

PAW PRINTS

The Volunteer Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2020

PAW PRINTS THE VOLUNTEER VOICE

Welcome to Paw Prints, TVAR's volunteer newsletter. We would welcome your feedback – whether that be in the form of articles; what you would like to see highlighted in the newsletter; volunteers you would like to see spotlighted – and the list goes on. As always – thank you ALL for All that you do for these deserving animals. Without every one of you – so many more would be lost.

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A Message from your Board of Directors to TVAR fosters, volunteers and employees

TVAR & Covid 19

March 16th is a day most of us will not forget for a long time. Our nation was about to undergo a transformation unlike anything most of us have experienced in the past. As we shut down our economy to focus on the health of our nation, businesses large and small as well as non-profits were forced to learn how to cope with all the shut-downs, new restrictions and shelter-in-place guidelines. TVAR was no exception. We knew we had to continue the organization's mission of saving these deserving animals **and because of so many of you** - we have continued to do our life saving work-- in our foster kitten program, our foster dog/puppy program AND at the East County Animal Shelter.



Navigating through this troubled time was daunting and the health and well-being of our volunteers and employees was at the forefront of our concern. Even though we were forced to cancel all adoption events for the foreseeable future, our dedicated people continued to step up and we were able to continue our adoption efforts even as the pandemic grew. Through social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer, and one on one adoption meets, we were able to continue pulling dogs and kittens into foster and get dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens adopted.

It has been a challenging time for everyone; for the country; for the county; for rescue; for shelters and surely for each and every one of you! And we hope each and every one of you is staying safe. Perhaps we are on the other side of the mountain!! Your Board certainly hopes so. *A brief update on our foster and shelter programs follows.*

Kitten Program

Our kitten program has been working hard rescuing kittens - both bottle baby and weaned kittens with over 50 kittens in fosters as of the end of May and with over 50 kittens adopted year-to-date. We were so looking forward to showing our adoptable kittens at our new venue -Pet Food Express (PFE) in Danville. But alas, with the pandemic and resulting shutdown, we have had to defer those activities until it is safe to host adoption events. But we are very excited about the new beautiful "digs" for our kittens and the partnership with PFE.



Dog Program

Our adult dog program has adopted out more dogs year-to-date than in past years. Every time we put a dog on the website - we have had an OUTPOURING of interest receiving as many as 100 applications in a 24 hour period. While this is a "good" problem to have - it also increases the importance of careful screening. We do not want to adopt dogs out now - only to find them returned once the country/county reopens and people are going back to work. So that screening has been painstakingly done - and all meet and greets have been on a one-on-one basis with social distancing measures in place and appropriate gear for both TVAR representatives and potential adopters. Dawn McKeown who was running the puppy program, left the organization after many years of service at TVAR. We will now have one "dog" program for both dogs and puppies. While we have and will continue to pull dogs and puppies from other shelters, our primary focus will be on the ECAS dogs and needs.



Shelter Programs

Insofar as the East County Animal Shelter - as most of you know - it has been closed since mid-March. The staff of course have still been at the shelter each day and our most seasoned volunteers who were comfortable doing so, have continued their service at the shelter. All the dogs and cats are socialized every single day thanks to our dedicated shelter volunteers. We are also helping to facilitate adoptions at the shelter - taking TVAR applications for the ECAS dogs. The shelter decided to do adoptions after receiving, reviewing and vetting applicants.

As we now begin to open-up we are hopeful to return soon to our normal business model. Thanks for all you do.

TVAR's Board of Directors

Mardi Paws

TVAR Friends and supporters put on their finest masks (little did we know that in short order these masks would have a dual purpose) and Mardi Gras attire for our annual fundraising event at Castlewood Country Club on February 22nd. Attendees enjoyed Champagne on arrival and great music by Bob Olness and his big band Nightlife. Guests also vied for some exciting live and silent auction items such as a New Orleans getaway, an African Safari for two, and Dinner for 8 at the Forbes Mill Restaurant as well as wine packages and an at home BBQ dinner for 12



prepared by TV's Pitmaster's finalist chef John Melone M.D. TVAR was privileged to have as Emcee Bay Area notable, Bob Redell, from Today in the Bay show.



