



# Four Paws to Love Newsletter

December 2019

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Dear Friends and Family,

We are celebrating 2019, our 6th year! Happily, we are pleased to be settled into our venue at General Feed and Seed in Santa Cruz. We LOVE being there, it has proved to be a wonderful place to have our adoption fairs and the people at General Feed are very welcoming to us and our fur babies. We couldn't be happier.

Please join us in a most heartfelt thank you to General Feed and Seed, and also Pet's Delight in Los Altos! Our volunteer and manager of Pet's Delight, Anastasia, has done a wonderful job caring for and getting the animals in her care adopted into amazing homes. Tell any friends you have in the area to stop by and say "hello" or maybe take home a furry friend.

The total number of animals we rescued this year was 134. These animals came from all over northern and central California, including Santa Cruz, Salinas, Santa Clara, San Jose and Hollister. All of these animals were at risk of euthanasia. Four Paws to Love was able to foster them in loving homes, provide socialization and medical care, then work at finding forever families for them. We still have lots of lovely fur babies waiting for that forever family to come along!

We would like to thank all of the volunteer staff at Four Paws to Love: Adrienne (adoptions), Jenny (grant writer and adoption events), Kim (thank you notes), Anastasia (Pet's Delight), Kitty (administrative help and adoption events), Dr. Shira Rubin (veterinarian extraordinaire), Mark (IT), Laura (kitten taxi and database queen), Steve (adoption fair support) and Jenifer (support, including pickup and delivery of kittens). We also have a new volunteer, Dr. Laura Warner (see article below). Without our dedicated staff, volunteers, fosters, and their families, we would not be able to keep Four Paws to Love running. Credit is also due to the wonderful shelter workers on the front lines that work so hard to get the animals into our care to save their lives.

Naturally, we owe sincere gratitude to all of our adopters and those that donate to us. We would not be able to keep going, much less succeed so well, if we didn't have fabulous adopters and those caring souls that support our mission monetarily.

Thank you *all* for being part of the Four Paws to Love family.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2020!

Four Paws to Love Board of Directors,

Annette Hogue  
Christine Kiuchi  
Terry Marino

**Please help us to further our mission to aid in finding homes for abused and abandoned animals. You can give any amount using our secure PayPal Giving Fund account with *no fees!* That's right, 100% of your donation goes straight to us so that we can use every penny for the care and feeding of homeless pets.**

**There are many more ways you can help us save the many homeless pets that come through our doors- go to our website's [DONATE](#) page to see what you can do.**

