

The Pawsitive Press

The Volunteer and Foster Newsletter
for Greenhill Humane Society and 1st Avenue Shelter

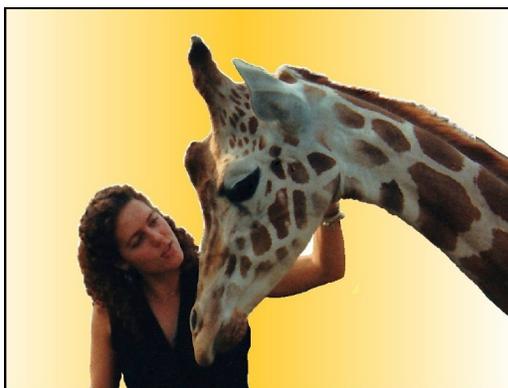
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Unconditional Love

By Kathleen Cremonesi
Author of the memoir "Love in the Elephant Tent" and Greenhill volunteer

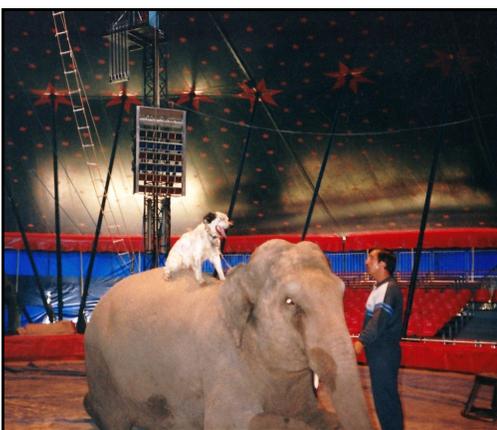
I often hear how our companion animals embody true unconditional love, I'm just not certain I always believe it. Don't get me wrong, I've loved, loved, loved the eight dogs my husband and I have had during our life together. Currently, we have three dogs, all adopted from Greenhill, who are the laughter and the light of our days, except when they're not. Feed them breakfast or dinner a few minutes late, and they'll pace the halls like princes and princesses, wondering what they've done



ABOVE, Kathleen and Baros 3. BELOW, Rastata, a circus dog, is on the elephant in the tent with trainer Giuseppe.

to deserve such punishment. Strip their bed covers for wash day (15 beds for 3 dogs, 16 if you count the one my husband and I try to call our own), and they'll sink, knock-kneed and shaking, to the tile floor as they try to convey how life as they know it seems to have been abruptly stolen from them. Try to wrest them from the sun-spot they're napping in when you'd like a hug, and they just might stare at you down the length of their regal noses with half-open eyes, contemplating the warmth of your embrace versus the

Unconditional Love, Continued on Page 4



Inside this issue:

Volunteer of the Month	2
Meet the Staff	2
On Good Behavior	3
Foster of the Month	4
Outreach Column	5
Happy Tails	6

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Anita and Tinkerbelle



Mango by Stella S.

Volunteer of the Month: Lisa Cassidy

Lisa Cassidy, April's Volunteer of the Month, has one amazing passion she shares while volunteering at Greenhill-making a difference in the cat's lives.



Lisa Cassidy

Lisa has been volunteering since 2009 with the Greenhill photo and video team for Greenhill's website, social media and Petfinder sites. She is now training the Greenhill Cat and Dog Video Teams and even travels to foster homes to take pictures and videos of the available cats not seen in the cattery.

Lisa was a member of the 2015 Volunteer Committee and suggested a new program called Seniors for Seniors, where she said "We take adoptable animals to senior residence facilities, to get more exposure for senior animals." Lisa has also volunteered in the Receiving Department, Business Office and for

Greenhill's special events, like Art for Animals.

Lisa said, "My favorite aspect of volunteering is feeling as if I have made a difference in a cat's life. When I hear that someone has traveled from out-of-state to see/adopt a cat based on my video, I am thrilled. Volunteering shows me all the caring volunteers and staff that are a part of Greenhill as a whole. Whether they work/volunteer in the Admin office or do laundry, these folks are passionate about doing what they can for the benefit of animals. It is inspirational for me

to be a part of such a group."

Lisa also volunteers with the West Coast Dog & Cat, the Eugene Library and at local special events, such as Art in the Vineyard. She said her first volunteer job was hosing the dog runs at the Peninsula Humane Society in San Mateo, CA about 40 years ago!

Outside of volunteering, Lisa enjoys gardening, reading, watching movies, traveling and squirrel watching. Lisa said, "I retired a few years ago from work in behavioral research. Prior to that, I worked in social services and human resources. I have lived in Eugene for about 25 years and I am the proud recipient of 2 rescue cats, Chip and Rusty, who allow me to share their space."



