

The PAWSitive

A publication of Riverside County Animal Services * March 2015 * Vol. 1, Issue No. 2

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Riverside County Animal Services team members are gearing up for what might be the best live auction event to date. The artwork gets better every year! Will you be attending?

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If you are looking for a cool event for your youngsters this spring break, our Dog Olympics camp is an educational and affordable option.

Page 5 & 6: DATEFEST DOGGIES: Here are a handful of the dogs we took to the county fair — and we captured on camera some of the happy moments as the dogs got adopted by loving people.

Page 5: COOPER — DUMPED DOG GETS A SECOND CHANCE: Who could have hurt this dog? And who would have left him for dead on a cold night in Coachella? Fortunately, a Good Samaritan spotted him.



*** COVER STORY ***

Family Celebrates Adoption With Special Party

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Shelter Team Prep For Live Auction



If you love animals and you love art, the annual Art for the Animals live auction is a can't-miss event on Sunday, March 29.

All the artwork is donated and any money raised during the live auction goes straight toward pets and programs that benefit homeless animals within the care of Riverside County's shelters.

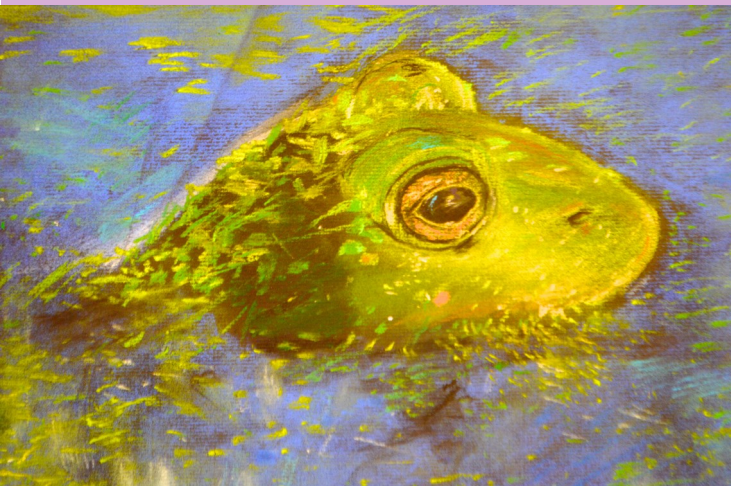
The event runs 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Riverside Art Museum, located in downtown Riverside at 3425 Mission Inn Ave. There should be plenty of parking on a Sunday evening — and the event has free admission. Of course, if you love some of the art at the event, and end up making a bid on the piece, don't forget to bring your wallet or checkbook.

The Animal Solutions Konnection (ASK) Foundation is the event's main sponsor. Other sponsors include the city of Riverside, Riverside City Councilman Mike Gardner,

McGrath's Catering, Paso's Best Wines, the Riverside Art Museum (RAM) and the Riverside County Department of Animal Services.

A preview of some of the live-auction items can be found at Animal Services' official Web site: www.rcdas.org.

We hope to see you there!



** SAVE THE DATE **

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

SPRING DOG OLYMPICS/Day Camp: March 30 to April 3, Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter, 6851 Van Buren Blvd., Jurupa Valley, CA. Ages 7 to 15. Don't delay. This popular camp is likely to get fully booked very soon. Visit our Web site for more information: www.rcdas.org

FREE DOG TRAINING WORKSHOPS: The next FREE training seminar is March 23 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.) The next free seminar will be in April. The date is TBA.



ART FOR THE ANIMALS

ONLINE AUCTION PERIOD:

If you cannot attend the live auction, we will also be posting local art online. This happens April 7 to April 21. Visit www.rcdas.org for all the details.

PARK N BARK CAR SHOW & SPECIAL ADOPTION EVENT:

Saturday, May 30, (Time: TBA)
Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter, 6851 Van Buren Blvd., Jurupa Valley, CA. Check out the cool cars or come for a life-long buddy.



ART FOR THE ANIMALS LIVE AUCTION: Fun and FREE event on Sunday, March 29, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Riverside Art Museum (RAM), 3425 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA. The event is free, but you may want to bring your wallet if you plan to make some bids! (And we hope you do!)



***** COVER STORY *****

Family Gives Dog a Party

Jay and Rubia Gafner, a couple from Dana Point in south Orange County adopted a homeless dog from the San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus on Valentine's Day 2014. They said they love their dog, Kobe, so much, they threw him a one-year "birthday party." And, yes, Kobe got some cake and got to eat some too. In mid February, just after celebrating the one-year anniversary of the adoption, Rubia sent us this e-mail:

I emailed over some pictures of Kobe we adopted him last year 02/14/2014 ... We had a small B-Day party for him since its been a whole year since we adopted him ... He is a VERY happy dog.. he even wags his tail when he sleeps.. Thank you for your hard work. I truly appreciate the efforts you and all the staff put forward to find homes for these lost animals.. We send you a Great big THANK YOU for our KOBE!

