



Volunteer Voices

AN RCDAS VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER—RIVERSIDE EDITION

Volunteer of the Month



Aeejandra Robles

June 2015

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Save the Date

August 11th - National Night Out event – Volunteer Booth—time is to be determined. Please email Elvira to sign up.

September 20th—22nd—Rescue Symposium (fee to attend)—visit www.pawsfirstsymposium.org for more details.

October 11th - Volunteer Employee Picnic—More details coming soon. But a quick note: there will be a talent show and this is **50's, Rockabilly theme, and lots of cool prizes.**



Volunteer of the Month

Alejandra Robles

By Melissa Garcia



Alejandra Robles started volunteering at the animal shelter during the end of December/early January. She has always loved animals and as a child she always wanted to work with them. She dreamt of being a zookeeper, veterinarian, pet shop owner, and even more animal related careers. Alejandra decided to start volunteering at the shelter because of a class she took at school. In this class she was told to focus on what she truly wanted to do and this motivated her to sign up as a volunteer. At the shelter, Alejandra loves to do everything, including helping out with photography, working at the kiosk, grooming dogs and cats, and socializing with them as well. Her favorite tasks

are helping out with the photography and socializing with the dogs. She enjoys helping out with photography because she loves seeing nice pictures of dogs who were once in bad conditions. Although she gets attached to the dogs, Alejandra also enjoys socializing with them **because it is nice to see the dogs improve over time and get adopted.** Alejandra's most memorable moment at the shelter happened when a dog she was attached to named Joy got adopted. Joy was at the shelter for a couple of months and Alejandra would socialize **with her often and she'd check online to see if Joy was still there, but one day she came in** and saw that Joy got adopted. This made her extremely happy for Joy. While volunteering, Alejandra feels great helping people adopt dogs. Alejandra has 4 dogs of her own, which are three Chihuahuas and one Maltese mix. Their names are Princess, Twinkie, Manchita, and Lulu. Some of her hobbies outside of the shelter include cross-stitching and reading. Alejandra is always trying to get her friends and family to adopt the shelter dogs, so she constantly

shows them pictures of the cute dogs. She actually helped her uncle adopt a dog from this shelter. Her message to volunteers is that she really enjoys working with the animals and people and everyone is doing a great job.

Fun Facts

Craziest thing ever done?

In Mexico Alejandra got out of a moving vehicle and was accidentally dragged by it.

Last Book Read?

The Dog: It's behavior, nutrition and health by Linda P. Case

Favorite Drink?

Squirt.





Meet the Staff



By Melissa Garcia

Ray Gonzales

Ray Gonzales is a Buying Assistant at the Department of Animal Services and has been working here for three years and has been working for Riverside County for 16 years. His favorite part about his career at the shelter has been working with friendly coworkers and knowing that he helps and contributes to the care of the animals through purchasing

items and supplies for them. One of Ray's favorite memories working at the shelter was the day he worked an adoption event,

where he was happy to help adopt homeless pets. Prior to working at the shelter, **Ray worked at a Public Defender's office and at the Community Health Agency (CHA) in the procurement department.** CHA supported Animal Services and when it disbanded, Ray was able to work for Animal Services.

Some of Ray's hobbies include running marathons and half marathons, wine tasting, and traveling. He has currently 17 marathons and 18 half marathons. One of his current goals is to run one marathon in every state. Ray has a Chihuahua named Pancho, a poodle named Pockey, and a cat named Cookie. **His message to the volunteers is : "Thanks for all you do. We appreciate all your hard work. Glad you're here to help support the shelter."**



Fun Facts

Craziest thing ever done?

Ray ran 2 back to back half marathons in 2 states.

Most interesting trip ever taken?

Ray traveled to Europe and was on a Rhine River Cruise.

Hero/Role Model?

Mom



VOLUNTEER VOICES

By Melissa Garcia



Samira Sekhon

Samira has been a volunteer for the Dept. of Animal Services for 2 years and decided to start volunteering because of her love for animals. She says that she has the biggest heart for animals and that she hopes to serve them in the same ways that they have served her. At the shelter, Samira works at the kiosk and in-

teracts with the dogs by walking, cuddling, and playing with them. One of **Samira's most memorable moment at the shelter happened when she took a dog out towards the lot and she expected the dog to act excitedly, but instead, the dog put its paws on the table and rested its head on her. Samira** says that this really shows how much the dogs just want to be held and **loved. Samira owns one dog and calls it "Bunny" because it looks like it has bunny ears.** Outside of the shelter, Samira loves to dance, travel, read, and **listen to music. Her message to the volunteers is: "Animals are people too and what volunteers do is cool!"**

Fun Facts

Craziest thing you've ever done?

