

# PLACER SPCA COMPANION Connection



## Hamlet's Happy Tail!

FROM SHELTER LIFE  
TO INSTAGRAM FAME

see page 5

## Raj Gives Back

A PLACER SPCA ALUM STORY

see page 7



see page 4



PLACER  
SPCA  
presents



# Guardian Angel Gala

formerly Funny Bones

## Save the Date!



MARCH 7, 2024  
5:30-9:30 PM

Sun City Roseville's  
Timber Creek  
Ballroom

### OUR MISSION

The mission of Placer SPCA is to enhance the lives of companion animals and support the human-animal bond.

### VISIT US

#### Adoption & Education Center

200 Tahoe Avenue, Roseville, CA 95678  
(916) 782-7722  
[www.placerspca.org](http://www.placerspca.org)

#### Intake Center

150 Corporation Yard Road, Roseville, CA 95678  
(916) 782-7722

#### Pet Adoption & Resource Center

1482 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn, CA 95603  
(916) 782-7722 (CLOSED TO PUBLIC)

#### Pet Food Express - Satellite Cat Adoption Center

1009 Galleria Boulevard, Roseville, CA 95678

### MEET OUR STAFF

#### Chief Executive Officer

Leilani Fratis | [leilanif@placerspca.org](mailto:leilanif@placerspca.org)

#### Executive Assistant

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#### Chief Operating Officer

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#### Director of Development & Marketing

Connie Franklin | [connief@placerspca.org](mailto:connief@placerspca.org)

#### Chief of Veterinary Services

Dr. Lea Early-Thompson | [leae@placerspca.org](mailto:leae@placerspca.org)

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#### Special Events Manager

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#### Marketing Manager

Shannon Smith | [shannons@placerspca.org](mailto:shannons@placerspca.org)

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Dr. Jay Griffiths | Veterinarian

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Tara Simpson | ABC10

Leilani Fratis | CEO, Placer SPCA

*The Placer SPCA is a 501(c)(3) organization, federal tax ID #94-2607682. We are not affiliated with any other entity and do not receive funding through the ASPCA or HSUS.*



**Skunk**  
Adopted 2023

### IN THIS ISSUE...

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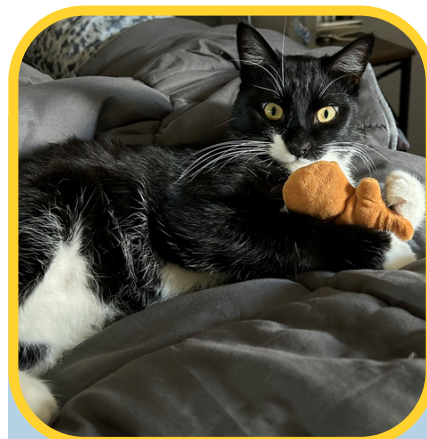
Follow us!



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placerspca.org



### #WHEREARETHEYNOW

#### Skunk

(aka: Skunky, Skunkers)

(adoption picture on the left)

We are absolutely loving Skunk. He has two sides; a super energetic and playful side and a cuddly, loving side. He also LOVES his two kitty cat brothers! They play all day and chase each other around the house and up and down the stairs.



## SAVE THE DATE

# 3.7

Placer SPCA's  
Guardian Angel Gala  
(formerly Funny Bones)

# 5.2



**Zuku**

Adopted 2023

## A Message From Leilani

Dear Friend,

Recently this quote by Margaret Meade has been on my mind, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has." It comes to mind because I see this happening every day at Placer SPCA. I see it in the volunteers who show up to walk dogs, socialize cats and critters, do laundry or address envelopes, in the many community organizations and businesses who go out of their way to run donation drives, and countless other ways our community helps companion animals in need. Our community cares, and it's evident they believe homeless and abandoned animals should have safe shelter, medical care, food, and loving homes. All of these actions are changing the world for the dogs, cats, and critters who depend on us for the love and care they need and deserve, and I am beyond grateful for your compassion.

Last year, as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary I was inspired seeing and speaking with so many of you at the celebrations held throughout the year. We saw a record breaking attendance of nearly 500 guests at our 50th Anniversary Holiday Open House in December! I am thrilled to share, that because of supporters like you, the end of the year shined upon our plans for the new Veterinary and Foster Care Center. We anticipate that the coming months will bring exciting new developments.

In this edition of **Companion Connection**, I invite you to read about a few of our thriving Placer SPCA alum dogs; see Hamlet's happy tail on page 5, and take a 'then and now' look at Raj on page 7. Do you know an animal that has done great things for people, or people who have done great things for animals? See page 4 for information about our Guardian Angel Gala (formerly Funny Bones), happening March 7, 2024 at Sun City Roseville's Timber Creek Ballroom, and submit your nominations for the Placer SPCA Hero Awards (learn more on page 6).