We asked her if she would mind sending us a bit more, and she more than obliged. Here is Kobe's adoption story, as shared by Rubia:

Kobe was found wandering the streets of Cathedral City. We had previously lost our dog, Lucky, after more than 11 years. Ace of Hearts posted some pets from Pet Finder online. It had Kobe's picture up there with an urgent sign under his name.

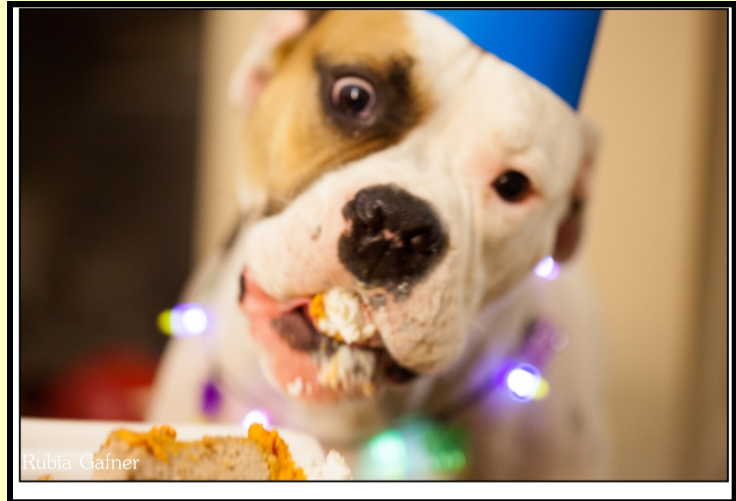
I called the shelter and they told me he was going to be at the Date Festival. We made plans to go to the Date Festival and arrived at 7 a.m. We waited for all the dogs to be unloaded and Kobe was not in that group. We were very disappointed. I asked the lady working there if the animal with ID No. 1077933 was going to arrive and she called the San Jacinto shelter and said Kobe was there if we could go and pick him up and adopt him there. We drove right over.

He wasn't potty trained yet but we stopped off at the pet store with our coupons and purchased a video that showed how to use bells to potty train. He was potty trained in about four weeks. He was already crate trained so we bought a crate with the coupons from the shelter.

It was my husband who first saw his picture online behind those bars and his heart melted. He is a very happy dog; loves being snuggled and loved on. He is protective at times, especially when we go out at night.

He loves other dogs but sometimes does not like the ones that are bigger than him. He sleeps in until 9 a.m. every morning. He rings the bell on the door to let us know when he needs to go potty. He sleeps on us in our bed. He loves the dog park and loves running around catching Frisbees! He knows how to skateboard and loves running with the other dogs at the dog park. He just discovered the hose with water.

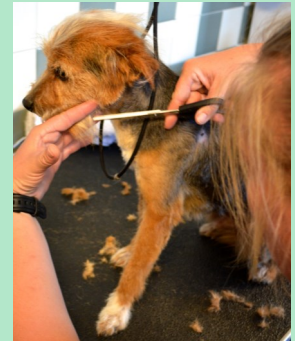
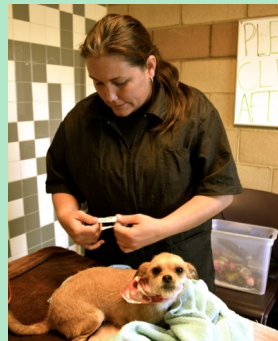
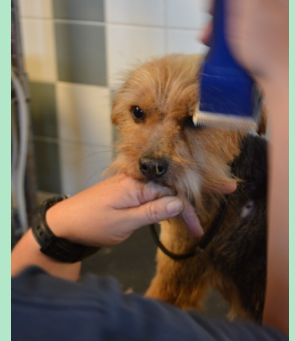
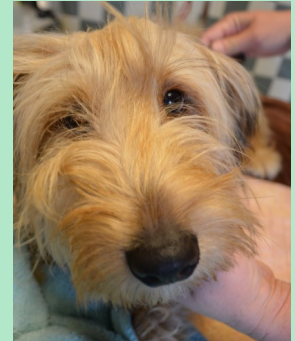
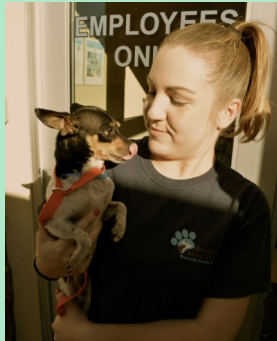
We looked for a dog who needed a home. We wanted our very best friend to have a second chance to have a loving, doting family and a safe home. We felt strongly about rescuing a dog, adopting from a shelter. Any dog given that chance will prove their love for their owner by their loyalty. Their loyalty is all they have to give.