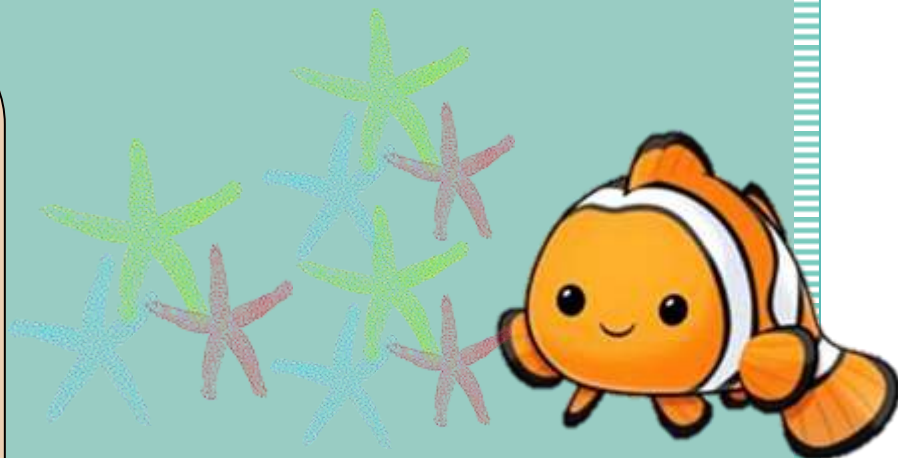
Skydive.

Favorite dish?

Sushi

If you could be any animal what would it be?

Jaguar



Shelter HAPPENINGS



New Volunteers

Claire Ahmed

Lexi Ficarella

Teagan Lybrand

Dafina Amin

Gabriel Figueroa Ramos

Ryan Neis

Anthony Cabrera

Karolina Flores

Katie Mehrnoosh Nikaein

Leoneia Cornell

Irais Gallegos Garcia

Megan Perry

Jenifer Cortez

Brittany Garay

Michelle Salazar

Thomas Curry

Luis Gonzalez

David Toro

Daque Dinicela

Nidya Gutierrez

Valerie Valle

Kimberly Felder

Adriana Gutierrez

Alicia Zvoda

Be Sure to Seek Out and Welcome our New Volunteers!!



Birthdays



Nicholle Akkerman Jun 18

Sandra Ramirez Jun 22

Morgan Wray Jun 26

Signe Petrarca Jun 19

Jennifer Gulden Jun 23

Helen A. Richardson Jun 27

Brandi Vasquez Jun 20

Katelyn Traylor Jun 23

Karolina Flores Jun 27

Dominique (Nikki) Abarquez-
Pelasko Jun 21

Andrea Avoian Jun 24

Mary Ward Jun 28

Erin Lopez Jun 21

Jocelyn Quiroz Jun 24

Cassidy Hooper Jun 29

Samantha Flores Jun 21

Celeste Mendoza Jun 25

Amber Camacho Jun 30

Veronica Noyola Jun 21

Sarah Crawford Jun 25

Rachel Francis Jun 30

Amanda Pierson Jun 22

Andres Bautista Jun 26

Robert Schiebe Jun 30

Jonathan Valenzuela Jun 22

Doug Anderson Jun 26

*Please take a moment to congratulate these volunteers for
their dedication to the animals*

Animal Trivia

Did You Know?



There are 43 species of dolphins found in the world. There are 38 marine dolphins, and 5 river dolphins.

A Pelican's bill can hold up to 3 gallons of water, which is 2 to 3 times more than can be held in its stomach.



CRABS ARE ALSO KNOWN AS “SPIDERS OF THE SEA” BECAUSE, LIKE CRABS, SPIDERS HAVE legs that bend at joints.

“Quote”

“Every once in a while a dog enters your life and changes everything.”

- Anonymous

Thoughts? Opinions? Ideas?

We want to hear it!!

Contact your Volunteer Coordinator.

www.rcdas.org