



BERKELEY
HUMANE



BRUNO

"He loves his hiking group up Mt. Tam twice a week."

-Moya, Adopter



BUTTON

"He's doing really, really well!"

-Traci, Adopter



PENNY

"She loves going to the dog park and snuggling into her bed every night"

-Morgan, Adopter

Together We Save Pets

Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society
Impact Newsletter | Spring 2025

BIRDIE

charmed many potential adopters, but her unique medical needs made finding the right match a challenge.



HOW LOVE AND PATIENCE GAVE BIRDIE A FRESH START

There's something undeniably special about Birdie. At just one year old, she was surrendered to Berkeley Humane with several challenges. Overweight, confused about the litter box, and struggling with digestive issues, Birdie needed time, care, and a dedicated plan to help her heal.

Our medical team discovered Birdie's digestive system needed support, and with medication and special food, she began to slim down and feel better. Thanks to her devoted foster, who provided a cozy, safe space, Birdie transformed from a

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Keeping Pets Healthy, Happy, and Home

With the cost of living continuing to rise, access to affordable veterinary care is more important than ever to help pets stay with the families who love them. Berkeley Humane provides spay/neuter surgeries and low-cost vaccine clinics to prevent illness, reduce unplanned litters, and ease the strain on local shelters. Your support makes these lifesaving services accessible to the community, ensuring pets stay healthy and out of overcrowded shelters.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit spaythebay.org.



A Message From Jeffrey Zerwekh, Executive Director

Each week brings new shelter pets with unique needs, and your generosity makes life-saving care and compassion possible. Because of your support, these animals receive the love, healing, and time they need to find new families. You are the reason thousands of pets get a second chance at happiness.

This spring, we are taking animal care to the next level as we prepare to build our new home. Berkeley Humane's Bay Area Animal Resource Center (BAARC) will transform how our community thinks, acts, and connects with the care of cats and dogs. What began as a plan to rebuild after a fire damaged our shelter in 2010 has grown into something far greater. More than a facility, the BAARC is a groundbreaking model that not only provides shelter animals with exceptional care but also offers resources to help pets stay with the families who love them.

Your generosity is saving lives today and shaping the future of animal welfare. Our dedicated volunteers, fosters, and staff—hopeful and enthusiastic about what's ahead—are busier than ever as we head into the challenging spring months.

With gratitude for your continued support,

JEFFREY



Planned Giving

Proper planning can provide significant peace of mind — securing future care for your loved ones, pets, and the causes you cherish. Drafting a living trust, will, or other legal document to specify your wishes is crucial for a seamless process.

Berkeley Humane's partner, FreeWill, offers a quick and free online tool to assist with your planning. With just a few clicks, you can start your planned giving journey.

For more information:
berkeleyhumane.org/donate

Taco Bill is Living the Good Life

As with many of the injured animals we take in, we will never know exactly what happened to Taco Bill, a six-month-old orange and white tabby. But from the moment he arrived, one thing was painfully clear—he had been through something terrible.

His small body bore deep scars, painful swelling, and ruptured abscesses. Some wounds were fresh, while others had begun to heal on their own, leaving behind evidence of trauma and hardship. Upon closer examination, our medical team discovered a hernia and multiple untreated injuries, all pointing to the likelihood that Taco Bill had been attacked by a much larger animal, possibly a dog. Given the extent of his wounds and his tiny size, it was incredible that he had survived.

But survival wasn't enough—we wanted Taco Bill to truly heal and thrive. He needed careful wound treatment, antibiotics, and time for his body to mend. His medical care was extensive, but his spirit never faded.



TACO BILL

CASSIE
was placed with
a dedicated
foster, who
provided round-
the-clock care.



Cassie, Surrounded by Love

Young puppies like Cassie, with their tiny, fragile bodies, are especially vulnerable to serious medical conditions. Their immune systems and organs are still developing, making it difficult for them to fight infections and disease.

