

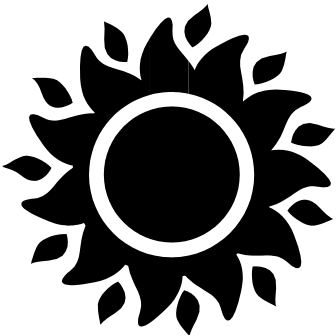
An all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to improving and protecting the lives of animals through action, education and fellowship.



**Quarterly Newsletter – Issue 47**

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805-482-6587 ■ [www.concernedpeopleforanimals.org](http://www.concernedpeopleforanimals.org) ■ PO Box 632 ■ Somis, CA 93066



**Summertime...** and the livin' isn't always easy. Many years ago my family went away on a 2 week summer vacation, leaving our cat Sam at home. A neighbor fed him twice a day, brought in the mail and paper – the usual. When we got home, Sam seemed listless, but we figured he was sulking about being left alone. One of the kids said there was salt all over the dining room table, and thought Sam had spilled it. I checked it out, and on closer inspection, realized it was not salt but flea larvae!!! Thousands of them!!! Turned out we were INFESTED! Poor Sam was indeed listless – he was severely anemic from all his flea bites. Needless to say, the house got vacuumed, fumigated, vacuumed, and vacuumed again. Sam was bathed – and the poor thing didn't even complain about it. We did finally get rid of the pests, but it took awhile, and we all did a lot of scratching. (This was long before Frontline, Advantage, etc. came on the scene.) The oddest thing about the whole episode was the fact that Sam was exclusively an indoor cat, and he was our only pet. The point to all this is that fleas multiply incredibly fast in hot weather, and can easily get out of hand. They can travel in from the front lawn on your shoes or clothing. They will bite anyone – the dog, the cat, the kids, even you. And they carry disease – tapeworm is the most common one.

Believe it or not, we (and Sam) actually got off easy. Flea bites are bad enough on their own, but some animals are allergic to them as well. This takes the itch factor to a whole new level of misery: as a result, the poor dog or cat chews and scratches incessantly. Often a "hot spot" develops; the skin becomes red and raw, and the fur falls out in the affected area. Once one of these get established it is very difficult to treat at home. Most veterinarians will treat hot spots with a combination of cortisone to reduce the inflammation, and an antibiotic to treat any possible infection. Both are typically given by injection.

But wait, there's more! Left untreated, especially in the case of a dog that is outdoors exclusively, these hot spots can take on a life of their own. Literally. Our volunteers at CPA have rescued dogs with hot spots that had become fly nurseries! Flies actually lay their eggs on the dog's skin and fur, which then hatch into maggots. The presence of maggots in a wound is not only disgusting, it is extremely dangerous to the host animal, increasing the risk of overwhelming infection, or sepsis.

Take preventative steps early on to prevent later misery. Talk to your veterinarian if you haven't already about one of the topical or oral treatments for fleas. They are safe when used correctly, and are very effective. (Just make sure your pet is not allergic to the product.) Your whole family will be much more comfortable this summer and fall.

**QUICK FACT:**

A cat can have her first litter as early as 5 months of age! That means that 5 months later, that litter is also capable of reproducing, and so on.

Cats reproduce very efficiently, usually having 4 to 6 kittens each time. That is why it is so important to spay and neuter them early, before they surprise you with a litter. CPA recommends that surgery be done before the age of 3 months.

**BOW-WOWS & MEOWS PET FAIR!**

Coming up sooner than you think! On Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, from 11AM to 4PM at William S. Hart Park, 24151 Newhall Ave (formerly San Fernando Rd) Newhall/Santa Clarita! What's going on there, you ask? Well, there will be cat and dog adoptions from the L.A. County Shelter (last year over 100 animals were adopted), about a gazillion vendor booths for your every need, and demonstrations by law enforcement K-9 search and rescue dogs (who are totally amazing)! And even more! The park is shaded by numerous old oak trees, the people and dogs you meet are friendly and fun, and you might even meet that special "bow-wow" or "meow-meow" that becomes your newest family member. Best of all?