## Cabrillo College Farmer's Market

- A Message From Our Executive Director

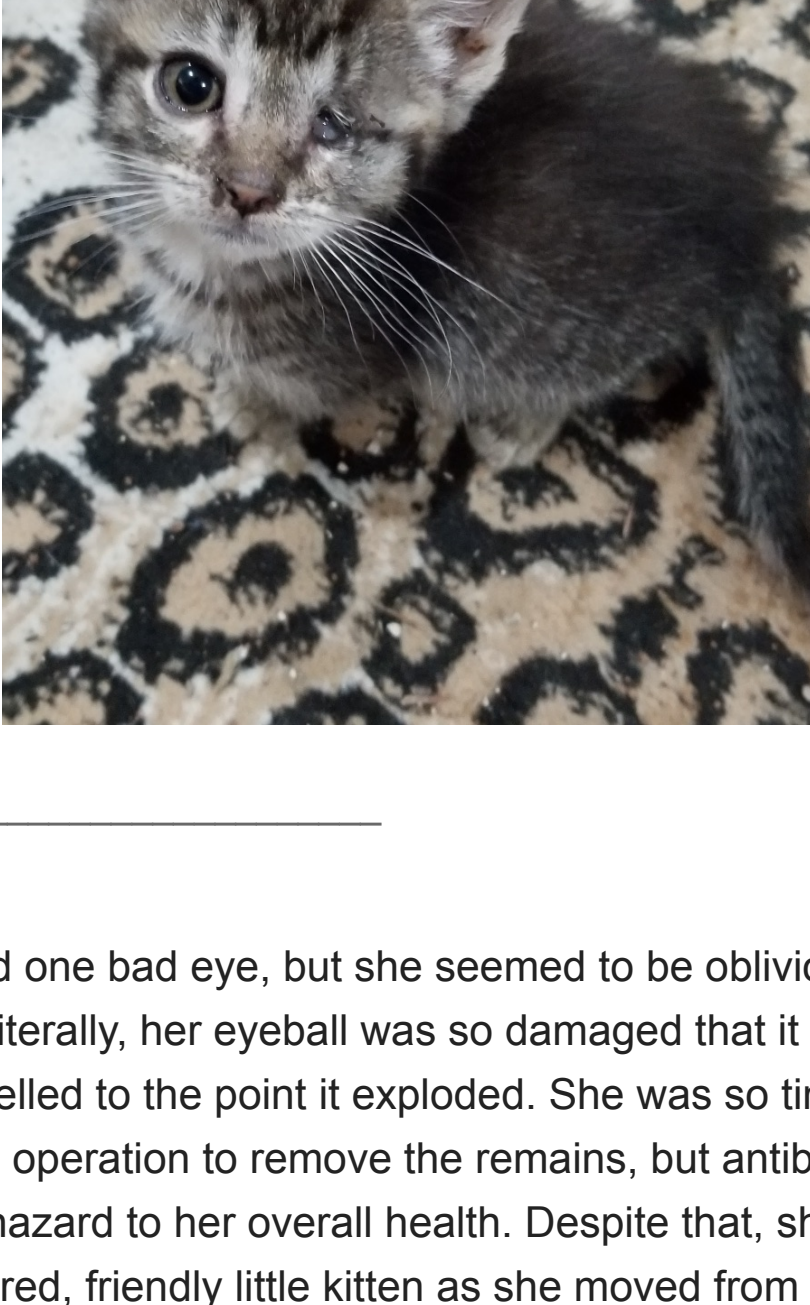
Some of you have noticed that we are no longer at the Farmer's Market on the campus of Cabrillo College and have missed us. We have been going to the market since we formed Four Paws to Love and have had great success there. This year we have faced a large obstacle to our return to Cabrillo College. They no longer want us to bring animals for adoption so we have been trying to get an agreement in place to have an information table but that has proved to be difficult. Sadly, because of this, our adoptions and community outreach have suffered. We hope to reach an agreement with the college for this upcoming spring/summer season and will let you know via our website if we will be returning any time soon. Thank you for your continued support and feel free to put in a good word for us.

- Christine Kiuch

## Welcome to Dr. Warner

Welcome, Dr. Laura Warner, to the Four Paws to Love family! Dr. Warner is a native of Santa Cruz County, graduated from Aptos High School, and most recently worked at the Front Street Animal Shelter in Sacramento as the Shelter Veterinarian. She retired in 2019 and moved back to Santa Cruz to be closer to her family. We are so happy to have her support as a foster parent for kittens and assistance with medical questions. She has also been doing spays and neuters at The Spay and Neuter Clinic of Pajaro Valley. You will see her at our adoption events on Saturday at General Feed and Seed, stop by and say hello!

