



SPRING 2024



# CAT CORNER

The Merced SPCA Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from *Cynthia Kelly*

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES....** The old saying rings true for the Merced SPCA and we're revamping it to "*what a difference a few months make*". Since November we've undergone many changes. The most important one: Florence Lambert retired as SPCA President after 13 years of unwavering dedication to the protection of animals in Merced. She can't stay away from the organization that she guided and nurtured through some very uncertain times, though; she has remained on the board as the Director of Membership.

The SPCA's goal is to fight for the inherent worth and dignity of every animal. We could not do this without you; every volunteer, member and donor is a blessing to us, and to the animals we help when carrying out our mission.

As we begin our work in 2024, we want to spend time focusing on a strategic plan for the Merced SPCA. We hope to take this organization, which has already been shaped by so many wonderful individuals, to great heights in animal welfare.

Aspects of our plan include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ A continued relationship with the City of Merced Police Department, and their animal control officers. The board is incredibly proud of our relationship with these individuals, and we look forward to strengthening it further in the coming year.
- ❖ Expand our foster care network for the many cats and kittens dumped in our colonies. This past year was a record year for foster services, with over 50 domesticated cats and kittens placed with our amazing fosters. We ALWAYS need more fosters, as there's always more pets that are being taken into our care.
- ❖ Expand our rescue partners. We rely on other no-kill rescues to transport our cats and kittens in foster and get them adopted. We've partnered with a few amazing rescue organizations, but we're always looking for new opportunities to make sure our fosters are given the best chance for a wonderful life.

I would like to close by saying simply that every life has worth. We at the board understand this, appreciate this, and fight for this. Without all of you, we would fail. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

### In This Issue

## 2023 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

### Saying Goodbye to Old Friends



Recently the animal rescue community in Merced lost a remarkable animal advocate, Lucy Zimmer. Lucy was a long-time volunteer for New Beginnings for Merced County Animals and friend and donor to the Merced SPCA.

Hundreds of dogs and puppies would not have had the chance of finding their forever homes if it wasn't for Lucy's Friday trips to Truckee and Lake Tahoe. She was always willing to transport any animal in need. Her no-nonsense attitude and forthright manner made her the perfect champion for our shelter and abandoned animals in Merced.

During our long rides to Truckee, we'd talk about her time in the Air Force, her dedication to always doing the right thing and her passion for helping animals—as well as her dislike for anything green. After a trip, she'd invite me over to "rid" her of her nightmare aloe vera plants and to help clean dog carriers. I wish I had taken her up on those invitations more often.

Lucy retired as a Major in the US Air Force. Castle Air Force Base was her last assignment.

We will never forget her contribution to animal rescue and the hundreds of lives saved because of her. Rest in Peace, Lucy Zimmer.



# Merced SPCA 2023 Year In Review



The past year was an extremely busy one for the volunteers of the Merced SPCA. Little by little, we continue to strive to make a difference in the lives of our community cats. Here's a glimpse of some of the work we completed in 2023 to improve the lives of the homeless cat population and reduce the euthanasia rate of strays in our community. This was only made possible by your generous donations.

- ❖ 982 cats were trapped, neutered or spayed, vaccinated and released.
- ❖ 26,500 kitten births were prevented through our TNR program.
- ❖ We treated over 250 cats for illnesses and injuries.
- ❖ We compassionately euthanized 25 pets.
- ❖ We sent 75 cats and kittens to rescue. 70 of which have been adopted.
- ❖ We welcomed 6 new volunteers to the Merced SPCA, mostly from UC Merced and Merced College.
- ❖ We have partnered with 4 new rescues in the Bay area and strengthened our friendship with New Beginnings for Merced County Animals.

## In Memoriam

donations received on behalf of loved ones who have journeyed over the Rainbow Bridge



*Daisy Luna for Beauty Luna*  
*Alicia Migliazzo for Audrey Kostecky*



## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Merced SPCA is a local chapter and not affiliated with any national programs. We are an organization of volunteers that believes that we can build a community where people value animals and treat them with respect and kindness. To become a member of Merced SPCA, please contact us. Donations can be made online or mailed to: Merced SPCA P.O. Box 929, Merced, CA 95341 or email us at [merced.sPCA@yahoo.com](mailto:merced.sPCA@yahoo.com)

## Our TNR Program



### Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR)

is a catch, spay and/or neuter and release program for community cats. The cats are humanely trapped (with box traps), brought to a veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped (the universal sign that a community cat has been neutered and vaccinated), and then returned to their outdoor home. TNR improves the lives of cats, addresses community concerns, reduces complaints about cats, and stops the breeding cycle. TNR improves the coexistence between outdoor cats and humans in our shared environment. Trap-Neuter-Release quickly stabilizes feral cat populations by instantly ending reproduction and by removing socialized cats from the colony. We continue to be committed to improving the life of the cats in our colonies and the communities they live in.

