

Concerned People for Animals, Inc.



An all-volunteer, non-profit organization

www.concernedpeopleforanimals.org

In this issue...

President's Message.....	page 1
Spay/Neuter & Adoptions Update.....	1
News & Events.....	2
Meet the Board.....	2
Newsletter Sponsors.....	3
Gina G., Dog Trainer.....	5
Adoptable Pets.....	5
CPA's Wish List.....	6
Donations & Membership.....	6

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Winter 2007

A Message From Our President, Inge McClurg

Happy Holidays! Yep, the year is almost over – and, what a year it was! Thanks to your donations, we exceeded our goal to spay/neuter at least 2,007 animals this year. As this newsletter goes to print, **2,319** have been altered. Our adoption program has successfully placed **29** dogs and **349** cats in new homes so far this year. I will inform you about the final 2007 numbers for spay/neuter and adoptions in our spring newsletter.

Let me tell you, the last newsletter was a real hit with some of our members! The story about the one-eyed kitty that found a loving home and the other reports on the volunteer and rescue work that is going on within CPA made an impression. Of course, I wonder from newsletter to newsletter what I could write about (besides Charlie Chow). Well, wouldn't you know, something unusual happened to Carel Ahlefeld, our Treasurer and all-round person. She received a phone call from paramedics who were attempting to transport a patient to the hospital. The man didn't want to leave unless he was assured someone would take care of his cat. The paramedics asked Carel if she would be able to look after the gentleman's cat. This is not the kind of call CPA normally gets. Well, Carel went to the man's residence and took care of providing the cat with food and water (there was none). The man is now back home and capable of caring for his kitty. Days in our lives...

Carel discovered that Charlie actually likes his walks better than the ride in her car. He had a very convincing way of letting her know this, using his snout and leading her away from her car and down the alley. He now gets both walks and car rides to McDonalds for hamburgers, depending on his mood. Car: pull left; walk: pull right. The life of a dog...

SPECIAL THANKS to these veterinarians who always make room for one more CPA patient:

Dr. Battier, Dr. Battier Vet Hospital (Camarillo)
Dr. Chong, Camarillo Vet Hospital (Camarillo)
High Desert Animal Hospital (Palmdale)
Dr. Albers, Sierra Vet (Porterville)
Dr. Scheer, Henderson Vet (Porterville)

YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS HAVE HELPED

Spay/Neuter 2,319 cats/dogs

Adopt out 29 Dogs

Adopt out 349 Cats

(as of October 31, 2007)

*We beat our previous record of
2,312 spays/neuters in 2006*

YOUR DONATION REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIVES OF MANY, MANY ANIMALS

♥ Please continue to help cats & dogs ♥

Send your tax-deductible donation to:

CPA
PO Box 632
Somis, CA 93066

WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION WE CAN HELP EVEN MORE ANIMALS

A Message From Our President (cont.)

The end of the year is the perfect time to say THANKS to everyone for all that you have done during the year, all the volunteer work you have performed for Concerned People for Animals, all the support you have given us, for your loyalty, and your generosity. I also want to say THANKS to all of our Board members for their dedication and hard work: To Richard Abbott, Carel Ahlefeld, Sandy Carlson, Ami Gibson, Elisabeth Myers, and Christine Wells.

A warm welcome to two brand new Board members: Melissa Mehring, Animal Issues, and Becky Job, Vice President. It's time again for our 'Meet the Board' corner, so please meet Melissa who has taken on the task of putting the newsletter together. Thank you so much, Ami Gibson, for doing our newsletter for so long. Ami will continue to produce the newsletter for the Idaho Division. Great work, Ami!

Happy Holidays to you, your family, and your animal companions!

Inge

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED THEIR TIME TO KEEP CPA RUNNING.

We would also like to thank area **Target Stores, Happy Dog, and All Pet Headquarters** for their generous food donations in 2007.

NEWS & EVENTS

- CPA has Dining (\$30) and Entertainment books (\$20) call Carel @ 805-482-6587.
- CPA's new website is live! Visit www.concernedpeopleforanimals.org to see our adoptable pets, find out about upcoming events and view street fair photos.
- CPA will have a booth at the *Ventura Holiday Street Festival* on December 2. Come visit us or volunteer to help sell pet tags, license plate frames, ID bracelets, and See's Candy to raise \$\$ for spays & neuters.

~ See's Candy ~

A wonderful holiday gift for coworkers, loved ones, or to enjoy all by yourself!
Call Carel @ 805-482-6587
Order by 12/11 for 12/13 delivery or by 12/18 for 12/20 delivery.

Let CPA help with your Holiday Gift Shopping...