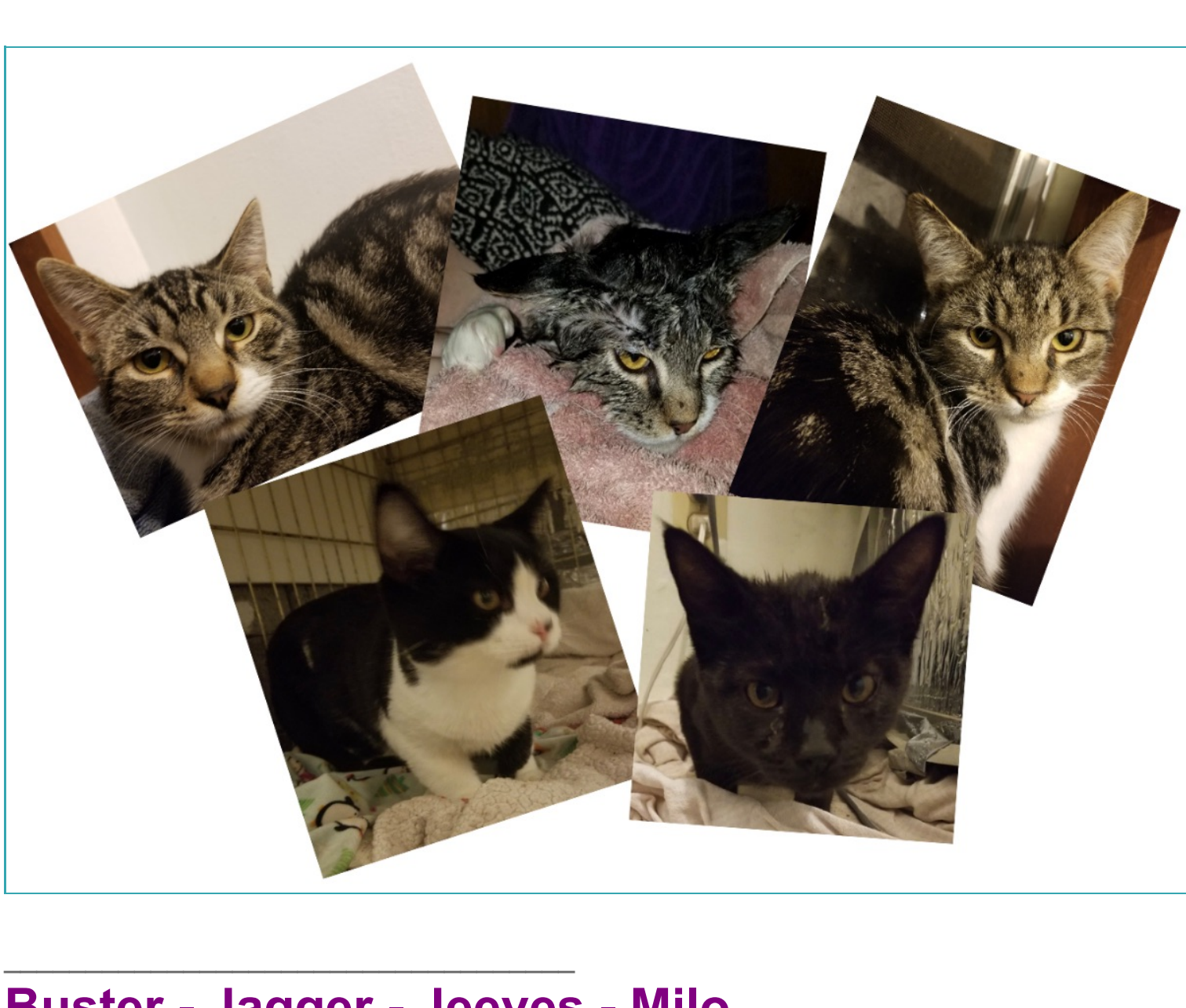
## Adoption Highlights



### Mari

The little kitten had one bad eye, but she seemed to be oblivious to it, even when it blew up. Literally, her eyeball was so damaged that it became infected and eventually swelled to the point it exploded. She was so tiny that she could not yet survive the operation to remove the remains, but antibiotic drops kept it from becoming a hazard to her overall health. Despite that, she remained a happy, sweet-natured, friendly little kitten as she moved from one foster home to another where she had other kittens to play with. We called her Mari (which also has one 'i').

It didn't take long for someone to see her at an adoption fair and fall in love with her gentle personality. The adopters were the perfect home, willing and able to care for a small, slightly fragile life, and she is thriving in her forever home. Eventually big enough to be spayed and have her eyeball surgically seen to, she has been growing, playing, and blossoming into a well-loved member of her family. They re-named her Snake, after the lead (one-eyed) character in Escape From New York, but we're all sure she intends to stick around for a good long while now.



