



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco Bay Area Veterinarian Wins Jefferson Public Service Award

Berkeley Humane Medical Director Recognized by National Public Service Nonprofit for Her Work in Northern California and Across the Pacific

BERKELEY, Calif. – May 3, 2019 – Today [Berkeley Humane](#), the East Bay’s premier shelter and adoption center providing life-saving programs for cats and dogs with the goal of strengthening the animal-human bond, announced its medical department head Dr. Crystal Heath was recognized as a Jefferson Award winner for her public service by the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of [Multiplying Good](#). The Jefferson Award for Public Service elevates individuals who go above and beyond to make an impact in the community and whose actions inspire others to action. For over four decades Multiplying Good, formerly known as the Jefferson Awards Foundation, has recognized people in communities across the country who represent the good that is happening in communities across the nation.

“Dr. Heath brings her passion for animal welfare to the many programs and events she touches at Berkeley Humane,” says Berkeley Humane Executive Director Jeffrey Zerwekh. “She is a shining example of our staff’s dedication to serving the local and broader community. Her work at Berkeley Humane, in the greater Bay Area – and as far as Fiji – helps provide many thousands of dogs and cats a far greater opportunity to live long and fruitful lives.”

A graduate of the U.C. Davis veterinary school, where she received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, she obtained her B.S in Animal Science there. Dr. Heath has worked as a veterinarian for public shelters and private animal welfare organizations all across Northern California. Throughout her career she has spayed and neutered over 20,000 animals. She has worked for more than three years with Berkeley Humane and heads up the shelter’s [Spay the Bay](#) program, which offers low-cost spay and neuter services for dogs and cats to reduce improve the health and reduce overpopulation of dogs and cats in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is also the founder of [Vet Harmony](#), a web portal that aims to improve the welfare of animals by increasing public knowledge of veterinary medical topics such as pet food, dental disease, and preventative medicine, as well as raising public awareness for animal welfare.

“Immediately upon hearing about Dr. Heath’s work and passion for animals, I was inspired,” KPIX anchor Allen Martin said after [interviewing the award-winning veterinarian](#). “The Jefferson Award honors individuals that prompt action and change in their community and Dr. Heath is a perfect ambassador and is certainly worthy of praise.”

Recently, Dr. Heath journeyed across the Pacific to Suva, Fiji to assist [SPCA Fiji Islands](#) in their effort to spay and neuter a large population of cats and dogs and teach students modern medical practices to help stem significant pet overpopulation. In collaboration with other veterinarians from around the world, she took part in a “SPAYcation,” announced in a separate press release. Dr. Heath’s work with SPCA Fiji brought Berkeley Humane’s mission – to serve the people and animals of communities by providing life-

saving programs for cats and dogs, cultivating compassion and strengthening the human-animal bond – to the broader world community.

“I’m truly honored to be a Jefferson Award winner. I have dedicated my life to improving the lives of animals and I’m fortunate to work with the amazing team at Berkeley Humane to provide the best care possible for all of the dogs and cats we see come through our shelter. The opportunity to bring our medical approach to the animals of Fiji was particularly special and I look forward to engaging in more such activities in the future, sharing the knowledge, experience and compassion wherever animals need it most,” Dr. Crystal Heath said.

See Dr. Crystal Heath on TV

View the recent TV interview with Dr. Heath discussing her love of animals and life’s work to reduce animal suffering, [here](#).

Learn more about Berkeley Humane programs and events

- [Spay the Bay](#)
- [Empty the Shelters](#)
- [Berkeley Humane Pints for Paws](#)
- [Clear the Shelters](#)

About Berkeley Humane

The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society (Berkeley Humane) has origins dating back to 1895. Today, Berkeley Humane serves the people and animals of our community by providing life-saving programs for cats and dogs, cultivating compassion, and strengthening the human-animal bond. With the support of our community and a dedicated, talented team of volunteers and staff, Berkeley Humane transports animals from municipals shelters who are often in need of medical care, improved nutrition, training, and lots of love. In 2018, Berkeley Humane found homes for over 1100 dogs and cats and touched the lives of over 1000 additional pets through our programs and services. Learn more at www.berkeleyhumane.org.

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