

Placer SPCA Press Release

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Timber the Cat Swims Her Way in to Our Hearts

When Timber was surrendered she had an abnormality in both of her knees called a luxating patella. In short, this means that her knee caps kept popping out of place every time she walked. This condition can cause significant complications the longer it goes on, including severe arthritis and lowered quality of life. Click this link to see Timber walking with [luxating patellas](#).

Timber received a life-changing surgery to correct her knee defects, performed by a local veterinary specialist surgeon. Timber's complex surgery was funded by donations from generous donors to the Placer SPCA Guardian Angel program, which was established to help special needs animals receive the care and attention they need before finding their new home. The program covers expenses associated with life-saving surgeries along with lab work, x-rays, biopsies, dental work, and other diagnostic tests and non-routine procedures.

The surgery may have corrected her knee defects, however, Timber still had a long way to go in order to regain her strength and learn how to walk all over again. During a nine-week-long recovery process, Timber worked hard to be ready for her new home. She persevered through one to two weekly hydrotherapy sessions in the water treadmill. Leilani Fratis CEO states, "it is unusual for an animal welfare organization to have access to this elaborate piece of rehabilitation equipment, but we thought it was an important tool for the medical and behavioral well-being of our animals. A family foundation agreed and funded the purchase".

The water treadmill helped to alleviate her discomfort during the rehabilitation process and promote healing. The buoyancy of the water supported Timber's weight, allowing her to comfortably regain her full range of motion in the back legs while building back any muscle atrophy that occurred pre/post-surgery. In no time Timber was up and about, walking pain-free for the first time in her life. She even lost some weight in the process, helping increase her mobility even further.

During her time at Placer SPCA, Timber has become a favorite among staff and volunteers. Her journey has been closely followed by her many supporters, with weekly updates shared by her recovery team. Timber even made herself a bit of a local celebrity when she was featured on social media, where she showed off her water treadmill skills for the camera. Click this link to see Timber in the [water treadmill](#).

Now, after so much patience and hard work, Timber is ready to find the forever home she has been waiting for. This sweet girl is very active and curious. She likes to play and is highly food motivated. She would do best in a home with no other animals and older children since she prefers to keep her paws on the ground.

If you think Timber would be a good match for your family, please contact the Placer SPCA at (916) 782-7722 or visit placerspca.org.

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*****Opportunities for great live video of Timber exercising in the water treadmill or in-person visits.**



About Placer SPCA

Founded in 1973, the Placer SPCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of companion animals and supporting the human-animal bond. Today, we are the largest and most comprehensive nonprofit animal welfare provider in Placer County. In 2018 the Placer SPCA opened a best in animal welfare practices Adoption & Education Center and can house up to 4,000 animals annually. The Placer SPCA continues to grow and provide many innovative programs to enhance animal well-being and improve adoptability, such as: environmental enrichment and socialization strategies, behavior modification counseling and training, foster care, and mobile adoption. We also work closely with the community to provide adoption counseling, pet retention services, spay/neuter assistance and education, pet lost and found, humane education, collaborative rescue efforts, and volunteer opportunities.