- ❖ See's Candy
- ❖ Dining or Entertainment Books
- ❖ New pet tag for your fur friend
- ❖ Personalized ID bracelets, GI tags, and license plate frames

Our holiday wish list has been expanded to include a generator. We are currently limited to participating in community events where electricity is available to power our pet tag machine. A generator would allow us to attend more events, and thus *raise more funds for spays and neuters!* If you have a generator to donate (it has to be quiet since our booth is close to other vendors) or can help us purchase one, please call Carel @ 805-482-6587.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Do you know someone who needs financial assistance to spay/neuter a cat or dog? Please call Carel @ 805-482-6587.

MEET THE BOARD

I'm Melissa Mehring and I became one of the newest CPA Board members after accepting responsibility for Animal Issues.

I joined CPA in May 2007 after investigating a few other animal rescue organizations. CPA needed volunteers to walk the dogs they have available for adoption at All Pet Headquarters. I walked dogs and cared for cats at the store for several weeks, then gradually started volunteering to help out at street fairs, pick up food donations, take sick animals to vet appointments, and before I knew it I was fostering sick (but still adorable and amusing) kittens. It was the thick of kitten season and every time one of my fosters was healthy enough for adoption, there was another kitten with upper respiratory infection that required twice daily medicines and humidifier therapy.

Eventually I got my brood down to two kittens – Oscar, who had pneumonia and a collapsed lung, and Cora, who was terrified of people as a result of abuse and had been so infested with fleas that she was anemic. While all the fosters melted my heart, these two really grew on me and so they became permanent members of my family in October.

In addition to the hands-on animal care, I also wanted to lend some of my other skills to CPA. I began photographing our adoptable pets and posting them on Petfinder.com so they can be seen by more potential adoptive homes. Then I offered, with the help of my fiancé, to undertake revising and maintaining CPA's web site. The updated site is now live at:

www.concernedpeopleforanimals.org and we're continuing to add new content. I have also relieved Ami Gibson (CPA Idaho Division) of the responsibility for our newsletter. (Don't worry, she was really ready to pass it on!)

In 2008, I will continue developing the web site to support CPA's goal of improving and protecting the lives of cats, dogs, and other animals through education, action, and fellowship. The site will be updated to make it easier to order CPA's products and make donations online. And we will add resources to educate people about topics of particular concern to CPA (e.g., declawing, feral cats, and indoor/outdoor cats.)

I am proud to be a part of CPA and very thankful for all the members that make it possible to continue this important work on behalf of our communities' animal population.

Please donate your old cell phones to help us raise funds for the animals! *You keep the "chip" that stores your personal information and give us the phone.* Please call Carel @ 482-6587 for more info!

Mail cell phones to CPA or DROP OFF at one of the following locations:

- Camarillo: *All Pet Headquarters* Arneill & Las Posas
Camarillo Veterinary Hospital 258 Dawson Dr.
Happy Dog 501 Mobile Avenue
- Newbury Park: *Newbury Park Feed & Pet Supply* 67 N. Reino Rd.
- Oxnard: *Randy's Automotive* 278 Surfside Dr.
- Ventura: *Coldwell Banker/Joan Minster* 1190 S. Victoria

All Pet Headquarters

\$5.00 off

Full-Day K-9 Kastle Doggie Day Care
Expires 01/31/08

All Pet Headquarters

\$3.00 off

Purchase of \$25 or more
Expires 12/31/07



GINA G., DOG TRAINER

SHOTZIE, Part 2

I brought Shotzie home that day knowing almost nothing about her. The only information given to me was that she was two years old, her hips were not dysplastic and she was a police dog reject – she failed the tests to bite. I can't tell you exactly what I knew other than that it was simply years of experience that added up to a feeling.

After paying a lot of money for an untrained dog that had no history, I put her on a leash and took her to my car. I opened the hatch and she flew into the crate. Nice. Now I knew she was crate trained and comfortable in a car. We rode home quietly. No whining. No restlessness. So far so good. We hung out for a few days before training began just to get settled in and build a trust. She loved to play ball, inhaled her food, and never guarded a bone. She was careful yet courageous and loved all the other dogs in my home – male or female, big or small. I noticed a kindness and serenity that I haven't seen in many dogs I have trained. I could even trust her with my two pound Chihuahua.

I began to fall in love with her. The celebrity I bought her for claimed to be excited about her. But he called only once during her two months of training and never visited her. He never knew what she looked like until I delivered her to him at the end. I began to regret that he would be her owner. She was one in a million and deserved someone who would adore her. But this wasn't my dog and it wasn't my place to judge. He was a self proclaimed dog lover, had a beautiful home, two other friendly dogs, and a fulltime staff. She would be well taken care of. Or so I thought.

