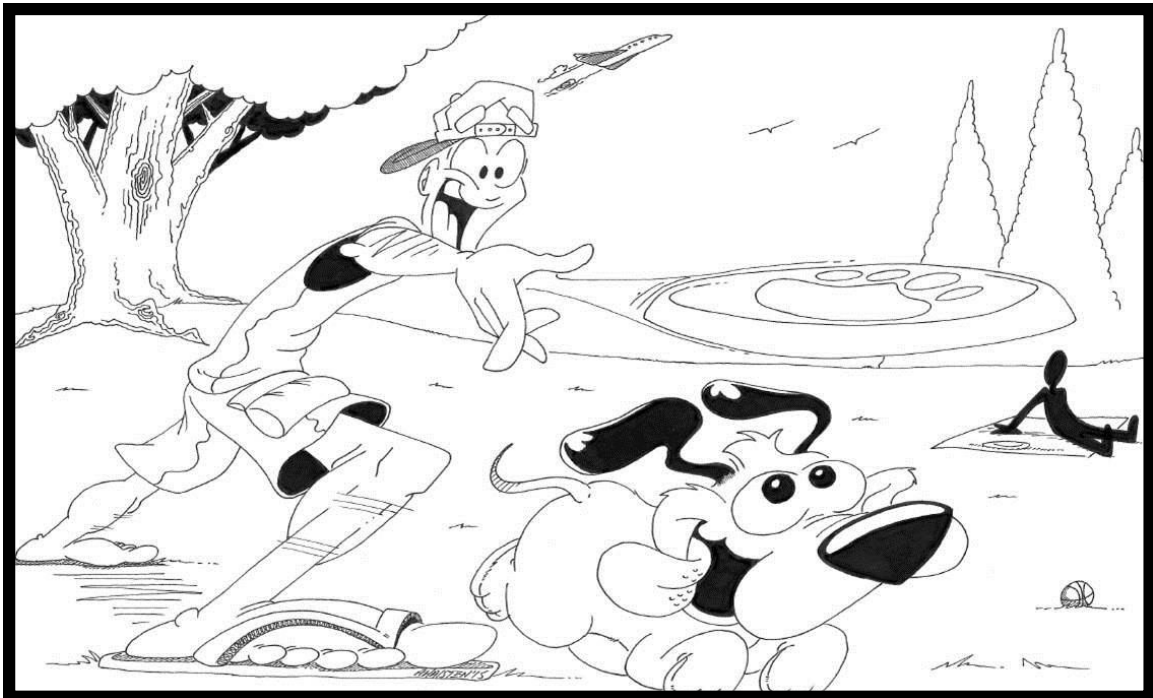
TEMECULA VALLEY FAIR: ADOPTIONS!

Our San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus dogs made their first ever trip to the Temecula Valley Fair in late March. We were thrilled that we met so many loving families — and every dog that made the field trip got adopted. Here are some of the happy adoption photos (and one shot with princesses) we captured. Enjoy!



RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES FUN PAGE

CAN YOU FIND THE DIFFERENCES IN THE SEEMINGLY SIMILAR DRAWING? Employee Adam Haisten is also a talented artist. He drew up this fun drawing for children to find the subtle differences. There are 12 differences between the two drawings. The answers are on page 10. Enjoy!





ANSWERS TO “FRISBEE DOG” DRAWING DIFFERENCES FUN PAGE PUZZLER: 1. Man’s sandal is missing on left foot; 2. Man’s cargo shorts is missing the left pocket; 3. Man’s T-shirt becomes sleeveless in second drawing; 4. Man has teeth in second drawing; 5. Tree’s knot hole is filled in in second drawing; 6. Man sitting next to tree, reading a book, disappears in second drawing; 7. Ball in grass switches from a baseball to a basketball; 8. Dog’s whisker bumps; 9. Frisbee’s logo changes; 10. Jet in sky; 11. Man on picnic blanket is missing his coffee mug; 12. Birds in sky (one missing). Did you find them all? Do you have an idea for a new drawing? Send to shelterinfo@rcdas.org (please put “DRAWING DIFFERENCES IDEA” in the subject line).



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WE HAVE THREE FACEBOOK PAGES:

COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS

RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

SAN JACINTO VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS

PLEASE CONSIDER ADOPTING YOUR NEXT PET AT ONE OF OUR SHELTER LOCATIONS:

BLYTHE: 295 S. CARLTON AVE., BLYTHE, CALIF. 92225 (760) 921-7857

COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS: 72-050 PET LAND PLACE, THOUSAND PALMS, CALIF. 92276 (760) 343-3644

SAN JACINTO VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS: 581 S. GRAND AVE., SAN JACINTO, CALIF. 92582 (951) 358-7387

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY/CITY ANIMAL SHELTER: 6851 VAN BUREN BLVD., JURUPA VALLEY, CALIF. 92509 (951) 358-7387

HOURS OF OPERATION FOR EACH SHELTER AND MUCH MORE HELPFUL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR OFFICIAL WEB SITE: WWW.RCDAS.ORG