



David Cunningham
September 2014
Volunteer of the Month

September 2014
Riverside Edition, Issue 8

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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 Elvira at evalenzu@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!

ADOPTION PROCESS: All animals that are being adopted must go for a vet check, even if they are staying for their spay/neuter surgery.

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 Elvira for more information at

evalenzu@rcdas.org.

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

Facebook: RCDAS Volunteers ; Instagram: @RCDAS_Volunteers



Volunteer of the Month

September 2014



FUN FACTS:

1. *His phobia is heights*
2. *His one wish is for the Rams to win the super bowl*
3. *He would like to go back to 1979 to remarry his wife again*
4. *His role model is his dad*
5. *The one animal he would like to be is a cheetah.*



David has been a volunteer with the Department of Animal Services since May 2014 and has enjoyed every minute of his time here with us. He is currently on disability and after complications with his health which he shared with us 6 months ago. After overcoming many adversities in his life, David says that God gave him a second chance in life. He decided to become a volunteer when he was referred to us by our Departments Animal Behaviorist, Jackie Schart. He is glad he made this choice to join the shelter because it helps him stay busy and active but the biggest reason is that he loves animals and hopes to get more involved as time goes on.

David is an honest and sincere man that wears his heart on his sleeve. He really cares for the animals. When he is at the kiosk, he enjoys helping the customers that walk through our doors. David appreciates that he also can be part of the adoption process. He loves to see that our animals are going to good homes. His friends and family say they are very proud of him for being involved and helping shelter animals find a forever home.

David is a huge sports fan and in his spare time he plays fantasy football and baseball. His favorite teams are the Rams, Angels, Ducks, Lakers and the Clippers. He is a proud owner of two dogs which one is a Manchester Rat Terrier by the name of Zoe and a Chihuahua Mix named, Lucy.

David's message to the volunteers is, "Every minute you're here is a wonderful thing for the animals and you are very much appreciated by others."

Meet the Employee



FUN FACTS:

1. *Favorite Movie: Dogma*
2. *Craziest thing she's done: Ran across the freeway to save a dog.*
3. *Her one wish: The day we don't need Euthanasia*
4. *If she had superpowers: Telekinesis*
5. *If she had to pick 3 things from a house fire: her kids, pets, and phone.*



Meet Kristina Hillegart, one of many animal advocates here in Riverside County Department of Animals Services and our shelters Supervising Office Assistant for the field's Dispatch Center.

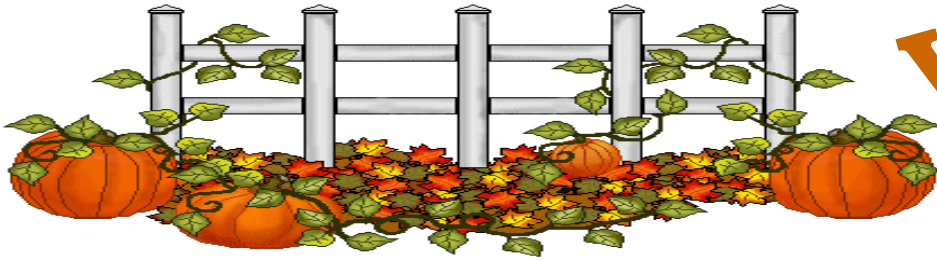
Mrs. Hillegart's love, passion and dedication for animals landed her a career in the field of zoology. Before joining the county family, she worked as a Veterinarian Technician at various animal hospitals' for over five years. In 2008 she was welcomed into the Riverside County Department of Animal Services team as an Animal Control Officer. After serving three years as an officer she was promoted to Supervising Office Assistant.

Seven years later Kristina still fights the good fight for our animals and being the voice for them. One of her favorite parts of the job is fostering kittens; she enjoys watching kittens receiving a new home and seeing families faces light up when they welcome in a new pet. She adores having kittens in her office and the employees gave her the nickname "Crazy Cat Lady" from the Simpsons. Socializing and working with the kittens brings much joy to her and reminds her how much she appreciates her job everyday.