Guests also participated in a fun "Dessert Dash" that drew bids in the thousands for the delectable treats. We would like to thank Lynn Menon and her committee, Laura Molnar, LeeAnn Caldwell, Samantha Leggat, Nick Leggat (volunteer photographer), Elizabeth Bandur, and Selyia Yoo for all their hard work in putting the event together. The board of Tri-Valley Animal Rescue would also like to thank all the donors, attendees, and volunteers who helped make Mardi Paws such a success. We applaud your dedication to our mission to give animals a second chance at love.

TVAR Board Matters

TVAR's Board of Directors is the governing body of our organization and meets monthly or more frequently as required. The agenda varies depending on the organization's needs at the time, but typically includes discussions on various financial matters, fundraising and donor outreach efforts and program matters.

After the very successful Mardi Paws gala, TVAR and the nation were blindsided by the onset of the Coronavirus, Covid-19. Much of the Board's time since February has been focused on how TVAR would deal with the many challenges and difficulties and how this virus would affect TVAR. As we work through this troubled time the Board is also now turning its attention to 2020/2021 planning including budgetary matters, volunteerism, donor recruitment and growth opportunities.



The Board would also like to thank and acknowledge former Board members Dawn Mckeown, Ros Simon, and Brian Joyce for their outstanding service and commitment to TVAR's Board. We appreciate all that they did. Ros continues her dedicated service to TVAR as its treasurer. TVAR's Board of Directors welcomes any comments or suggestions from our volunteers and is always searching for new ways to improve our image and fulfill our mission of saving homeless Dogs and Cats in the Tri-Valley Area and giving them a Second Chance.

Board Spotlight

Meet **Janine Collins Lappin**, TVAR's newest Board Member. Janine and her family live in Danville. She and her daughter were introduced to Tri-Valley Animal Rescue three years ago. Since then they have fostered 20 dogs from the East County Animal Shelter (ECAS) for TVAR and helped find them their forever families. Janine joins our board with years of experience managing sales organizations with Fortune 500 companies in the Bay Area. With this experience she is committed to helping TVAR grow its rescue organization and save more animals. Having connections throughout the Tri-Valley community she will be an invaluable resource for fund raising needs, community outreach, and for our organization in general. We are excited to welcome Janine to TVAR's Board.



Volunteer Appreciation Event

Spread the Word & Save the Date

Saturday, September 19, 2020

Blue Agave Club

625 Main St., Pleasanton

6:00 PM until 9:00 PM

Please put this on your calendar. At this time because of the Covid-19 pandemic we are unsure if we will be allowed to hold this event. We are keeping our fingers crossed and we will keep you posted as we get new information. If you would like to volunteer for this fun filled event please contact Sharon Silbert at SharonS@tvar.org

Volunteer Kudos!!

Sometimes it takes a village and sometimes one person IS a village.....A special thank you to volunteer **Bill Caldwell** for being that village.

Bill is a Pleasanton resident of 24 years and is an employee of the NASA Ames Research Center, where he currently serves as head of the Mechanical Systems and Analysis Branch within the Engineering Directorate. Bill first got involved with TVAR providing volunteer assistance for the 2019 Tuxes and Tails Fundraiser Event. Since then, he completed the training necessary to serve as a volunteer at the East County Animal shelter in September 2019, joining his wife, Lee Ann (TVAR volunteer since 2017), to help take care of the dogs. You will often see Bill walking the dogs at the shelter. But Bill is also an avid "do-it-yourselfer" and prides himself on bringing new life to



anything needing repair or design improvement. TVAR has been so fortunate in being the recipient of Bill's do-it-yourself skills. Bill has repaired the fences and gates at ECAS, moved the water system that we use for the outside yards and installed "tops" in E ward so dogs cannot escape from their kennels. He has also been our Go-To-Guy for so many things needed for the van used for the foster dog weekly adoption events and other activities. He researched, bought and installed a MUCH NEEDED back up camera; repaired the door to the van which none of us even could get open; bought and installed new tires (after 15 years of use); helped secure insurance proceeds after the van got



sideswiped by another driver... and the list goes on. And Bill is a joy to be around and to volunteer with - always so willing to help and so happy to give our shelter dogs that second chance. Thank you Bill for ALL THAT YOU DO FOR TVAR AND THESE DESERVING ANIMALS.