As always, I am incredibly thankful to the board, volunteers, and staff of Placer SPCA, as well as our many generous supporters. Thank you for all that you do to help ensure that we are able to help displaced, homeless, and abandoned pets throughout our region and beyond.

Sincerely,

*Leilani Fratis*

Leilani Fratis  
Chief Executive Officer

PLACER  
SPCA  
presents  
Guardian Angel Gala  
*Celebrating Happy Tails  
& Meowgical Endings*

MARCH 7, 2024  
5:30-9:30PM

Sun City Roseville's  
Timber Creek Ballroom  
7050 Del Webb Blvd, Roseville, CA 95747

TICKETS &  
SPONSOR  
OPTIONS  
NOW  
AVAILABLE!

COCKTAILS  
& DINNER

AWARDS  
CEREMONY

LIVE & SILENT  
AUCTION

MAGIC  
SHOW

**TICKETS:**

\$125 per Individual | \$1,000 for a Table of 10

**SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES:**

- \$ 7,500 Spawlight | VIP Seating & Private Table for 10
- \$ 5,000 Abra-Cat-Dabra! | VIP Seating for 8
- \$ 3,000 Paw-Inspiring (Hero Awards) | VIP Seating for 6
- \$ 1,500 Rabbit In A Hat | VIP Seating for 4
- \$ 250 Bippity-Barkity-Boo | Seats Not Included

Questions? Contact Kristine Davis, Events Manager  
at [kristined@placerspca.org](mailto:kristined@placerspca.org)  
or call (916) 872-6163



[placerspca.org/gala](http://placerspca.org/gala)



All proceeds benefit Placer SPCA. We are not affiliated with any other entity and do not receive donations from the ASPCA.

## Ways to Give

### RECYCLE WITH US

Intake Center

150 Corporation Yard Rd., Roseville  
Drop off your California Redemption Value (CRV) recyclables in our recycling bins. Open daily from 8:00am-4:30pm.

### DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

Call 855-500-RIDE (885-500-7433)

Your vehicle donation will be picked up for free and with no inconvenience to you.

### LEAVE A LEGACY

[placerspca.org/giving](http://placerspca.org/giving)

Our Circle of Hope Legacy Society members have included Placer SPCA in their will, trust, or estate plan, and have notified us of their intentions.

### GUARDIAN ANGEL PROGRAM

[placerspca.org/angels](http://placerspca.org/angels)

The Guardian Angel Program helps treat conditions, various infections, and covers veterinary expenses for treatment of injuries, diagnostic tests, and life-saving surgeries.

### CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

[placerspca.org/partners](http://placerspca.org/partners)

By becoming a Corporate Partner your investment in Placer SPCA is an investment in the community. Your partnership will help fulfill your company's marketing goals by providing year-long recognition in print, at a variety of venues, on the Placer SPCA website, and more!

### DONATE NOW

[placerspca.org/donate](http://placerspca.org/donate)

Placer SPCA relies on individual donations from animal lovers like you in order to offer the wide variety of programs and services for animals and pet owners in Placer County. (We are not affiliated with any other entity and do not receive funding through the ASPCA or HSUS.)

### BUY A BRICK

[placerspca.org/buyabrick](http://placerspca.org/buyabrick)

Purchase a personalized brick at our Adoption & Education Center and your unique message will forever be displayed in the pathway leading to the front of our best in animal welfare practices facility.

### HONOR A LOVED ONE

[placerspca.org/give](http://placerspca.org/give)

Honor friends and loved ones with a donation in their name. We will send a card on your behalf to those you honor.





# Puparazzi Alert! Hamlet's Happy Tail

Hamlet has one of the coolest 'happy tails' since leaving shelter life behind. As a matter of fact, it's as if he was destined for fame; evident by his keen fashion sense, contest wins, and his very own Instagram account with over 22,100 followers (and counting)!

We're some of Hamlet's biggest 'puparazzi' and it's been pawsome to see how far he's come since leaving Placer SPCA in 2020. Hamlet, who was once homeless, is now living his best life with his wonderful dog mom, April. You'll want to read on as we caught up with April to learn more about Hamlet's fun-filled life after adoption.

## **PSPCA: How did you know Hamlet was the dog for you?**

**April:** I had seen Hamlet's sweet face on Placer SPCA's website and despite being adamant that I would 'never get another dog' after losing my rescue dog, Mylee — I knew instantly that he was meant to be my dog. I made an appointment to meet him as soon as the shelter opened and adopted him the next day.

## **PSPCA: How did Hamlet become an Instagram sensation?**

**April:** My best friend suggested I make Hammy an Instagram account to help keep my mind off having lost Mylee. I created it thinking that no one would follow some random dog, but almost instantly, he had hundreds... and then thousands of followers. In the same month that we made his Instagram account, we entered an America's Favorite Pet competition and out of thousands and thousands of dogs, Hamlet took third place and was featured in "Dogster Magazine".

