

**LOLA**

"As soon as I saw her picture... I knew she belonged with me. I immediately went...and adopted her."

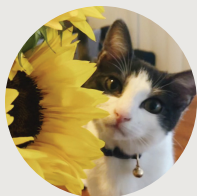
-Lola's Adopter



**BOWIE**

"I'm so in love with my dog! He's my new best friend!"

-Bowie's Adopter



**NOVA**

"We adopted Nova... and she immediately became part of our family. She loves her playtime... but she also loves cuddling."

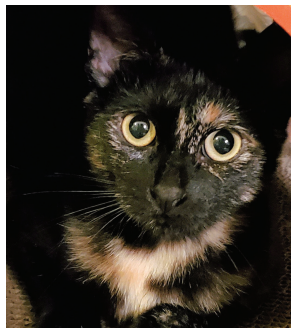
-Nova's Adopter

# Together We Save Pets

Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society  
Impact Newsletter | Spring 2021

## Fleeing a Wildfire with Eight Babies in Tow

Responding to a desperate call for help from an overcrowded shelter, our team rushed up I-5 to Butte County. It was September, and California was suffering from several raging wildfires. Sadly, by now we have years of experience working with local shelters in need of fire rescue. Because of your donations, we're able to jump on the road as soon as disaster strikes.



We loaded 21 cats and dogs, including Kate and 8 very young kittens. Four of the kittens were colored just like Kate, while the other four were very much not! This young mother had accepted four abandoned babies as her own, doubling her family size and nursing schedule. When Kate + 8 arrived at Berkeley Humane, our staff, volunteers, and fosters were eager to help. Because of your support, the kittens received care while Kate got a well-deserved nap.

Kate's eight kittens—Acht, Atte, Ocho, Oito Infinity, Huit, Otto, and August—were all healthy and active, but still much too young to be adopted. With your donations, our dedicated fosters had everything they needed—nutritious food, toys, kitty litter, and medicine—to care for them until they grew big enough to find loving homes.

Kate's journey ended with being adopted by a loving family, who she loves as much as she loved her eight kittens.



Our community saw unprecedented need for Spay the Bay's programs in 2020—which we are able to provide at low cost with your donations. Thanks to you, we could respond to this need and double our low-cost spay and neuter program. In 2020, 788 animals were spayed or neutered at Berkeley Humane—more than double our 2019 surgeries! We also saw huge need for our low-cost vaccination clinics, which we held while some veterinary offices were only able to do emergency procedures. We performed 561 vaccinations and provided 644 microchips, all to keep the pets in our community safe. We can make all of this affordable because of our donors.



## TRAIN THE BAY

Did you know that Train the Bay's classes are all online? Now, from the comfort of your home, you and your dog can benefit from the training model that has helped over 30,000 pet families.

To learn more or join a class:  
[trainthebay.org](https://trainthebay.org)

### Planned Giving

A little planning can provide a lot of peace of mind—ensuring the future care of your family, pets, and the causes important to you.

Creating a living trust, will, or other legal document outlining your wishes is critical for a smooth process and to ensure your needs are met.

Berkeley Humane's partner, FreeWill, provides a fast and free online tool to help you plan.

For more information:  
[berkeleyhumane.org/planned-giving](https://berkeleyhumane.org/planned-giving)

### A Message From Jeffrey Zerwekh, Executive Director

Despite the many challenges of responding to the needs of shelter animals during the pandemic, there is a certain amount of comfort in knowing that the dogs and cats in our shelter have no idea that we have been forced to adopt an entirely new operating model in order to provide for their care.

Each animal received the same medicines, nutritious food, love and cuddles—only now there are masks and, when they are not receiving medical exams or surgery, they are enjoying all the benefits of being in a foster home. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our volunteers and fosters, who are the real reason we have been able to achieve the successful outcomes for the animals highlighted in this newsletter—and the thousands more touched by Berkeley Humane programs this past year.

Thank you for supporting our work and for saving the lives of dogs and cats, puppies and kittens that still deserve the best we have to offer—regardless of the impact of COVID-19.

With gratitude,

JEFFREY



### And the "Longest Stay Award" Goes to...

In 2020, Ernest won the not-so-pleasant award for 'Longest Stay.' No, it's not a testament to his patience to sit for a treat, but a tragic truth about senior dogs in rescue shelters.

When we transported Ernest in February 2020, he was 12 years old, 65 lbs and deaf. The adoption odds were already stacked against him, and with his medical issues, we knew Ernest would be hard to place. Over the next few months and into the summer, he kept our medical team very busy – but thanks to donors like you, we were able to provide all the care he needed.