Cassie arrived with her siblings from a local shelter struggling with overcrowding. Unfortunately, she developed pneumonia—a dangerous condition for a puppy so small. Her congestion worsened quickly, she lost her appetite, and she grew weak and lethargic. Despite receiving urgent medical care, we feared she might not have the strength to survive.

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TRAIN THE BAY

Discover Berkeley Humane's Train the Bay program, helping pets and families thrive through expert training. Our skill-building sessions strengthen bonds with personalized guidance from award-winning trainers using positive reinforcement. Build confidence, enhance communication, and create lasting connections in a supportive learning environment designed to keep pets and families together.

To learn more and join a class: trainthebay.org



Despite everything he had endured, Taco Bill remained remarkably affectionate, curious, and eager for attention. As the days passed, his strength grew, and his zesty personality began to shine through.

The staff and volunteers fell in love with his playful antics—he would bat at loose strings, pounce on imaginary prey, and curl up in the softest blankets he could find. He had an undeniable charm, the kind that made everyone who met him smile.

After weeks of care, Taco Bill had fully healed and was finally ready for adoption. It wasn't long before the perfect adopter came along—someone who saw past his scars and into the bright, loving soul beneath.

Now, Taco Bill is living his best life in a home filled with love, safety, and all the affection he deserves. He spends his days lounging in sunny windows, chasing his favorite toys, and curling up in warm laps. His journey from survival to joy was only possible because of the generosity of animal lovers like you.





Every Meal Matters for Shelter Pets

At Berkeley Humane, every meal is a step toward healing, hope, and a second chance. Your generous support does more than fill bowls—it provides comfort, stability, and the nourishment needed for a fresh start. The Nutritious Meals Program ensures that every pet who enters the shelter receives the food they need to heal, grow, and thrive—from tiny kittens needing bottled formula to pets on specialized prescription diets. Whether recovering from illness, regaining strength, or simply settling into a new environment, each pet receives consistent, high-quality meals to support their journey.

Cassie, Surrounded by Love

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Thankfully, Cassie was placed with a dedicated foster, who provided round-the-clock care. She had warm blankets, soft bedding, and comforting toys, while humidifiers helped ease her breathing. Slowly, over many challenging days, Cassie began to heal, eat regularly, and regain her strength.

Today, Cassie is thriving—so full of energy that she runs circles around her new family in her backyard. She is now living her best life, surrounded by love, thanks to the second chance she deserved. Your support shaped Cassie's future when she needed it most, turning uncertainty into a happy, healthy life.

CASSIE



CHARLOTTE



Your Support Gave Charlotte a Voice

Charlotte, one of several animals transferred to Berkeley Humane as part of a critical effort to help local shelters prepare for animals displaced by the Park Fire, arrived needing specialized care. Deaf from birth and suffering from cherry eye in her left eye, she faced unique challenges—but thanks to your generosity, she got exactly the help she needed.

After surgery to heal her eye, Charlotte flourished. She arrived with an understanding of hand signals, and to give her the best possible future, we developed a personalized behavioral and training program. Our award-winning trainers, staff, and volunteers worked together to solidify her communication skills, ensuring she was fully prepared for life in a loving home.

After weeks of expert care, training, and dedication, Charlotte left our shelter happy, healthy, and ready to thrive. Your support makes all the difference, giving shelter pets like Charlotte the chance to heal, grow, and find families who will cherish them.

How Love and Patience Gave Birdie a Fresh Start (continued from page 1)

despondent kitty into a fluffy, loving companion. Though her health quirks aren't fully curable, her condition became manageable, and as she healed, Birdie's adorable personality shone through. Her signature chirps quickly won over volunteers, staff, and even a few dogs!

After weeks in our care, Birdie found her perfect match—a loving owner who embraced her unique needs and saw her for the special soul she is. Now, Birdie enjoys life as a confident, playful sweetheart. She spends her days chirping at birds outside the window, lounging in sunbeams, and soaking up all the love she can get. It took time to find the right person, but for Birdie and others like her, it is worth the wait.

Your love and support of shelter pets provided the time, patience, and care Birdie needed to get a second chance. Every success story, like Birdie's, is a testament to the difference you make for animals in need.