Meet the Staff!



Name:
Becky Wing

What do you do?

I am a certified veterinary technician. At Greenhill, my main job is working as the surgery technician, though I will assist the doctors around the shelter as needed.

How long have you worked at Greenhill / 1st Avenue?:

I have worked at Greenhill for 1 year .

What's your favorite part of your job?: Of course I love working with all the pets and people. There is so much I love about my job!

A bit about your background..

I started right out of high school as a vet assistant in 1999 with my plans to start in college for vet school. Life had different plans with a family and I was happy with the career that I was doing. Vet school plans changed and I became a certified veterinary technician, for which I am so thankful for!

What are your hobbies?:

My hobbies mostly include hanging out with my family on the weekends. I enjoy hiking, camping and horse back riding. I also enjoy relaxing and a good nap!

Do you have any pets?

I have 7 pets. Some came into the family unexpectedly, which hap-

pens when you have the job I have, but they all bring their different personalities and entertainment to



our family. They include: 1 Chihuahua, 2 chocolate labs, 2 hound dogs, 1 cat and a horse.

What's your favorite movie?

I don't really have a favorite movie, though I really do enjoy comedies. I love to laugh!

What is something nobody knows about you?

I'm not sure what people do or don't know about me but the sun is my weakness. You can never be too hot... also my other weakness is food, usually of any kind but you can never go wrong with some good southern cooking to take me back home.....my favorite is fried chicken and mashed potatoes with gravy!

Speaking Out *Fur* the Animals

Outreach Reaches Out for Volunteers

By Lauren Merge, Communications and Events Mgr, Greenhill / 1st Ave.

year, and it takes a lot of volunteer time to put this together. We would love your help.

On your Bark, get set, go! It's Bark in the Park season again, and Outreach is nonstop Barking! We biked the 2k walk, 5k run and 10k run trails yesterday for the first time this year. Things are looking good! This is going to be our best year yet. We'll be at Alton Baker Park on Sunday, May 15th for the big day.

If you missed out on last year's Bark in the Park, here's the breakdown: it's not just a run/walk, it's also the biggest fundraiser of the year for Greenhill and 1st Avenue Shelter. Last year we raised \$86,000 for the animals. This year, our goal is \$90,000. You can help us achieve that goal by registering at Green-Hill.org to start fundraising, and by signing up to volunteer for the event. We have about 1,100 people and their dogs come out every



www.Green-Hill.org



This year, we'll have demonstrations, food carts, contests, prizes, pet-related vendors and more. It's the doggy event of the season, and you and your pups do not want to miss out!

Events leading up to Bark in the Park include:

Thursday, May 12th: 4:00 – 8:00pm - Bark in the Park Packet Pick-up and Registration - Ninkasi Tasting Room and Patio 272 Van Buren St. Packet Pick Up will coincide

with Ninkasi's Pints for a Cause Fundraiser for Greenhill Humane Society.

Saturday, May 14th 4:00 – 7:00pm - Bark in the Park Packet Pick-up and Registration- Alton Baker Park

Volunteer positions for Bark in the Park include: trail marshals, registration staffing, event monitors, and more.

I hope to see you there. Bark in the Park is not only an important event for the shelter – it's also a ton of fun. Last year the volunteers at the registration table had a blast trying to guess dog breeds, and watching dogs and their owners walk by in matching costumes. You don't want to miss out!

-Lauren and the Outreach Team



Payton and Maggie by Margo S.



Amelia S.

“ All of us are pleased to offer space and comfort to dogs needing some time to adjust to changing circumstances.

-Maggie Fogus and family, foster parents

”



Unconditional Love, from Page 1

warmth of the late-winter sun. Okay, okay, we love them unconditionally, no matter how many carpets they stain or tulips they trample, and they love us back unconditionally, though it's clearly easier for them to express their love for us if we adhere to the spoiled existence they're accustomed to.

I've lived in close confines with animals all my life. My grandparents retired from ranching to travel the western U.S. in an Airstream with 7 dogs -- fortunately 5 of them were small poodles, and my parents had more dogs (5) than they had chil-

dren (4). And when I left home in search of my place in the world, I spent a few years working in an Italian traveling circus, mixing food for the exotic animals, be-friending a giraffe, and falling in love with my future husband, Stefano, under the watchful eyes of an elephant troupe. Elephants don't love you unconditionally. To earn their respect, you have to prove yourself to them every day and twice on Sundays. Rub them the wrong way, and they'll correct you with a polite swat (which may set you sailing 12 feet). Abuse them and they could kill or maim you. Treat them with kindness and respect, and

you'll be hard-pressed to ever again experience such intense devotion. Those elephants might lay down their life for you one day, but I still wouldn't call it unconditional love.