The day I delivered Shotzie to her new celebrity owner, I left with tears in my eyes. He refused to put her on a leash and told me that she should just know what to do because she had been trained professionally. He patted her head with a detachment I haven't ever seen and said she would be fine. I told him he needed to work with me so I could teach him how to be her leader. He refused. He didn't want a crate and insisted she be given full run of his mansion. This had to be a disaster. You just can't take any dog, even with years of training, and throw him into a new house without showing him the ropes. It's like dropping off a three year old in Disneyland without supervision.

So I planted a seed. I told him that if he wanted to return her I would happily buy her back. All money would be refunded. No questions asked. And then I prayed. I prayed for her to be loved and have a wonderful home. And I prayed that she would be returned to me if she wasn't happy.

Three months later I received a phone call. Would I really give all the money back? Shotzie had begun to act out. She was having accidents in the house and becoming destructive. She was anxious and unhappy. None of this behavior ever happened in my home.

I took her back as soon as his secretary called me. I can't begin to tell you how incredibly grateful I am that Shotzie is now part of my life. She is truly perfect. She's a great watchdog, friendly with children and strangers, wonderful with every dog, flawless in the house, in a car, in a crowd, loves to play, is calm and loving. The list is endless.

It's all about luck, patience, and timing. Life mysteriously delivers what we need when we need it. It's all good!

 **Meet CPA's Adoptable Pets** 

One of our greatest challenges is finding homes for adult pets. Although they are no longer little kittens or puppies, these special animals have plenty of personality and lots of love to share.

--If you're planning to adopt a new pet, please consider one of our adult cats or dogs.--

*Three adult **cats** looking for comfortable forever homes.*

Ceila is 1 year old, with black hair. She came to us with a litter of kittens. She is very sweet, talkative and outgoing.

Sammy is a 2 year old dilute tortie. She was rescued from the pound with a litter of kittens. She loves her cardboard scratching post and chasing a laser pointer beam. She would prefer to be an "only child" in a quiet home.

Violet is 2 years old, with medium white hair. She is a very loving cat, who patiently nursed her own kittens as well as several others who lost their mothers.

*Three **dogs** we rescued from the pound in July are still anxiously awaiting forever homes.*

Copper is a mixed breed (dachshund and Chihuahua?) He needs an active family with kids (8+ yrs old) and possibly another dog.

Rocky is a 3 year old, medium sized mixed breed (Chihuahua + ?). He would do best in a home with no small children.

Spot is a 2-3 year old mixed breed, (Jack Russell Terrier + Chihuahua?) Spot loves to play and go for walks.

For information about our adoptable pets, call Elisabeth @ 805-402-5450. While we hope these sweeties have found homes by the time you read the newsletter, you can always check our website -- www.concernedpeopleforanimals.org -- to see pictures and descriptions of our animals. All our pets are spayed/neutered, microchipped and vaccinated prior to adoption.

Concerned People for Animals, Inc.

a non-profit organization

Your donation of any amount and your membership to CPA means a lot to us and the animals!

Please consider CPA for your end-of-year charitable giving. All donations are tax-deductible.

Donation \$ _____ To be used for a Dog Cat Anywhere needed

Name _____	Average cost for a cat neuter... \$ 80
Address _____	Average cost for a cat spay... \$100
Phone _____	Average cost for a dog neuter... \$110
E-mail _____	Average cost for a dog spay... \$140
	Reducing the unwanted animal population... priceless

Our Wish List... Please help!

- Generator (Honda Super Quiet EU series)
- Live Humane Animal Traps
- Old Cell Phones
- Aluminum Cans
- White/Colored Copy Paper
- #10 Envelopes
- The New "Forever" Postage Stamp
- Monetary Donations to help needy animals
- Vehicles to Cars4Causes in CPA's name
- Laptop computer for making pet tags
- VOLUNTEERS!

_____ I'd like to volunteer! Please call me.

_____ I'd like to foster care a Dog Cat

Postage has increased... Please don't mail a 'thank you' letter

_____ My cancelled check will be my receipt

_____ Please e-mail a 'thank you' for my records (include e-mail)

Membership Type (please ✓ one)

_____ \$ 20 – Individual

_____ \$ 35 – Family

_____ \$ 50 – Friend

_____ \$100 – Supporter

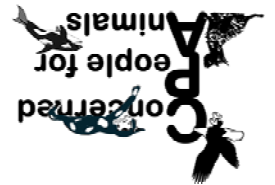
_____ \$250 – Lifetime member

Our address:
 Concerned People for Animals
 P.O. Box 632
 Somis, CA 93066
Our phone:
 805-482-6587

We are an all volunteer, non paid, non-profit organization.

100% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to helping animals! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Winter 2007



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 OXNARD, CA
 PERMIT NO. 185

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 P.O. Box 632
 Somis, CA 93066