When she is away from the shelter on her days off she enjoys crocheting scarves and loves spending time with her family. Kristina has four cats named; Wasabi, Pete, Star, and Lars. She also has her two dogs Mike and Pandora. As a department veteran and civil servant to animals she would like to share a few words to our volunteers and employees; "We thank you for everything that you do and for your dedication to the care of the animals."

VOLUNTEER

VOICES!!!



Leslie Nelson



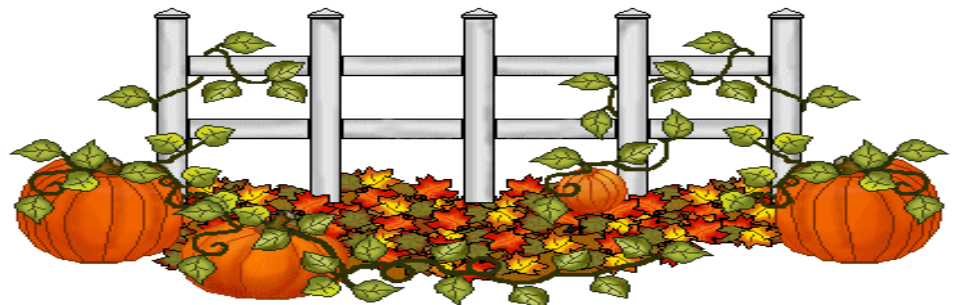
Leslie Nelson began her volunteer service with us in July of this year and loves every moment of it. After sending her youngest daughter off to college, Leslie wanted to do something with her extra time that was meaningful and giving back to our four legged friends. Working up front in the kiosk is one of many tasks she enjoys but, her favorite tasks of all time is interacting with the animals and helping a family adopt their new loving pet.

When Leslie is not volunteering for the shelter, she is supporting and lobbying for Breast Cancer Awareness with the Susan G. Komen Foundation, who is a breast cancer survivor. For the last 12 years Leslie has participated in the breast cancer walk and has done a 60 mile walk in 3 days. In her spare time she enjoys a nice cold glass of champagne, play with her dog Abby and her two cats Madeline and Eddie.

Leslie's message to her fellow volunteers and supportive staff is: "Be proud to be here, be proud of yourself."

FUN FACTS:

- Best song to describes her is *Oldies*.
- Craziest thing she's done: *Backpack through Hawaii with no plans and little money.*
- Favorite Movie: *National Treasure.*
- Craziest thing she's eaten: *dry seaweed.*
- Favorite drink: *Nice cold glass of champagne.*
- Favorite dish: *Pasta.*
- Favorite Color: *Peach.*
- Favorite season: *Fall*





HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SEPTEMBER BABIES!!!

Stauffacher, Lori	9/1
Morales, Jazmine	9/3
Langdon, Amanda	9/3
Perez, Aaron	9/3
Patterson, Bryan	9/5
Danko, Amanda	9/7
Solorzano, Hannah	9/7
Gonzalez, Maria	9/8
Mortelliti, Frank	9/10
Cuellar-Castillo	9/11
Chavez, Sabrina	9/12
Wright, Dana	9/12
Ramirez, Jasmine	9/13
Doup, Joan	9/14
Vela, Patrica Kelly	9/14
Malsed, Cyndi	9/15
O'Connell, Kayla	9/16
Rodriguez, Morelia	9/16
Lee, Caleb	9/17
Pelayo, Melina	9/18
Camarena, Yara	9/18
Higa, Samantha	9/18
Soto, Laura	9/19
Rivera, Christina	9/20

Sisler, Jessica	9/22
Tsai, Kasumi	9/23
Vega, Monica	9/23
Howard, Callie	9/23
McCanna, Nikhil	9/24
Hearing, Melissa	9/25
Avina, Isidro	9/25
Livingston, Kimberly	9/26
Tong, Julianne	9/26
Flores, Cynthia	9/26
Hill, Sarah	9/26
Knaggs, Kristina	9/27
Zuniga, Yannest	9/28
Martinez, Letty	9/28
Hernandez, Yosilyn	9/29
Nguyen, Thi	9/29
Brink, Patricia	9/29
Ferguson, Jeremy	9/29