## **PSPCA: Tell us how Hamlet got a stuffed animal created that looks just like him.**

**April:** Hamlet was entered into the Pibborafi Rescue Heroes contest, where three rescue dogs would be chosen to be made into a stuffie. It was in the voter's hands, and they chose Hammy as one of the winners! His stuffed animal is still up for sale on the Pibborafi® website and 30% of net proceeds goes to a rescue helping bully dogs in dire need of medical treatment and placement.

## **PSPCA: What's next for Hamlet?**

**April:** I can't give out too many secrets, but he always has a big surprise waiting around the corner! Follow his Instagram (@hamlet\_the\_rescue) to keep up with what he has in store next (and to see what he's wearing)!

Hamlet is a huge fan of 'pupcups' and you may find him at a local coffee shop (that's where one of our volunteers ran into him and learned about his stuffie contest). Another fun fact, Hamlet picks his own outfits! April says, "I empty his bin of clothes and hats and say 'pick a shirt' and 'pick a hat' and he will nudge one of each!" April gushes, "Hamlet is the definition of love and loyalty, he is family. He is funny, smart, and he loves absolutely everyone that he meets." Placer SPCA is cheering you on, Hamlet!

*(Photos courtesy of Hamlet's Instagram page: @hamlet-the-rescue.)*

## #WHEREARETHEYNOW

"Tarzan (now Finn) and Jane (now Sushi) love their new home and me! They love playing, exploring the house (especially when I redecorate), and cuddling. Sushi is very brave and smart, and Finn is quite the silly momma's boy. They both love curling up on or next to me when I am reading or watching TV. They really are great companions."



*Sushi & Finn*

Adopted 2023

COMPANION CONNECTION | 5

# Know a Hero?

Do you know an animal that has done great things for people, or people who have done great things for animals? We want to hear about them!

Every year, we honor people, animals, businesses and/or organizations that have gone above and beyond to demonstrate how strong the human-animal bond is with **Placer SPCA Hero Awards**.

Hero Awards presented at:



MARCH 7, 2024  
5:30-9:30 PM

Sun City Roseville's Timber Creek Ballroom  
7050 Del Webb Blvd, Roseville, CA 95747

*Questions? Contact Connie Franklin at (916) 872-6162 or email [funddevelopment@placerspca.org](mailto:funddevelopment@placerspca.org). Please submit your nomination by 2/19 by visiting our website or you can complete a form in person at Placer SPCA's Adoption Center (200 Tahoe Ave., Roseville, CA 95678).*



Enzo passed the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test just one year after being adopted. He went on to pass the Urban CGC test and began visiting high school students in their classrooms, where he helps to reduce their stress. Enzo was a **2023 Hero Award recipient** for his positive impact in the community.



Dr. Briana Hamamoto is a local equine veterinarian who volunteered to help during the 2022 Mosquito Fire. She performed on-site exams and check-ups twice a day to around 200 animals temporarily sheltered at the Gold Country Fairgrounds. Dr. Hamamoto was a **2023 Hero Award recipient** for her heroic work during the Mosquito Fire.



Submit your  
nomination at  
[placerspca.org/gala](http://placerspca.org/gala)

## Paw Club

Paw Club donors are recognized for their unrestricted annual donations that help us provide care for the many animals in need. Listed with permission.

### GOLD (\$10,000 & up)

Colin Grahl & Karen Hauber Grahl  
George and Danielle Carpenter  
Jeannette & Kent Liebman  
Ron & Jane Bailey

### SILVER (\$5,000 & up)

Bob & Betty Steinhart  
Deborah & Richard Smith  
Dr. Robert and Dawn Gould  
Elizabeth Laverty & Kevin Williamson  
Helen Hammes  
Jon & Gabrielle Self  
Kent Frkovich  
Meredith Lattin  
Youn Suk & DK Matthews

### BRONZE (\$1,000 & up)

Anne Hauber  
Barbara & Alan Lowe  
Barbara Crowther  
Betty Shepherd  
Betty Wren  
Bonnie Ball  
Bruce & Barbara Haramoto  
Carol & Harrison Clark  
Carol Risley  
Carol Zerbo  
Chuck & Susan Nelson  
Dan Rogers & Jean Cole  
David Ketchum  
David Lutz  
Dennis & Rose Forbes  
Donna & Paul Estridge  
Jeff Youngman  
Jim & Debbie Hudson

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Robin Barnes  
Ronald Merrill  
Roween Nacionales  
Ruth E. Costa  
Sandra S. Anderson  
Sue Worrall



*Jolene*  
Adopted 2023

...and many other  
anonymous donors



# Raj Gives Back! A Then & Now Look at a PSPCA Alum

then



now



You may recognize Raj, he's been an unofficial part of the Placer SPCA team since being adopted in March 2016 by our Director of Programs and Volunteers, Tami Schmitz. Raj's resume includes TV and community appearances, humane education, and more! He's come a long way since being picked up eight years ago by Sarah Cooper, Roseville ACO (pictured to the left). We asked Tami to share how Raj leaped into her arms, and her heart.