**ADMISSION IS FREEEEEEEEEE!!!!**



**Need financial assistance to spay or neuter your pet? CPA can help!**

Please call for more information:

- Carel @ 805-482-6587 (Camarillo/Ventura County)
- Jackie @ 661-285-4719 (Palmdale area)
- Sandy @ 559-784-2628 (Porterville area)



**HEAR YE! HEAR YE!**

CPA needs a VERY dedicated volunteer to head up CPA's Ventura County cat adoption program. For many years Melissa Mehring has dedicated every Saturday and much of the rest of the week to this noble cause. However, time moves on, and Melissa will be starting nursing school this August. She has left some very big shoes to fill, but the right person is out there; it is just a matter of them finding us and vice versa. If you love cats, have a strong sense of responsibility and accountability, and feel comfortable directing other volunteers, oh boy have we got a job for you! You need to live close to a PetSmart, be good with people (and cats, of course) and be willing to be available, at least by phone, pretty much all the time. For more details please call Carel at 805-482-6587.



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**Chows aren't everyone's cup of tea, but for Chris and Natalie Alvarado (long time CPA members in Porterville) there is no other kind of dog. About a year ago Chris started looking for a Chow to rescue; he and Natalie had lost their previous Chows to old age, and missed having one in their lives. During an internet search, Chris stumbled on a shelter in Los Angeles. They had a Chow! Off he and Natalie went, driving over three hours, determined to make this Chow theirs. When they arrived at the shelter, both were horrified by the conditions the dogs were kept in. The "shelter" itself was a ramshackle building under a freeway overpass. The "neighbors" were homeless folks living in boxes, and the noise level from the traffic was deafening much of the time. The dogs were kept in four by eight foot chain link cages with floors of cement, and were walked outside twice a day for fifteen minutes each. Nevertheless, Chris asked to see the Chow; he was taken to a dog that was dirty, matted, and distrustful of every human he met. But when he looked in the dog's eyes, Chris saw potential. The decision was made on the spot, and Cubby went home with the Alvarados that afternoon. What Chris and Natalie found out about Cubby's history was enough to give them nightmares. He had been at the shelter for three and a half years; prior to that, he had been held at the Marina del Rey pound for almost a year! This five year old dog had spent all but the first six months of his life in a cage of some sort, with little human contact and no affection shown to him. Both Chris and Natalie realized that this was an emotionally damaged dog, and knew there would be serious issues with trust and behavior. The most pressing need was physical though. Cubby had not been bathed or groomed for over three years, and his fur was filthy and heavily matted. He was allowed to settle into his new home for three weeks before he was taken to the vet to be shaved down. Chris went to pick him up and found that underneath the mats were hot spots pretty much covering Cubby's body. Once Cubby had been sedated, the vet was able to remove over three pounds of hair from him. When Chris came into the room to get Cubby, he got his first positive response from the dog; Cubby wagged his tail, as if to say "thank you, I feel so much better".**

**Cubby has lived with the Alvarados for nearly a year now, and has made tremendous progress. He allows those people he knows (and approves of) to pat him on the head; he has learned that beds are wonderful places to sleep, especially if your people are there as well; and he has learned that walks and car rides are FUN! Instrumental in the dramatic changes in Cubby's behavior was the love and patience of Chris and Natalie, as well as the knowledge and guidance of a dog behavior specialist. He still has a way to go and much to learn, but compared to those first days out of the shelter when he wouldn't go inside the house, let anyone touch his head, or allow himself to be even minimally groomed, Cubby has made enormous progress. With Chris and Natalie by his side, gently guiding him, Cubby will continue to learn, trust, and love.**

## BEHIND THE SCENES

There is a lot of work that goes into running any organization. Most of the people that give their time to CPA never get any recognition for what they do, but, that is about to change!

### A BIG GIANT THANK YOU TO:

**Envelope Stampers** Effie in Simi Valley; Terri in Ojai; and Sandy C. in Porterville!

**Street Fair Workers** Joan Minster; Tonye Hurley; Rich Abbott; Elisabeth Myers; Amelia Dodge; Judy Cofer; Karen Bervert; Sarah Vauter; and last but not most certainly not least, veterinarian Song Chong!

**To all of our newsletter folders: We Love You!**

### NEW NAMES AND FACES:

**Judy Cofer**, voted Woman of the Year in 2011 by the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce, and recently retired Deputy Executive Director of the Oxnard Harbor District, has agreed to be our Corresponding Secretary. Thank you Judy!

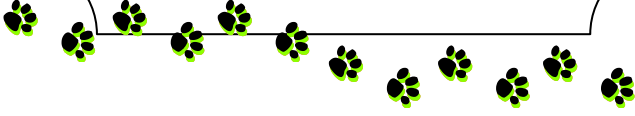
**Barbara Krohta** is our new webmaster. Check our website frequently so you can watch the changes as they happen. We are very excited to have Barbara join us. Hooray!