### Buster - Jagger - Jeeves - Milo

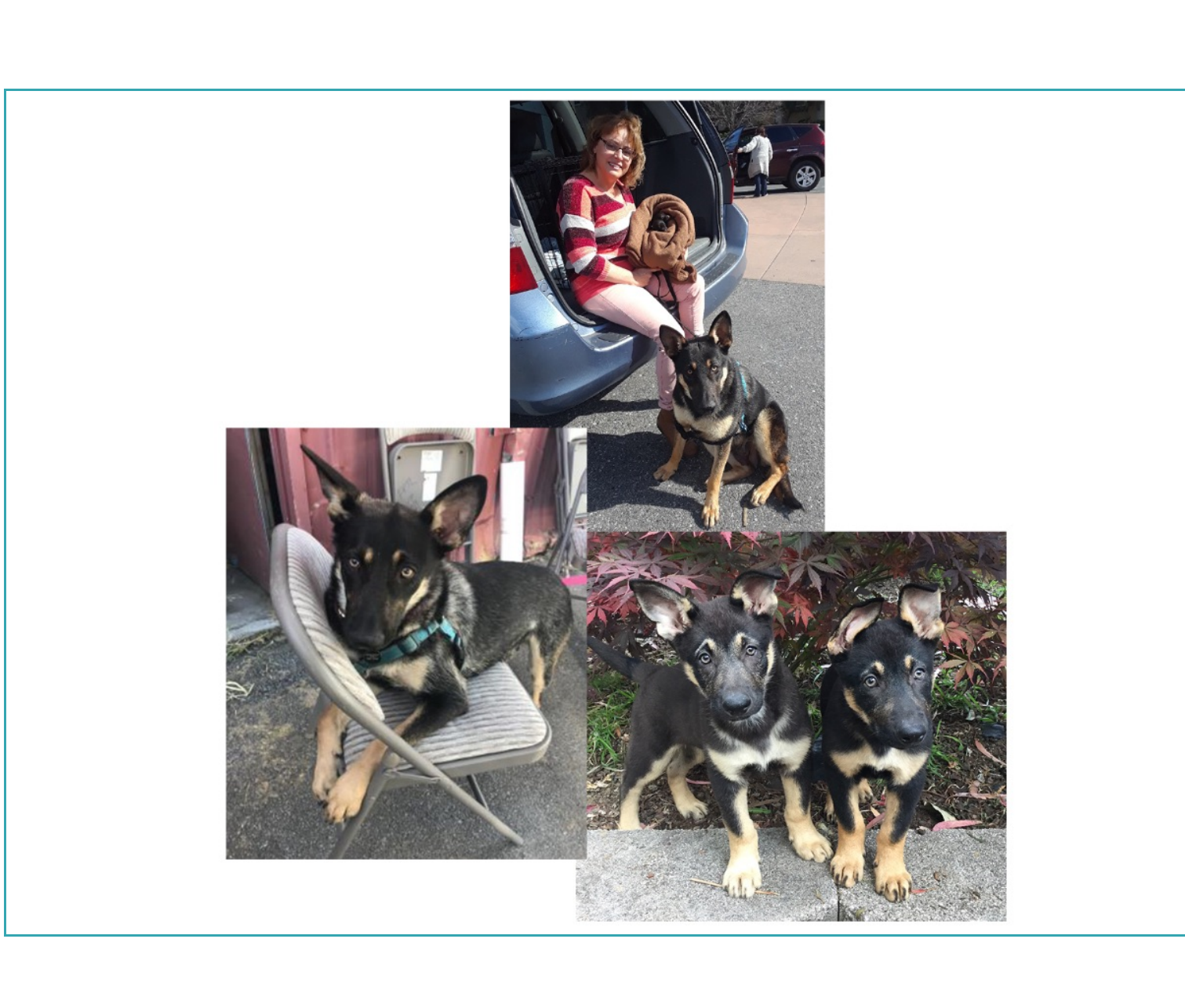
The first email was a desperate plea from the Hollister shelter. They had four healthy, 5 to 6 month old male kittens who, because of their ringworm exposure and developing symptoms, were no longer immediately adoptable. Unable to keep and treat them for the months it would take to cure the skin fungus (a variety of the same spore that causes athletes' foot), the shelter was going to have to euthanize them unless a rescue willing to take them in the next day or two could be found. Four Paws to Love is willing and able to treat animals with ringworm and it did not take long to organize our transport and foster home for their arrival.

They were picked up by one of our kitten taxi volunteers and driven from Hollister to Santa Cruz where Dr. Warner met them for their intake exams and initial vaccinations. From there it was up into the hills to their foster home where they were met with more examination, this time under a UV light to assess the number and size of actively infected areas. Milo was clear, Jeeves and Buster had a few spots on their ears, and poor Jagger had his entire head involved from the back of his ears to his cheeks as well as spots on his back and feet.

