

'Tis the season...
Happy Holidays!



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Oscar was surrendered to SoHumane by his owner. During his intake process, there was some concern that Oscar might not do well in a kennel environment. Staff felt he would need some time to adjust and become acclimated to the daily routine of the kennels before being made available for adoption. Because Oscar was anxious and nervous, one of the first tasks was to give him the opportunity to become familiar with staff and the routine of moving from his kennel to an outdoor yard. He was taught some basic commands like sit, wait, come and lay down. He was offered praise and treats and enjoyed his busy bucket every day. His confidence grew. Gradually different volunteers entered his kennel and sat to meet him. Oscar was then able to begin spending supervised play group time with other dogs.

Oscar was introduced to prospective adopters in the yards where he was comfortable. His future family listened carefully to staff comments and suggestions about Oscar and the initial training and care he had received. His new family made a commitment to follow up with additional training to help Oscar be more comfortable in their home and around other people. They wrote, *"He has become a very important part of our family and is just the sweetest boy. Such a snuggler! We are so happy we were able to adopt him, and he has turned out to be the perfect dog for us. Thank you for all your hard work and all that you do for these fur babies."*



Many pets arrive at SoHumane scared and wondering where their beloved family members are. With the help of the love, care and medical attention offered by SoHumane staff and volunteers, they are able to leave the pain of their past behind and give their unconditional love and loyalty to a new family.

A Pet is a Gift You Give Yourself



When Apple was surrendered to SoHumane, staff were told she might have been electrocuted. She had somehow suffered severe trauma to her upper lip. The SoHumane vet care team went to work to not only save her life but improve her quality of life. Apple was then diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. Once her treatment began, Apple was well on her way to recovery. Unfortunately, during Apple's long recovery she developed a self-inflicted wound to her tail. Because of the location of the wound, and Apple's excessive contact with it, the wound would not heal. After several months the difficult decision was made to do a partial amputation.

Apple's specialized treatment took over a year. Because of her special needs, potential adopters passed her by. In the meantime, Dr. Wicklund had fallen in love with Apple. She decided to adopt her and give her the safe and loving forever home that Apple so desperately needed. Now Apple is a happy and loving cat who lives with two dogs. She is an easy-going traveler who has been to places far and wide with her new family. **At SoHumane we believe every pet deserves a home. Your generous gifts mean more animals in need can be helped.**

Ho! Ho! Home for the Holidays!!



For so many animals, the feeling of love and security a pet should enjoy during the holiday season can be lost due to unforeseen circumstances. **Many dogs and cats find themselves abandoned in overcrowded shelters.** One such story is about Bella, a sweet pit bull mix, whose only desire was to have a family and home of her own.

As a six month old puppy, Bella was surrendered to an animal shelter in Northern California. Because of misconceptions about her breed and the large number of pit mixes in shelters, her chances of being adopted were slim. Bella was over looked time and again. Days turned into months, and months turned into years. **Bella grew to adulthood and lived in a shelter all alone for four years.**

Thanks to wonderful supporters like you, SoHumane was able to step in. On a recent trip the Saving Train team visited several overcrowded California shelters and filled the Saving Train with pets in danger of being euthanized. The shelter that cared for Bella for most of her life was very fond of her, but they knew she deserved a home and family of her own. When they heard the Saving Train was in the area, they shared her story, and space was made for “just one more.”

As it turns out, Bella was at SoHumane for five short days when she got her second chance. Along with other rescued dogs, Bella was part of a special SoHumane adoption event. Her new family was there waiting for her, with Bella's new doggie brother in tow. After living most of her life in a shelter, Bella was adopted! Not only did she get a loving home with wonderful parents who adore her, she now has a happy, fun loving, pit bull brother as well. **Thanks to you, Bella will be surrounded by love and warmth this holiday season for the first time in her life! Please give generously so SoHumane can continue to help more pets like Bella.**

Double Your Impact This Holiday Season

Two generous SoHumane supporters have agreed to match all gifts, dollar for dollar, up to \$35,000 — now through December 31st.

2017 is almost behind us, but there is still time to do something beautiful for homeless pets. Your generosity helps ensure love, companionship, cozy beds, full bellies, and lifesaving second chances to so many animals in need. You can donate with confidence. SoHumane recently received a four star ranking from **Charity Navigator**, the nation's top charity watch dog. Only 3% of the charities nationwide that they evaluate have received this designation. **Please make your tax-deductible gift to the animals — and then celebrate knowing that your generosity will go twice as far!**

Pawprints are the best Holiday Decoration!

Wishing you happy moments shared with those that you love!

From our family to yours,

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season

and a Happy New Year!

Karen Evans and the SoHumane family