Do you have an adoption story to share? Send pictures and your story to: shelterinfo@rcdas.org (please put in the subject line: ADOPTION STORY)

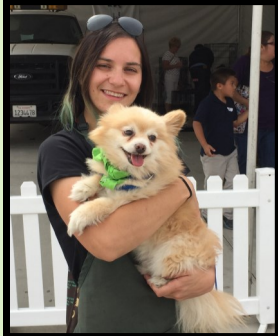
County Fair Dog Adoptions Exceed Department's Expectations Again

First the dogs got prepped. Lots of bathing, lots of snipping and grooming and, of course, spaying and neutering. These dogs, after all, had a major field trip on the schedule. And it was a trek we hoped would have no return trip. Turns out, the second annual journey for shelter pets to the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival proved to exceed our expectations yet again. More than 200 animals were adopted by loving families. "We have been blown away with the response we get," Animal Services Director Robert Miller said. "But, it does make a lot of sense too. This fair draws thousands of families out for a fun day. In the past, they went home with great memories. Now, when they cannot help resist adopting one of our homeless dogs, they're going home with a new family member that will provide them a lifetime of great memories."



Shelter Employees prepped all the cuties before their journey to the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival.

**HAPPY ADOPTIONS
AT THE RIVERSIDE
COUNTY FAIR —
SMILES GALORE!**



Abandoned Dog Gets Second Chance

Puppy Fortunately Found by Passerby in Coachella

An abandoned dog left near a dilapidated building in Coachella got a second chance, thanks to a caring Good Samaritan and a special organization based in Idaho.

The dog appeared to be unable to walk because of serious injuries that could have been purposely caused – or were injuries that were never treated with proper veterinary care.

A passerby in Coachella discovered the dog on Feb. 20, near a box that was seemingly placed there on purpose, possibly by the dog's original owner. Fortunately for the dog, Alejandro Felix, who was driving home from work that Friday morning, discovered the poor pup near the intersection of Avenue 53 and Tyler Street.

"I saw the reflection of his eyes from my headlights," Mr. Felix said. The pup was next to an old market that has long been out of business. Mr. Felix said he knew the shelter was closed at that hour, so he drove back to the pup with some food, water and a blanket and then contacted Riverside County Animal Services shortly afterward.

The 6-month-old, white and black pit bull puppy could have easily been missed. As Animal Control Officer Jose Fernandez put it, he was invisible within the trash strewn about the lot.

"This is one of the uglier parts of this job," said Fernandez, who responded with a colleague to the scene. He had driven past the area a couple times but struggled to locate the dog. He contacted Mr. Felix again, who then walked the officers directly to the dog.

"We would never have spotted him," Officer Fernandez said. "Thank goodness for this kind man. We would never have seen him. He was camouflaged in all the other garbage. From a distance, he would have looked like a discarded towel."

Shelter employees have nicknamed the dog Cooper. Fernandez said Cooper obviously could not walk. "He tried to get up. He was alert. He was responsive. He was wagging his tail. But he could not stand up on his own."

Fernandez considered the dog's situation a priority and rushed the dog back to the Coachella Valley Animal Campus in Thousand Palms. Dr. Sara Strongin of Riverside County Animal Services examined the dog and initially suspected the dog's injuries were not common with having been hit by a car. "The unusual location of the injury occurring on both front

legs is suspicious of non-accidental injury," Dr. Strongin wrote. "Puppy will likely need both front limbs amputated and will need a prosthetic device to be able to ambulate."

The doctor prescribed Cooper some pain medications and antibiotics to provide comfort to the dog.

"It is a very devastating case," Dr. Strongin said later. "The dog is a very sweet dog. When you're in the kennel with him, he tries to scooch his way toward you."



Officer Fernandez shared similar descriptions.

"Despite what someone did to this dog, he still wanted to make his way toward me and my colleague," Fernandez said. "Despite what someone had done, he still had hope for humans to be kind toward him."

Riverside County Animal Services' Coachella Valley Animal Campus is unique to some degree. Inside the shelter, two employees with the non-profit organization, Animal Samaritans SPCA, are embedded within the shelter. The two Animal Samaritans called rescue group organizations that specialized in special-needs animals. Thanks to their efforts, Cooper embarked on a new journey.

Less than a week after Cooper entered the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, he was transported to Heaths Haven Animal Rescue in Port Falls, Idaho. Heaths Haven is an organization that specializes in unique cases. Its motto: "Special Dogs, Special Needs."

The Port Falls, Idaho-based organization's representatives fully understood what was going to be required for Cooper's long journey back to a healthier life. For updates about Cooper and for more information about Heaths Haven Animal Rescue, please visit: <http://www.heathshavenrescue.com/>



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RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

SAN JACINTO VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS

**(WE POST BREAKINGS NEWS, INFORMATION ABOUT
OUR SPECIAL EVENTS, HAPPY "TAILS," FUNKY
NEWS FROM THE FIELD, ETC. ETC. ETC.)**



**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, CA-
LIF. 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 INFOR-
MATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR OFFICIAL WEB SITE: WWW.RCDAS.ORG**