Then came the first bath to remove active spores from their coats. Jeeves (bottom left) and Buster (top left before bath and top center after bath) purred all the way through the dousing and shampooing, but Milo (top right) and Jagger (bottom right) were not so pleased with it. They all were towelled dry in front of a heater until they were warm and dry enough to go into their isolation ward, and that evening they got their first treatment with anti-fungal lotion (similar to Lotrimin) on their lesions. The fungus causes their fur to fall out so they look scruffy for a while, but the hair grows back once the ringworm is no longer active on them.

A week later they were given another bath and dipped in lime-sulfur solution. The solution is very smelly, stains everything it touches, and burns if it gets in your eyes, so neither the kittens nor the human treating them enjoy the process. We are changing to a less traumatic application method which has been recently developed, because stress depresses kittens' immune systems and can make them break out in more lesions. This is why spots often appear on them after their neutering operation – ringworm spores are endemic in the environment but are easy enough to resist until there are either too many present, or there is a vulnerable condition to take advantage of.

After the dip treatment, they were able to start on the oral medication which suppresses the spread of the fungus through their system. It takes 5 weeks from start to finish, with daily oral doses given for a week at a time alternating with a week off. The medication is presently hard to find and not cheap, another reason shelters generally cannot treat affected animals in their facilities. Fortunately, once the victims are in foster care their lives are safe and when their treatment period is done they will be healthy and adoptable. Watch for these four characters to be at our adoption fairs in February!



### Lily - Rosie - Posey

Lily, a 9 month old German Shepherd, was turned into the San Jose Animal Care Center on Valentines Day, but her gift of love appeared 5 days later when she gave birth to 3 puppies. A boy and two little girls. There was an urgent call to get these little ones and their young mama out of the shelter, away from germs that such young pups should not be exposed to. Four Paws to Love stepped up and decided that we had room in our program. Our Executive Director had the puppy bug so she just simply couldn't resist taking them in!

The little boy, unfortunately, didn't make it past his first day of life but the girls were doing well. We brought the girls home when they were 4 days old along with their mom, of course. Christine drove to the San Jose Shelter and was taken to Lily's kennel where she was greeted by a happy and ever so sweet but shy German Shepherd. (The picture above was picked up day right before they were loaded in the van.)

The ride home to Santa Cruz was uneventful with Lily sitting in the seat of the van just staring out the window wondering what was happening and where was she going. When they got to their new home Lily was a little unsure of what was going to happen. Christine explains: "When we got home and parked in the garage, I took the kennel that had the puppies in it to the cozy place I had made ready for them. Lily was sitting in the front seat and didn't seem worried when I took the girls into the house, but when I came back to get her she wouldn't budge from her seat! Normally I would just pick up the dog and bring it into the house but this would prove problematic since this dog was a bit larger than the dogs I usually foster. Lily is 65 pounds and I'm a bit vertically challenged at just under 5 feet. After about 45 minutes of waiting her out (trying every treat I had in my arsenal) I finally decided to use one of her pups as a lure. Sure enough, Lily was a good mama and decided to get out of the car and look after her girls. She has been a great mama, a sweet girl and quite comfortable at my house ever since. It did take her a little while to be comfortable getting in and out of the car, however."

The pups, who had been named Rosie and Posey, grew quite rapidly and were adopted by two great families and are living quite the happy life. Lily is doing great on her own and is still just a big puppy herself, full of energy and quite silly. She has definitely won over her foster family's hearts. She gets along great with the resident dog but not so much with the cats. It's a work in progress! Lily is still available for adoption and you can meet her at our adoption fair at General Feed & Seed on most Saturdays. (see below for times).

**We would love to have more doggie stories to tell! If you would like to become a dog foster parent and help dogs like Lily and her pups to find great homes please contact Christine at: [Chris@fourpawstolove.org](mailto:Chris@fourpawstolove.org)**

## You are invited....

We are at General Feed & Seed, 1900 Commercial Way, EVERY Saturday from 1-4pm. Come by to adopt, donate, volunteer or just sit a while and keep us and the animals company! Bring a friend! Play with KITTENS in our big tent!

Go to our [News and Events](#) page on our website to keep up with announcements of some of our other upcoming special events being held throughout the year.

