

WINTER 2023

# ANIMAL FRIENDS



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### WINTER 2023

As 2023 draws to a close, we reflect on the incredible year of growth our organization has experienced. We've increased access to care, keeping more people and animals together. Our dedicated community of foster families, volunteers, and supporters, who share a passion for the welfare of people and animals, have been the cornerstones of our success.

Dogs like Sky, a heavily pregnant stray, were in vulnerable and dire circumstances before entering our care. Sky was able to give birth in the comfort of a foster home, receive medical care, and recover, and she and her puppies all went to loving homes. The strength of our collective compassion significantly impacts those in need.

Being **More Than a Shelter** goes beyond providing Sky medical care, nutritious food, or socialization for her puppies. We are committed to meeting the complex needs of animals and people in today's world.

As we head into our 150th anniversary, we face a challenging landscape in animal care and the community. A shift in our shelter's demographics has led to higher populations of longer-stay animals, while economic and housing changes are affecting cherished human-animal bonds. We're also encountering a national shortage of veterinary professionals, impacting our services. Lastly, an estimated backlog of 2.7 million spay/neuter surgeries has increased our animal population. These challenges underscore the need for comprehensive solutions in our critical work.

We are at a moment when we must act together to build sustainable support for people and companion animals. All individuals, regardless of their housing situation, income level, race, spoken language, or access to resources, should be able to experience the joys of the human-animal bond.

Our strategic plan, **More Than a Shelter: 2027**, aims to meet these converging challenges by achieving a more humane community, serving the evolving needs of pets and people, and promoting a culture of value and growth. This blueprint will make our vision a reality.

Together, we will pave the way to a more compassionate, inclusive, and caring world.

We are excited for all that the future holds.

Wishing you all warm holidays and a happy New Year!

Thank you,



**ALLISON C. LINDQUIST**

President and CEO



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**On the Cover**  
Otto – adopted September 2023

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## MORE THAN A SHELTER: 2027

East Bay SPCA, a symbol of hope for animals and people in our community, is embarking on an inspiring journey with its visionary strategic plan for 2027. In a world marked by a convergence of crises in animal care and our society, our mission reflects our unwavering commitment to making a difference for companion animals and the people who cherish them.

### Converging Challenges

We are confronted by a challenging landscape in animal care and the community:



### Taking Action

East Bay SPCA recognizes the complex needs of animals and people in today's world and is committed to being **More Than a Shelter**.

At the heart of our strategy are three pillars:

**Achieving a More Humane Community:** We partner with human service organizations to reduce wait times, serve more clients, enhance education programs, and improve service accessibility.

**Serving the Evolving Needs of Pets & People:** We prioritize preserving the human-animal bond through innovative programs, including disaster response, public services, and evolving animal care standards.

**Promoting a Culture of Value & Growth:** We're committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in our operations. We collaborate with veterinary clinics, invest in professional development, and expand our volunteer program to better reflect our community.

### A Compassionate Future Awaits

You are the driving force behind **More Than a Shelter: 2027**. Your dedication and engagement are the foundation upon which we build our compassionate world. We invite you to join us on this transformative journey, where every step we take brings us closer to our vision.

[eastbayspca.org/MoreThanAShelter](http://eastbayspca.org/MoreThanAShelter)

[Learn More](#)



# NEW BEGINNINGS

## PART ONE: Finding a Lifeline at the Eleventh Hour

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Sky was a heavily pregnant stray when she arrived at our doors. Our Medical Team performed a wellness exam and found she would deliver four little puppies very soon! To make her more comfortable, Dr. Josie Noah, our Shelter Veterinarian, opened her home to Sky. Only four days after settling in, Sky began to have contractions. When the first puppy was born, she immediately let the baby nurse. Pups two and three followed suit. After a lengthy delay and many contractions, she successfully delivered puppy number four! They were healthy and nursed happily.

Sky, however, was in crisis. She developed a high fever, wasn't eating, and mysteriously, she continued to have contractions for over 24 hours after her birth. Dr. Josie knew she needed a work-up at our Theodore B. Travers Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Josie discovered that she had an exceptionally rare medical complication called uterine intussusception which required surgery. As of 2022, there have only been ten recorded cases of this condition. Sky's uterine tube was folding in, cutting off her blood supply. Not only was this incredibly painful, but it would also have been fatal if left untreated. Her spay surgery that day included the removal of her uterus, completely fixing the issue.

Upon being reunited with her puppies only 90 minutes later, Sky continued nursing! She was a wonderful mother! Her appetite immediately returned, and she was back to her usual self. We are so thankful that Sky is now healthy and that we have the expertise to care for and treat complex, unique medical cases.



## PART TWO: Sky and Her Puppies Start their Next Chapter

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From the moment the bright-eyed puppies were born, their distinctive personalities began to emerge. Raven, the only pup with a shiny black coat, was squirmy and vivacious. He loved morning cuddles, hugs, and pets. The littlest one, Sparrow, was a sensitive soul. He would look up to his foster parents with gentle, soft eyes. Hawk was a goofy guy who loved to play. Owl was a loving pooch who enjoyed sleeping on the bed with his foster parents.

"Everything old is new again," shared Shandy, who fostered Sky and her puppies from two weeks old until they were ready for adoption. The pups were simply excited to experience life. The way the wind carried leaves through the air inspired wonderment. They would race around in the backyard, taking in all the new sights.