Beyond the standard neutering, Ernest had a cancerous mass and many rotten teeth. He needed biopsies, ultrasounds, bloodwork, and more surgery.

Continues on page 4 »

### Keeping Pets and Families Together

In 2020, our community needed us more than ever—and thanks to our donors, here's how we responded to help keep pets and their families together:

**Pet Food Pantry:** Before 2020, we distributed pet food monthly, totaling 5,000 lbs a year. In 2020, we distributed pet food twice a week, totaling 75,000 lbs. Thanks to the Berkeley Food Network, we're expanding our reach even more—folks can pick up both pet and people food at their distribution centers.

**Spay the Bay:** Our low-cost clinic provided 788 spays and neuters, 561 vaccinations, and 641 microchips. See Page 1 for more!

**Behavior Advice Line:** Behavior challenges can sometimes result in evictions or complicate living situations. Our free Behavior Advice Line fielded 427 phone calls and emails to provide resources and help keep pets and families together.

### From Street to Sleek—Thanks to You!

Once simple act of kindness can save a life. For senior cat Braveheart, it came in the form of a phone call to Berkeley Humane in late August 2020. Braveheart was your average neighborhood stray who survived off of handouts and garbage. Most people ignore strays, but some pay attention, and he owes his life to keen-eyed neighbors who grew concerned that his health was in rapid decline.

When we saw Braveheart, he looked like a crumpled-up bag of bones, dangerously emaciated and riddled with fleas. We had to act fast to save his life, and luckily his will to survive was strong. When a volunteer offered up a name for this senior kitty—Braveheart—we thought it fit him perfectly.

As soon as we fully examined him, it was clear Braveheart had been through some type of trauma. He was practically bald around the head and neck and crusty everywhere. What

was left of his fur looked strange like it had been burned off, possibly by fireworks. He had teeth and skin infections and was diagnosed with FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) which would make it harder for him to fight off those infections.

We got to work, and Braveheart's spirit stayed high. He recovered well after all of his rotten teeth were extracted, which relieved him of immense pain but left his tongue perpetually peeking out his mouth. He was patient while we consulted with a veterinary dermatologist to find the right combination of steroids and specialty food to cure his debilitatingly itchy skin. He took well to the medications and, now much more comfortable, Braveheart's personality blossomed! He loved to play, purr, and nuzzle his foster.

After some additional monitoring, his condition continued to improve and just after Christmas, he was adopted. No longer a stray, but a prized member of a loving family!







## We are honored to be the Best in the East Bay!

Thank you to everyone who voted in the East Bay Express "Best of the East Bay 2021" contest.

- ① Best Animal Adoption Center
- ② Best Animal Rescue Group
- ③ Best Virtual Charity Event (Best in Show)

## Kitten Season

Every spring, we receive hundreds of orphaned kittens. Many are younger than 4 weeks old and cannot live without being bottle-fed special formula every two hours, day and night, in order to survive. In 2020, we saw an 11% increase in the number of bottle babies that we cared for, and we expect to continue to see increases in these vulnerable babies. Thanks to our donors, we were able to care for every bottle baby that came through our doors.

They need us urgently, and we are determined to save them. Please join us as we fight for their lives. Your gift today will fund the special formula, medical care, and supplies that these tiny kittens urgently need if they are going to make it. Thank you for saving lives.

[berkeleyhumane.org/kitten-season](http://berkeleyhumane.org/kitten-season)



## And the "Longest Stay Award" Goes to... (continued from page 3)



He also needed medication for arthritis in his elbows, to normalize his liver and for his dry eyes; antibiotics for skin and ear infections; and special food for his sensitive senior tummy. We even provided allergy medication to stop his constant scratching and make him more comfortable.

Though he was a very friendly and playful dog, Ernest did show signs of separation anxiety, perhaps from being abandoned. Our behavior team jumped in to work with Ernest and his fosters to help him relax and adjust. It seemed to work and one of his fosters noted that sleeping was his favorite "activity."

By late summer, Ernest's medical needs were finally under control and he was cleared for adoption. Our fingers were crossed that hundreds of people would queue up to adopt him! But they didn't. He had many inquiries but

none that could accommodate his ongoing medical and behavioral needs. But we never gave up on Ernest, and because of your donations, we had the resources to care for him for as long as it takes before he finds a new family.

Would anyone be the right match for Ernest!? We had to be patient and wait... and wait... and wait. Finally in December, after months of searching, a family with senior dog experience took Ernest on a trial adoption. We waited once again... then, with just hours until New Year's Eve, his trial adoption ended and his new family made it official! He had been with Berkeley Humane recuperating, mending, and learning to trust again for over 300 days. Happy New Year, Ernest!