



Volunteer

Voices



Erica Franco
 February 2014
 Volunteer of the Month

Riverside Edition
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Save the Date

February 14th : Valentine's Pet Photo Fundraiser, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

February 15th : Shot Clinic, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

February 17th : Shelter closed for Washington's Birthday

Reminders

KIOSK: We are really in need of volunteers to help at the front desk. If you're able to volunteer, even for a couple hours, please e-mail Shea at srossite@rcdas.org. We will hold a monthly prize drawing for the kiosk volunteers. Anyone who signs up for and completes an entire shift will be entered into the drawing. Each shift worked is a separate entry.

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

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!

PUPPIES: We are taking extra safety precautions to keep our puppies healthy. Volunteers should no longer be opening any kennels with puppies inside them.

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 Shea for more information at srossite@rcdas.org

FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM: Make sure to follow the volunteer pages!

Facebook: RCDAS Volunteers ; Instagram: @RCDAS_Volunteers

Erica Franco

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

By Shea Rossiter



Erica has been a volunteer at the shelter for more than three years. At first, she worked in the clinic to obtain experience in sterilizing medical equipment for her school requirements. When she first visited the shelter, she felt that the staff and volunteers were very helpful.

Since enjoying her experience working in the clinic, **Erica** has continued to volunteer at the shelter long after completing her certification as a sterile processing tech. She enjoys working with the animals and loves to help out with special events, such as volunteer fundraisers and the Kid's Camp. She most recently coordinated a very successful and fun bunco fundraiser for the volunteer department. **Erica** shares with friends and family about shelter events and adoptable pets. She has a dog named Kodah who loves to play with pet toys. When **Erica** is not working or volunteering, she stays busy with her many hobbies including dance and photography.

She would like to share this message with other volunteers, "Always treat everyone you meet like an oyster, because you never know when you will find a pearl!"



RANDOM FACTS:

Her favorite color is teal.

Her favorite season is summer.

If she could have a super power, it would be to read minds.

If she could trade places with anyone for a week, it would be a lottery winner because she would buy a new car and hire a chauffeur.

She doesn't really care for sweets.

Her favorite song is "American Beautiful" by the Henningsens because of the message that you can be a little different but still be beautiful.

MEET THE EMPLOYEE

By Shea Rossiter



Sandra Solis

Sandra grew up on a ranch and was encouraged by her sister to work with animals. She has been working for the Riverside County Animal Services for almost seven years as an Animal Care Technician.

When she first visited the shelter, she felt it looked like a resort for pets, not a shelter. **Sandra's** favorite part of working at the shelter is seeing dogs get adopted and not being returned. She has two pets, a kitten named Nina, a Himalayan breed, and a dog named Buddy, a Chihuahua. They are both so close and love each other. One of her most favorite memories at the shelter was seeing an older homeless animal named Paco find a good home. Some things she loves to share with her family and friends about the shelter are pictures of puppies and kittens as well as the great prices and specials.

Sandra would like to tell our volunteers, "*Be yourself and have patience with animals that you interact with; all they need is a little love.*"



RANDOM FACTS:

Her favorite candy is Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.

Her phobias are roller coasters, snakes, and spiders.

If she was stranded on an island she would bring her boyfriend and her two step daughters.

Her favorite food is In-N-Out; Double Double, fries, and a shake.

Her favorite season is winter.

If she could have a super power it would be to heal the sick.

Volunteer Voices

Jesse Argueta



RANDOM FACTS:

He likes to help in cat adoptions and enjoys the feeling that he gets when he knows that a cat is going home to a great family.

His favorite food is tamales.

He is extremely scared of heights. He doesn't mind going up, but coming back down is what scares him.

If he could have a super power, he would want it to be super speed.

His favorite cereal is "Reese's Puffs".

His favorite movie is "Remember Me" starring Robert Pattinson.

He has two dogs who are brother and sister, named Buddy and Bella.

His message to volunteers: "Don't be afraid to ask questions. It's best to know as much information as possible."

Joan Doup

RANDOM FACTS:

If she could be any animal she would be an Elephant, because they are so smart.

Her hobbies included reading and gardening flowers.

She has two dogs named Corbin and Carley.

Her favorite part of volunteering is bathing and grooming, because the animals walk so differently after they are cleaned.

Her favorite song is "It's a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong.

The most adventurous thing she has ever done was go on an African Safari. She enjoyed the outstanding food and beautiful people.

Her message to volunteers: "Have a strong heart."