Tami was looking for a very social and outgoing dog to be her companion and co-worker for Placer SPCA's Humane Education program. She shared, "Our Animal Behavior Manager told me about a stray that came in, and that she thought he would be a good match for me. As soon as we locked eyes, I knew he was the one."

Tami said, "Raj inspires me to look for the good in people and in life. He's a constant reminder that we all just need a helping paw and a shoulder to lean on at times. He's touched many people's hearts through his work in Humane Education at Placer SPCA, and at Love on a Leash Dog Therapy where he would sit and listen to people's stories. He has a sense of knowing when someone needs a little attention and he leans into them."

Raj is now semi-retired and enjoying his time by napping, kayaking, hiking, spending time with friends and family, and teaching his dog sister, Lumen, to be a good girl.

## Circle of Hope: Legacy Society

Circle of Hope members have included Placer SPCA in their will, trust or estate plan, and have informed us of their intention.

Ann Palmer  
Anne Hauber  
Barbara Benedict  
Barbara Pope  
Barbara Smookler  
Beverly Lewis & Gregg Hutchison  
Bill & Nancie Radakovitz  
Carol Cope  
Carol Zerbo  
Carole Haskell  
Carolyn Eakin  
Carolyn Hemig  
Cathi Meyers & Laura Brown  
Charlene Michelson  
Charlie & Christie Harrison  
Colin Grahl & Karen Hauber Grahl  
Colleen & John Valentine  
Colleen Watters  
Constance Detweiler  
Creighton & Nancy Fong  
Dale & Faye Bright  
Dan & Evelyn Jensen  
David Crawford  
David Ketchum  
David E. & Lora L. Masche  
David Tavernetti

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Debra Cartwright  
Dennis & Rose Forbes  
Diane Vincent  
Doug & Rita Wagemann  
Dr. David & Bonnie Verhaag  
Dr. Robert & Dawn Gould  
Elizabeth Laverty & Kevin Williamson  
Eric & Denise Fiddymont  
Gary & Susan Gutowsky  
Gary Wraa  
Gerald Bice  
Gwen Knittweis  
Hilde A. Harris  
In Memory of  
Raymond Leroy Richardson  
Jack & Gale Wright  
Jacqueline Healing-Groff  
Janet Clark  
Jeannette & Kent Liebman  
Jennifer Crisologo  
Jey & Lynn Yelland  
Jim & Judi Gray  
Jim Lawrence & Lucinda Chipponeri  
Joanne Lozenski

John & Gerlinde Millar  
Judi & Leonard Bruckman  
Katherine Dona  
Kent Frkovich  
Kimberley Silvers & Sheila Cardno  
Larry & Patricia Payne  
Launi Cooper  
LeeAnn & Lonnie Dickson  
Leilani & Steve Fratis  
Linda Holt-Martin & Ken Martin  
Lynn & Michael Dean  
Lynn L. Reeves  
Lynn Levitt  
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Marie Smith  
Marilyn Kennedy  
Marlene Stoner  
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Mary Groesbeck  
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Meredith Lattin  
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Nancy Lackemacher

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Pamela Franklin  
Pamela and Thomas Coulter  
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Sabrina Horat  
Scott & Rochelle Butera  
Sharon Brown  
Shirley Norling  
Steve & Jennifer Speak  
Steven & MaryAnn Clerici  
Susan & Michael Jacobson  
Susan & Pete Willson  
Sybil Slavin  
The Smith Family Trust/Robert G. & Claudia K. Smith  
Valerie Story  
William & Jennifer Helgren

Listed with permission.



200 Tahoe Avenue  
Roseville, CA 95678

**SAVE THE DATE**  
SUPPORT PLACER SPCA ON

**Big Day of Giving**  
MAY 2

HELP US GO GREEN: WANT TO RECEIVE  
YOUR COMPANION CONNECTION  
NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY? EMAIL  
US AT [MARKETING@PLACERSPCA.ORG](mailto:MARKETING@PLACERSPCA.ORG).  
THANK YOU

## Thank you, Corporate Partners

Corporate Partners make a year-long commitment to the Placer SPCA and receive marketing benefits at special events, in printed materials, and more. Interested in becoming a Corporate Partner? Contact our Development Department at [funddevelopment@placerspca.org](mailto:funddevelopment@placerspca.org).

### Corporate Champions



### Corporate Advocates



### Corporate Supporters

