



# All Things Pawsible

FALL  
2024

## Celebrating 95 Years of Innovation

See inside to read more.



**3,600 animals** transferred from our 20+ partner shelters.

## Marty's Road to Recovery

When Marty, an 11-month-old Siberian husky mix, arrived at one of our local partner shelters, he was in pretty bad shape. In addition to some wounds on his legs, he was in major pain from an old fracture that had never healed properly. Based on the extent of his injuries, we presume he sustained some sort of trauma, likely getting hit by a car, and our shelter partner knew we could help.

In order to relieve the chronic pain associated with the non-repairable

fracture, we proceeded with a femoral head ostectomy (FHO) surgery. You may remember hearing that phrase in our last newsletter where we told you about Gavin, a puppy from Fresno who needed an FHO to treat his pelvic fracture. It's a fairly common procedure, but a very technical one, where the head and neck of the femur are removed, and the leg is sutured to create a "false joint."

Generous support from our community ensures we're able to take on FHO

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surgeries and other operations. This procedure entails precisely cutting a specific part of a major bone, and that requires resources many shelters don't have access to. "We are very privileged here at HSSV to have the necessary veterinary surgical skillset, equipment, amazing technician training, and analgesic support," said Dr. Tao, who performed Marty's surgery.

While most dogs do quite well following an FHO, Marty, unfortunately, did not recover as well as expected. The "false joint" formed in such a way that it left

little space between his leg and hip, resulting in continued bone-on-bone contact. While that's not the result we hoped for, we knew we weren't going to leave Marty in pain.

Dr. Tao proceeded with an amputation, so Marty could enjoy his life to the fullest without suffering from chronic pain. For animals in need like Marty or Gavin, we ensure they receive the best love and care possible, thanks to support from people like you. YOU make this exceptional level of care *pawsible!*

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## Donor Spotlight: Andie Sobrato, HSSV Board Member



Andie, her husband John, and their two pups.

*"Supporting HSSV is so much more than just supporting a shelter. By supporting the programs that are helping the community, we're actually helping our neighborhoods thrive. Offering this suite of services helps us uplift the most vulnerable in our community. My husband and I have been proud donors of HSSV for five years and we are thrilled to support this organization and all its great work."*

## 95 Years of Innovation: An Oral History

To celebrate reaching this milestone, we asked President Kurt Krukenberg to talk about the evolution of Humane Society Silicon Valley.

1929

### The beginning

*"We were founded as the Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley — a sanctuary for retired horses. For decades, our primary function was animal control."*



# An Update on Chloe and Robert

Do you remember Chloe, the long-haired yorkie who was brought to one of our mobile clinics by her owner Robert\*? When we first met them, Robert was living in permanent supportive housing after caring for his own medical needs, and he wasn't able to afford a groomer for Chloe anymore. Nervous that we'd take Chloe from him, he was reluctant to let us bring Chloe to our onsite clinic for a shave and a spay.

That's a common worry we get from pet owners who are going through a hard time. *But that is never something we'll do.* We work with pet owners on their schedules to ensure they have everything they need — from low-cost medical care to pet food, or in Robert's specific case, a grooming kit.

In trusting us with Chloe, Robert became her hero. Chloe's coat requires constant maintenance and grooming. By shaving her fur, we removed her mats and set



*Chloe before and after*

Robert up to groom her himself. But most importantly, it helped us see something we weren't able to before...

Chloe had an infection in her leg that was so deep, it went down into some of the bones in her paw. She was at risk of bacteria in her bloodstream, sepsis, and ultimately — if left untreated — death. The infection was so severe that we had no choice but to amputate her leg.

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**2001**

**Changed our name to HSSV**

*"In the early 2000s, we made a strategic shift from protecting people to rescuing animals. This is the foundation of our lifesaving mission."*

**2009**

**Opened our Animal Community Center**

*"The first shelter of its kind, our Detkin/Oates Center changed the paradigm from warehousing animals to being a safe and welcoming place for pets and people."*

**2017**

**Became the first Model Shelter in the country**

*"Using new guidelines from the Association of Shelter Veterinarians as a blueprint, we ensure animals stay as healthy as possible on their journey to a loving home."*

But in doing so, we saved her life and gave her and Robert more time together.

We're very happy to say that Chloe and Robert are doing great! He recently brought her back in to get her spayed, and we took the opportunity to clean her teeth and give her another haircut.

HSSV is committed to keeping pets in the arms of the people who love them. That's why access to veterinary care is at the heart of our Community Programs. Each week, we host free mobile clinics at supportive housing sites, homeless encampments, and community centers throughout the area. Services include spay/

neuter surgeries, wellness exams, core vaccines, microchips, and more. This past year, we performed 700 free or low cost spay/neuter surgeries for animals just like Chloe, and are on track to continue helping more animals in our community in the year ahead.

Did you know our monthly supporters help ensure happy tails like Chloe's and Robert's?

**4,200 animals – and their families**  
– were served through our access to care programs this year.

*\*We've changed the name of Chloe's owner for his privacy.*

## Are you our next Faithful Friend?

Your monthly gift supports animals in need all year long. Monthly giving is the easiest, most cost-effective way to ensure reliable funding for every animal that comes through our doors.