Shandy received tons of support from our foster program to help set the puppies up for success. In addition to food, supplies, and medical care, Shandy learned how to properly socialize the puppies. They became more confident with human touch, crates, and leashes. They especially enjoyed playing tug of war with toys. And they also loved snacks of freeze-dried chicken!

Sky began to teach her little ones, too! She would push them toward the pee pads, showing them where to pee. The foster parents were amazed to see a mama dog potty training her pups.

After faithfully nursing for eight weeks, Sky was exhausted. She began to jump up on chairs so the puppies couldn't get to her. Her favorite place

to be was on a warm lap, getting belly rubs. She was ready for a peaceful retirement in her new home. She was soon adopted by a wonderful family and now has a Pomeranian buddy.



Sky's puppies were neutered and adopted into loving homes after a few days. Sparrow was renamed Peanut and still has a heart of gold. "We bought him a whole bunch of little toys, and we are teaching him to play fetch!" his adopter shared. Peanut is enjoying constant cuddles as an adored lap dog. Owl was renamed Rocky. "My dad, my husband, my daughter, and I love him to death," his adopter shared. Hawk is now Otto Bartholomew. "Otto has enjoyed outings around town by car, BART, and bus. He travels with his little head poking out of my crossbody bag. His first train ride was shaky with all the new noises, but the second trip was a breeze." Raven is now Pica. "Our daughter was thrilled Pica came into our lives. He is a happy little member of our family now."

We are so happy that Sky stumbled into our doors just in time to give birth, receive life-saving medical treatment, and enjoy time with her puppies. Thanks to that fateful day, Sky and her puppies enjoy comfort and love in their forever homes.



# HAPPY TAILS

## ADOPTION SUCCESSES



**Pookie,**  
adopted September 2023

"Pookie is doing fabulously! He's been with us for two weeks now and has grown so confident! He loves to play and romp around with his dog brother. He is also respectful and accepting of the family cat. He is loving his life, and, just like his adoption bio said, is an expert 'couch potato'!"



**Mushroom,**  
adopted August 2023

"Mushroom has been such an amazing companion and baby for our household. He adjusted really quick when we brought him home for the first time. He loves playing, cuddling, and exploring different nooks and corners of our apartment. We love him so much and we're so happy that he's part of our family!!"



**Goose,**  
adopted July 2023

Goose was initially very shy at the shelter, but it only took him about 12 hours at my house before he turned into a total love bug. I introduced him to my older semi-feral cat Tigre over the first week and they quickly became best friends. They're now inseparable and Goose has really brought Tigre out of her shell. I am so lucky to have Goose in my life.



**Bandit,**  
adopted September 2023

We gave Bandit the new name Kiko, as it is Hawaiian for 'spot'! She is such a sweet, smart, mischievous, and lovable pup. She has totally acclimated into our home with a Cane Corso and Boston Terrier. They both love her and treat her as if she is their baby!

# HOLIDAY TIPS

## HOSTING HOLIDAYS WITH YOUR PET

### A Stress-Free Guide to Hosting for the Holidays with Your Pet

Hosting friends or family this holiday season? Now is a great time to prepare your pet and guests to meet each other! Keep in mind that all pets are different. Some are thrilled to meet new friends, while others may be fearful and prefer to be left alone. If your dog or cat is not ready to meet guests, consider hosting them elsewhere or having your dog stay at a familiar friend's house while guests are over.



Ella, EBSPCA alum, relaxes in her home.

#### Tips for Hosting with a Dog:

1. If your dog is shy, incorporate slow introductions between new people and your dog. Try going on a short walk up and down the street with your guests, during which they can give treats to your dog.
2. Did you know that you can train your dog to relax? Teach your dog to go to a mat, crate, or any established safe space where they are given treats when relaxing.
3. If your dog likes to jump on guests, provide your dog with stuffed KONGs, puzzle toys, or snuffle mats to keep them busy searching for treats while you are greeting guests.
4. Tell guests how to interact with your dog. Make sure to communicate any house rules around training or house safety.



Sugar, EBSPCA alum, finds an unconventional resting spot.

#### Tips for Hosting with a Cat:

1. If your cat is shy, create a safe space in a separate room away from guests. (A sign on the door reminding guests not to enter will do the trick!)
2. Ensure your cat has access to a litterbox, water, and food in their safe space. Provide them with accessible hiding spots.
3. Maintain routines. For example, give your cat dinner at the same time as usual.

For additional training resources, check out [eastbayspca.org/behavior](http://eastbayspca.org/behavior).

## WHEELS FOR PAWS

**Donate your car, help animals  
& get a tax break!**  
[eastbayspca.org/auto](http://eastbayspca.org/auto)





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Saving Lives Since 1874

**EAST BAY SPCA** is committed to the welfare of cats and dogs in the communities we serve. We strive to eliminate animal cruelty, neglect and overpopulation by providing programs and education that support people and companion animals.

[eastbayspca.org](http://eastbayspca.org)

East Bay SPCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Federal Tax ID # 94-1322202.

#### Get Social With Us



@eastbayspca

## LOCATIONS

**Oakland Adoption Center**  
8323 Baldwin Street  
Oakland, CA 94621

**Dublin Adoption Center**  
4651 Gleason Drive  
Dublin, CA 94568

**Theodore B. Travers  
Family Veterinary Clinic**  
8323 Baldwin Street  
Oakland, CA 94621

**Oakland Spay/Neuter  
Surgery Center**  
410 Hegenberger Road  
Oakland, CA 94621