Adoptions & Socialization

Special recognition goes out to the following Volunteers:

In total, volunteers socialized and walked more than 82 dogs in January! It's the start of a new year; let's try to see if we can walk even more dogs this month!

For socializing the most dogs: **Frances Ngo** with 14 dogs and **Callie Howard** with 10 dogs!

To **Karen Griffith** and **Joan Doup** for bathing and grooming 9 dogs together in January. If you are interested in assisting Joan and Karen from 9am - 12pm on Fridays, please email Shea at srossite@rcdas.org

Valerie Chavez took 90 new pictures of cats and dogs in January!



Years of Service

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

Julia Hernandez with 2 years of service!

Alejandra Unzueta with 2 years of service!

Maureen Guthormsen with 2 years of service!

Nicole Becker with 5 years of service!



January New Volunteers

Please, join us in welcoming these volunteers!

Cynthia Barrios	Callie Howard
Jordan Breit	Mercedes Lebron
Grace Concepcion	Joe Melendez
Valentina Connelly	Breonna Monterrosa
Patricia Drayton	Evelyn Morales
Marlene Feliciano	Keith Myers
Carmen Hall	Erin Tavaglione
Cassidy Hooper	Karolyn Tohamy

February Birthdays

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

Marco Valencia 2/2	Jasmine Hernandez 2/16
Paul Hower 2/5	Myung-won Seo 2/19
Victor Aguilar 2/8	Brittany Kastens 2/19
Janet Jensen 2/8	Brittany Sims 2/19
Marjorie Rendon 2/8	Danielle Sanchez 2/23
Sarah Alderson 2/8	Sierra Goudie 2/23
Julie Valenzuela 2/10	Marie Rodriguez 2/24
Xiomara Santamaria 2/11	Chuck Calder 2/25
Brittany Anderson 2/12	Willam Galloway 2/25
Nicole Becker 2/13	Jocelyn Izquierdo 2/26
Daniela Ramirez 2/14	Sianna Sanchez 2/27
Lindsey Schwartz 2/16	Curta Jones 2/27
Kathleen Bridges 2/16	Jasmine Ocampo 2/28



Pet Corner!



How to Keep Your Pet Happy and Active!

It seems like the most natural thing in the world—our pets need food, water, medical care and lots of love. But dogs and cats have other needs, too. Our furry friends need ample physical exercise and mental stimulation to lead truly full and happy lives.

"They need jobs," says Kristen Collins, CPDT, ASPCA Animal Trainer. Dogs and cats need to stay busy and engaged, but unfortunately most pets are unemployed—daily they sit at home, chronically bored and waiting for their humans to return from work. And as we all know, an idle pet can quickly turn into a naughty pet when restlessness becomes overwhelming.

"With nothing to do, dogs and cats are forced to find ways to entertain themselves," explains Kristen. "Their activities of choice often include behaviors we find problematic, like excessive barking or meowing, gnawing on shoes, raiding the garbage, eating houseplants and scratching furniture."

To prevent behavior and health problems, Kristen recommends the following physical and mental workouts—both when you're there to join the fun and when your pet is home alone.

+ Move it! Healthy adult dogs need at least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise twice a day. Jogging, swimming and playing at the dog park are all great ways to burn excess energy. Engage in structured games, like fetch and tug-of-war—they're not only great exercise but also teach your pet impulse control and strengthen the bond between you.

+ Keep your dog occupied when he's home alone by giving him a food-stuffed puzzle toy, like the Kong, or some tasty chew toys. Like their canine counterparts, cats also need plenty of aerobic exercise. Get kitty fit with rousing play sessions, such as chase and fetch with furry toys, small balls or toy mice.

+ Encourage your cat's favorite home alone activities, including bird watching, exploring paper bags or boxes, watching cat videos or

spending time in secure outdoor enclosures. Teach your cat new tricks! Felines are quick studies and can learn practical skills like coming when called, sitting up, rolling over and even using the toilet!

Kristen adds: "The bottom line is that you're responsible for enriching your pet's life. Providing opportunities to exercise your cat or dog's mind and body will keep her healthy and happy—and enhance your relationship, too."

For more information about enriching your pet's life, please check out expert advice from our Virtual Pet Behaviorist.

<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/furry-friends-need-fun-too-how-keep-your-pet-happy-and-active>



Shelter Happenings



Oliver the dog smiles with Volunteer Patricia Brink.



There were lots of great prizes at Bunco Night!



Having a great time at Bunco Night!



Oliver the dog enjoying his play time.