Learn more: [hssv.org/faithful-friends](https://hssv.org/faithful-friends)

## — Now: Reaching beyond our walls

*"Looking to the future, we will continue to expand our impact by saving more animals, keeping vulnerable families together, and helping shelters across the nation do the same."*

**Without people like you by our side for the last 95 years, none of this would be possible. Thank you!**



# Changing the Game

You've heard us talk about Changing the Game, but what is it?

Changing the Game is HSSV's initiative to transform animal welfare on a national scale by building a foundation for sustainable, widespread improvements in shelters. One of the ways we do this is by creating opportunities for potential veterinary professionals of all levels to enter and work in shelter medicine. The need for more staff trained in shelter medicine has grown tremendously, but the number of qualified individuals in the field has declined.

That's why HSSV has jumped into action, breaking down barriers through workforce development programs that help address the national shortage of animal welfare employees.

And these programs are working! Our LEAP Internship program is in its second year with a 12-week animal shelter-focused training program for high school graduates. Interns have the opportunity to learn from highly skilled staff in our multi-doctor state-of-the-art medical center, gain familiarity with in-house diagnostics,

digital radiography, critical care, internal medicine, surgery, and community medicine, as well as shadow and work hands-on in veterinary services and shelter operations.

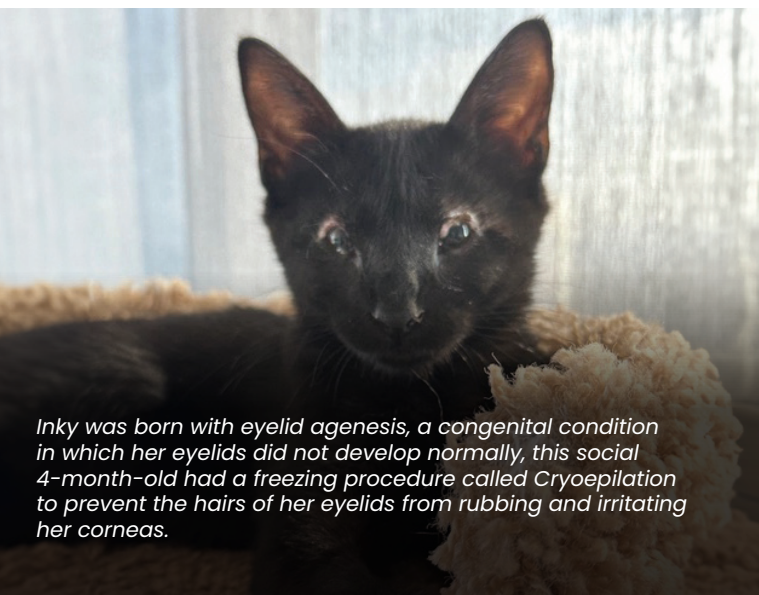


*LEAP intern Destiny receives guidance from Kyra.*

After last year's program, we even hired Kyra, a LEAP Intern, as a full-time Veterinary Assistant. Now, Kyra is offering guidance to this year's cohort of interns.

Changing the Game programs are generously made possible by: Severns Family Foundation, Simon-Strauss Foundation, and Travers Family Foundation.

**Learn more:** [hssv.org/CTG-blog](https://hssv.org/CTG-blog)



*Inky was born with eyelid agenesis, a congenital condition in which her eyelids did not develop normally, this social 4-month-old had a freezing procedure called Cryoepilation to prevent the hairs of her eyelids from rubbing and irritating her corneas.*

## Please Give Today

Your support saves lives like Inky's, keeps families together, and creates a better future for pets and their people.



Scan to give online:  
[hssv.org/gift](https://hssv.org/gift)



# This Is Your Impact

People like you make our mission possible: to save lives, keep families together, and create a better future for pets and their people. We are immensely grateful for the impact we made together in FY24. Check out your impact!

**2.5x**

increase in shelter capacity through success of our foster program

**4,000**

animals cared for by 800 foster homes

**5,800**

loving homes found

**8,900**

animals spayed and neutered

**4,200**

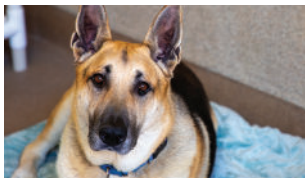
pets received medical care through 150 mobile clinics

**1,300,000**

Pet Pantry meals served this year

## Get Involved

You are an important part of our community! Looking to do more for the animals? Here are a few ways to get involved:



### Donate

Make a tax-deductible gift that saves lives with a ripple effect across California.



### Volunteer

Share your time and give some of our animals extra love and attention.



### Foster

Join our network of foster families and be there for animals when they need you most.



### Feed Pets

Support your neighbors in need by stocking our Pet Pantry with food for their pets.

Visit our website to learn more: [hssv.org](https://hssv.org)

**Peter Detkin and Michelle Oates Detkin**  
**Animal Community Center**  
901 Ames Avenue  
Milpitas, CA 95035  
408-262-2133

**West San Jose Neighborhood**  
**Adoption Center in PETCO**  
500 El Paseo de Saratoga  
San Jose, CA 95130

Get social with us!



@humanesocietysv

To find out service availability, visit [hssv.org/hourslocations](https://hssv.org/hourslocations)



We always use donations wisely. Humane Society Silicon Valley is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Our tax ID is: 94-1196215