



# Compassion

Autumn 2015 News from the Palo Alto Humane Society

## PAHS Education Initiative Wins Big!



Carole with Telly Award. Photo by Susan Stienstra

We begin by sharing some exciting news: the Palo Alto Humane Society has been awarded a 2015 Bronze Telly for its original children's film *It's A Dog's Day*. It is a great honor to have been chosen to receive this "cousin" of the Emmy Award from among the more than 12,000 films and videos submitted. This mixed-media film tells the story of a sad and lonely dog who is rescued by a compassionate and caring community. PAHS staff was thrilled to work with top-notch professionals including actors, screenwriters, artists, and education consultants who offered their expertise to produce this engaging film.

With its ongoing commitment to be part of the movement to build compassionate communities, PAHS is poised to distribute the film and its innovative humane education curriculum program *Mow Wow Animals* to schools throughout California in 2015–16.

The *Mow Wow Animals* program offers students the opportunity to learn in ways that engage their empathy, imagination, and sense of excitement. The program's

multicultural, bilingual curriculum contains easily accessible lessons for teachers that merge humane education with science, math, literature, and the arts. Additional interactive learning opportunities connect parents, teachers, and students to local animal shelters.

In another significant development, a California legislative resolution, which PAHS has spearheaded with California Assembly Member Kevin Mullin, will highlight the passage from the California Code of Education that mandates humane education in the public schools. This resolution will secure a respected place for humane education in the curriculum and reinforce the state's commitment to the development of character and civic responsibility.

In the coming months, PAHS plans to capitalize on the passage of this exciting resolution and the success of its education programs with a city wide awareness campaign, *Building Compassionate Communities*. Look for exciting events around the city that will engage, inform, and delight!

The generous support of our donors has allowed PAHS to create these significant new initiatives that involve students, parents, schools, and community members in securing the wellbeing of animals and creating the educational foundation for a more compassionate society.

*From Carole Hyde, Executive Director*

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**“From its beginnings, PAHS has considered education a major part of its mission.”**

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## Building Compassionate Communities, One School at a Time

It is our belief at PAHS that education about kindness and compassion is a key ingredient in the development of empathy and understanding for all beings, animals and humans alike. PAHS offers exciting and diverse programs to schools, clubs, and civic groups to encourage people from an early age to respect animals and their world. Humane education provides the foundation for a humane and just society. To schedule a program for your classroom or civic organization, contact PAHS.

***Adoptables Art.*** This is a visual art program that connects young students with shelter dogs waiting for a home. Under the guidance of school art teachers, students learn how to recognize the essence of another being, and their soulful paintings help promote the adoption of dogs in local shelters. For more information, contact PAHS or the Palo Alto Unified School District art coordinator, Sharon Ferguson.

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“Through Adoptables Art, students become humane advocates, empathizing with the animals they draw and paint.”

– Sharon Ferguson, Art Coordinator for the Palo Alto Unified School District.

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*Charley, by Siddharth Shashi, 5th Grade, Duveneck School*



*Romeo, by Lukas Weaver-Escobar, 4th Grade, Duveneck School*



*Tito, by Arielle Blumenfeld, 4th Grade, Duveneck School*

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*Rookie and kids enjoying Critter Club at Beechwood School. Photo courtesy of Palo Alto Weekly*

**Critter Club.** Kids, parents, schools, and neighborhoods are energized in bringing the PAHS lessons directly to their communities as they learn about animal care, neighborhood animals, and wildlife. Take-home lessons encourage family discussion on kindness to animals and building healthy, happy neighborhoods.



*Students enjoy reading to Elly Mae at Palo Alto Animal Services. Photo by Jill Thompson*

**Kiddies 2 Kitties.** PAHS provides the books, Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority, Palo Alto Animal Services, and other shelters provide the cats, and local schools help children connect with this wonderful animal shelter-based reading program. The program is good for shy, underdeveloped readers. And the cats have companionship for a brief interlude and the possibility of adoption.

## Help for Animals Needing Rescue and Care

With your support, PAHS helps pets in dire need through our fully donor-supported P.E.T. Help and Animal Rescue funds. These resources assist sick and injured animals and are unique on the Peninsula. Pet owners or rescuers who are unable to pay for urgent care for a beloved animal face few options, and pets face euthanasia because owners cannot afford unexpected veterinary costs. PAHS' financial assistance programs can help remove some, if not all, of the financial burden, thus saving many lives. PAHS' veterinary assistance programs help keep animals in their homes and out of the shelter. PAHS' fully donor-supported spay/neuter programs help ensure that the bunnies, kittens, and puppies who are born have a better chance to find a loving home. In the first three quarters of 2015, PAHS has assisted 1,118 animals through its Spay/Neuter program and P.E.T. Help and Animal Rescue funds.



*La Muñeca received life-saving care from PAHS' P.E.T. Help program. Photo by Jill Thompson*

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## PAHS Legacy Circle: Planning for the Future

Bequests and planned gifts provide the Palo Alto Humane Society with the stability needed for our animal welfare work to continue into the future. Two bequests to PAHS in our centennial year of 2008 provided \$2.5 million, allowing us to invest for the future and do immense good for animals in the present. On April 29 of this year, the Palo Alto Humane Society's Legacy Circle



*Virginia Walbot*

honored Stanford Professor Virginia Walbot. Professor Walbot has provided for a significant future planned gift to PAHS. In addition, in 2008 she gave a major gift that enabled PAHS to establish the Virginia Walbot Education Fund, and she donates generously to

PAHS on an ongoing basis. Virginia's long-term support for the work of PAHS has made possible many of the initiatives in our humane education program. Her planned gift will also provide for future care for her animals in PAHS' Forever Care program. PAHS thanks Gleim the Jeweler for producing our beautiful Legacy Circle lapel pin and the Sheraton Palo Alto for donating the Legacy Circle reception. For questions on leaving an estate gift or for planning for the future of your companion animals in our Forever Care program, contact the executive director at (650) 424-1901.

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**The mission of the Palo Alto Humane Society is to alleviate the suffering of animals, increase public sensitivity to animal issues, and elevate the status of animals in our society.**

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*Patrick Livingstone*

## Magic at the 2015 PAHS Holiday Gala

The Palo Alto Humane Society's Holiday Gala will be truly magical. Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 3, for this star-studded night at the newly remodeled Aquarius Theatre. "Oh! For the Love of Critters" will include a full-length classic animal film, highlights of the year at PAHS, and all the popcorn you can eat. Our host is Emmy-nominated Philip Giffin, and our magical entertainer is Patrick Livingstone, who will pull many tricks out of your hat. Ticket sales begin in November; watch the PAHS Web site for information ([www.paloaltohumane.org](http://www.paloaltohumane.org)). Seating at the new Aquarius is limited, and you'll want to purchase your ticket early.



To find out more about the Palo Alto Humane Society's programs and to donate online, please visit our newly redesigned Web site at [www.paloaltohumane.org](http://www.paloaltohumane.org).

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