## See's Candy

Save \$1.90 per lb on standard boxed candy. Specialty items available as well; discount varies. Start thinking now for birthdays, Thanksgiving, even Christmas.

Candy and Gift Certificates always available.

Call Carel: 805-482-6587



**1259**

That's the number of cats and dogs CPA has helped to spay/neuter so far this year. This is only possible because of your generous donations. Thank you so much!

You really can make a difference. Please help dogs and cats in need. A tax deductible donation can be sent to:

CPA PO Box 632 Somis, CA 93066

~ or ~

online at:

[www.concernedpeopleforanimals.org](http://www.concernedpeopleforanimals.org)



**Alert!** Canine Parvo is a highly contagious, deadly disease, and is currently running rampant! Most dogs that contract it don't survive, and if they do, the vet bill is staggeringly high. Make sure your dogs are up to date on *all* their vaccinations. If you have a puppy, their immune system is not fully formed yet. Don't take them out to public places until their vaccinations are complete, and when you take them to the vet, hold your puppy in your lap. Please don't underestimate this horrible disease!

Find out more –  
call Carel @  
805-482-6587

## We Love Our Volunteers!

In fact, we would love to have some more volunteers! We need: Newsletter folders, feeders and scoopers for CPA's kitties at PetSmart, adoption event assistance at PetSmart, office workers, foster homes for dogs, and anything else you can think of.



## Cars 4 Causes !

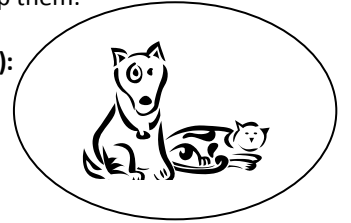
Have you got an old clunker sitting around? An extra car you don't need? Donate it to Cars 4 Causes and name CPA as your charity. In the past, CPA has received sizeable donations from this organization; we can certainly put these funds to good use, and you get a nice tax deduction!

## Renew your membership or become a new member.

Your donation of any amount and your membership means a lot to us and the animals! Help us help them.

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please ✓ one):

- \$20 – Individual
- \$35 – Family
- \$50 – Friend
- \$100 – Supporter
- \$250 – Lifetime Member



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

\_\_\_\_\_ My cancelled check will be my receipt

\_\_\_\_\_ Please e-mail a "thank you" for my records (include email)

## \$25 Microchip – Permanent identification for your Dog or Cat

Visible pet tags are the best way to ensure that your pet will be returned if they get lost. But if your pet loses its collar, microchip identification improves the chances that you'll be reunited with your lost pet. Call 805-732-8750 to schedule an appointment with Kelli.

## Save Lives and Reduce Pet Overpopulation

The California Pet Lover's Spay & Neuter license plate provides funding for free or low-cost spay & neuter surgeries across California, and helps to raise awareness about the importance of spaying and neutering.

To learn more and pre-order your plate, visit the CA Spay Plate website at [www.caspayplate.com](http://www.caspayplate.com)

## eBay for CPA

If you buy or sell on eBay, you can help support CPA through eBay's Giving Works program. Just select CPA as your beneficiary when you sell an item (you select the % donated) or add a donation to CPA when you buy an item.

## Donate to CPA, get a tax write-off

We are always looking for donations of dog and cat food, bedding, doghouses, toys and grooming items. Right now we are in need of a couple of working laptop computers, and three really **sturdy** card tables. They need to be strong enough to hold the tag making machine, which is pretty heavy, at street fairs and other away activities. Also, if you have some old gold lying around the house and don't want to bother taking it to a jewelry shop, send it to CPA – we can convert it to cash and put it to good use. All donations are acknowledged with a receipt for tax purposes.



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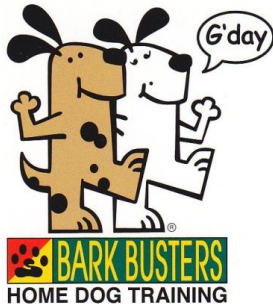
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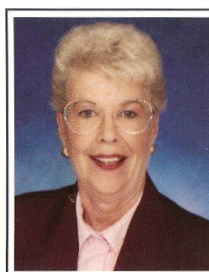
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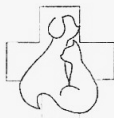
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