Giving them another chance

Meet **Mauser**, HE'S FINALLY HOME! After being transferred from 3 foster homes, adopted and returned, Flapper/Bryce/Truffles/Jax/Mauser has finally found his forever family. He arrived as a stray at ECAS, just a baby at 3-months-old. He was unique looking, cute and sweet although dirty and covered with fleas and ticks. We cleaned him up, had him neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. He spent time in 3 different foster homes before we found him a new home. But alas he was more than the adopters could manage and he was returned. We decided to invest in a two-week training session with Shane at Diablo K9 to give him the foundational learnings and socialization he needed. But the key question is -- Why was this little guy moved around so much??? Well he was a "different" kind of puppy. He was very vocal around other dogs at adoption events- so some felt he showed signs of "aggression." Initially he was growing like a weed, so some felt he was going to be a BIG dog and possibly too big and dominant for other canines in the family. Well it turns out he was neither. Once Shane met him - this





little guy FOUND HIS STRIDE. Playing with dogs big and small at Shanes - there were no signs of aggression - just a playful and vocal bit of a dog. He never grew much more - now weighing a grand total of 17 pounds at 6 months of age. Shane - who has helped us with dozens upon dozens of dogs - even thought about adopting this little guy himself. He just needed that professional touch that really makes a difference for some dogs. With his many skills under his belt, we found the perfect match with someone who appreciates his outgoing personality and has the time to continue teaching our little friend how to be the best dog he can be. He is now a constant companion to Zack, staying by

his side, even retrieving the morning paper for him each day. Here are some of Zack's heartwarming comments about his best friend:

"Best dog EVER". I love him like one of my kids. I made him lamb, barley and squash for dinner mixed with his food. He was wiggling everywhere. I love him to death and so does everyone else. I'm taking him fishing today in the Delta - he's such a good boy. He just needed his "dad". THANK YOU AGAIN"

This is why we do what we do!

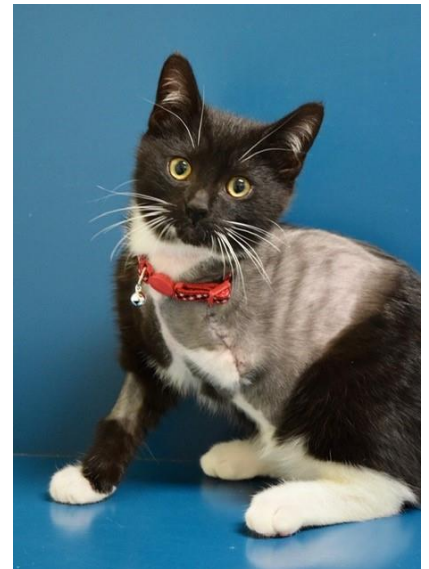
Meet **Nola**

In February, at our MARDI PAWS gala (see page 3), one of the spotlighted animals of the evening was a little kitten who faced adversity but who had a will to survive with a little **help from his friends**. We named him NOLA in honor of New Orleans, Louisiana. NOLA has a very heart wrenching story, but one with a happy ending.

Just a few days before Christmas the CHP responded to a call in San Lorenzo about a kitten that was darting in and out of traffic and had run under a passing car, becoming trapped in a compartment of the vehicle. The CHP officer pulled NOLA out from the vehicle and the kitten was taken to the East County Animal Shelter (ECAS).

After being examined at ECAS it was determined that NOLA had something terribly wrong with his left leg. To the "rescue" came TVAR, who took NOLA into its Foster Kitten Program with the help of Animal Service Officer Tim and his wife Tammy. After a team of veterinarians examined NOLA, it was determined that his leg was not broken, but endured extensive nerve damage. The doctors decided the leg could not be repaired and they performed an amputation. NOLA was then returned to the TVAR foster home.

Once Tim and Tammy gained NOLA's trust, it did not take long for him to show his affection and appreciation, as well as his agility. Chasing feathers and even his own tail became some of his favorite activities. He doesn't let three legs slow him down.



Now it was TVAR's turn to find him his forever family, which Tim and Tammy did right before MARDI PAWS. Nola went to his forever home which was also the home of another TVAR adoptee, a white Doberman who Tim and Tammy also had fostered. A recent update has NOLA controlling the Doberman who used to rule the house. NOLA teaches all of us a lesson in life---he is the epitome of resilience. Thanks to everyone involved in saving NOLA and to all our Kitten Fosters who do an incredible job.

If you know of anyone who hasn't received a copy and would like to be added to the mailing list please let us know.

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