*Happy
Birthday*



WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Anderson, Doug
Anderson, Emily
Avina, Isidro
Ayers, Jeffrey
Benavidez, Aundria
Carlson, Deanna
Caro, Luciana Cruz
Erkel, Kellie Galan-Calito,
Garcia, Julieanne
Gudiel, Lucia
Herrera, Cynthia
Herrera, Sandra
Hill, Sarah
James, Teresa
Livingston, Kimberly
McCanna, Nikhil
Morales, Jazmine
Nilges, Dee Ann
Pelayo, Melina
Phillips, Brenda
Rendon, Tatiana
Robles, Victoria
Stewart, Deion
Sylva, Karen
Van Leeuwen, Delores
Ward, Mary
Mira Loma,
Wright, Dana



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



Dominique Abarquez with 2 years of service!
Lynn Anderson with 2 years of service!
Carolyn Badger with 3 years of service!
Priscilla Anderson with 3 years of service!
Angie Alvarez with 4 years of service!
Brittany Anderson with 4 years of service!



Adoptions & Socialization



Special recognition goes out to the following
Volunteers:

Volunteers socialized and walked more than **71** dogs.

For socializing the most dogs: Karen L. with **19** dogs, and Joan D. with **3** dogs.

Nice job volunteers! There was a combined total of **459** adoptions in September. Amazing! Way to go volunteers!

Please, remember to use the dog and cat socialization and adoption logs when you have assisted in showing or adopting. We want to recognize these efforts as well!



Pet Corner



Hey you, new pooch parent—yeah, you with the cute puppy who can't stop pulling! Want some tricks to keep Trixie on task? Or perhaps you're already an old pro but want to make your outdoor excursions more fun for both you and your dog. Follow our insider tips and your pooch will be eager to get going as soon as you pick up the leash!



photo courtesy of the ASPCA website.

It's the Leash You Can Do

What's the best type of leash? "Use whatever you feel most comfortable holding," recommends the ASPCA Animal Behavior Center's Kristen Collins, CPDT.

- Flexi-leads are best reserved for walks in the park, when it's safe for a dog to explore a bit further away from her pet parent. They are NOT a good idea if you're walking in an area with high foot traffic or off-leash dogs, as the long line may get wrapped around your dog, a person's leg or another dog.
- Many people think chain leashes look nice, but they are much heavier than nylon or leather, and they can be very hard on the hands. Even so, they sometimes work well for dogs who like to tug or bite the leash. "Metal doesn't feel nearly as nice in a dog's mouth," explains Collins.
- Leather leashes are a good option because they are easiest on the hands.
- Nylon leashes can cut into hands or give a pet parent "leash burn" if a dog pulls a lot or unexpectedly lunges forward. But they come in many stylish colors and designs, and they hold up well after repeated exposure to rain and snow.

Pull Over, Rover!

Constant pulling on the leash makes walks stressful for both of you. "It's a common problem that can happen for a number of reasons," says Collins.

If your dog darts after local wildlife, it may help to walk him when critters are less likely to be out and about; avoid dawn and dusk. You can also check out our article [Dogs Who Are Reactive on Leash](#).

If the problem is simply pulling on leash due to natural canine enthusiasm for all the exciting signs and sounds you encounter on walks, you'll find help in our article [Teaching Your Dog Not to Pull on Leash](#).

Try using a head halter to walk a dog who's excitable on leash. "They provide power steering for dog parents!" says Collins. "The Gentle Leader[®] by Premier[®] Pet Products is my personal favorite." Details and more can be found in our article [Walking Equipment for Your Dog](#).

Watch for Creepy Crawlies

Depending on the time of the year and the area of the country you live in, sneaky critters like snakes, spiders, scorpions and bees can be a serious concern for pet and parent alike. If you're walking in a densely wooded area, take extra care to keep an eye out for hidden dangers.

Shelter Happening



College students came in to clean up the shelter to earn community service hours





**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR HARD
WORK & CARING FOR THE
SHELTER ANIMALS!!!**