But it's because of those elephants that I finally started volunteering at Greenhill. I'd often mentioned to friends that I'd like to volunteer at the shelter someday, but I'd never gotten around to actually doing it. Then, while writing a memoir about those circus years and detailing how intelligently and majestically the elephants carry themselves despite

Continued on next page

Foster of the Month: Lindsay Reaves

Meet **Lindsay Reaves**-April's Foster of the Month. Lindsay has fostered over 80 cats and kittens within the last 5 years at Greenhill. She began fostering in 2010 because she needed some fun in her life apart from her tree farm and she also had a strong fondness for cats. She said, "They are all great and always provide laughter in the home."

Lindsay said her most enjoyable foster experiences were " Seeing the kittens go to their homes. There has been a few times when I went to visit and the adopting process was occurring so I got to meet the new 'parents'. Also, fostering of



Lindsay Reaves

injured animals, and seeing them heal and the amazing resources that goes towards such healing. OVRA and Dr. Amy Valentine with Maximus (Lindsay's

foster cat) and his 'degloved' chin, were amazing and very receptive to working with surgery quickly. He healed very well."

Lindsay lives and works on a 672 acre tree timber farm with her husband. She currently has 7 cats, two of which were rescued off of Briggs Hill Road (thanks to Greenhill for the spay and neuter she mentioned).

She works part time for Forests Today & Forever by teaching youth and adults about the amazing resources that forests

provide. Lindsay's favorite thing about fostering is: "Everything, but I truly appreciate the support given when there are challenges and 'surprises' with kitten poop or those few unsure moments."

Lindsay shared, "A strong value of mine is that everyone needs to volunteer to something they feel passionate about. Why not Greenhill, an amazing non-profit that gives its volunteers support and guidance at all times. And the kittens just keep coming..."



the abuses they suffer, I couldn't help but reflect on the lessons I learned in their midst and my debt to them. I knew it was time for



Kathleen's dogs Lilly, Gemma and Paco (all adopted)

me to stop saying that I wanted to do something for abused and neglected animals and actually do it.

When I finally started volunteering at Greenhill eighteen months ago, it was my way of honoring all the animals that have given so much to me and paying it forward to those that need it the most. I've been coming almost every week since then, always when the kennel is closed to the public. It's quieter on those days. Occasionally I'll cross paths with another dog walker, veterinarian, or office personnel, but usually it's just the kennel personnel, the pups, and me.

After signing in, I'll glance at the white board to see who's still there from the week or the month before, discover which dogs are new, and note their color codes and health notes telling me whether it's okay to walk them and if there are considerations. And then, my favorite part: walking through the kennel to say hello to the dogs. Some have been there awhile and I've walked them

every week since their arrival. We greet each other like old friends and I'm happy to see how they've blossomed under

the care they've found here while waiting for their forever home. Others are new arrivals, timidly staring out from their kennels, wide-eyed and hopeful. Each and every one of these dogs is a survivor of unthinkable conditions -- pulled out of a drug house or picked up off the street, owner surrendered or suddenly orphaned -- and they are grateful for every bit of attention, whether it's a few kind words or a tasty treat, tentative cuddle or a full-on belly rub.

Within these kennel walls, I see unconditional love at its purest. No past, no future, no demands, no expectations, just a moment in time when one creature in need of comfort and care is grateful beyond expression because you are there to give it to them. Some days, the need for comfort and care is mutual, and the reciprocal nurturing I share with these dogs fills me with a sense of peace and contentment that is not so easily found in this hectic world we live in.

PAW PRINT PERSONALS!



Ruthie

Beautiful, affectionate and friendly tabby seeks loving forever home to lounge, play and just be a devoted lap cat! Meet me at Greenhill to come say "Hi!"



Bugs

Single, young, gray and white male bunny looking for an affectionate family to call "home". I'm friendly and love people! Come meet me at Greenhill!



Angelica

Single, high energy and gentle female waiting for her forever adopter to cuddle, play and take long walks together. Come meet me at 1st Avenue Shelter!

Upcoming Events and Classes:

*Bottle Baby Training class, Saturday, April 16th from 11am-12:30pm in the GHS Education Room. Class is free and open to all volunteers and fosters. Pre-registration is required since space is limited.

*Bark in the Park Fund-raiser, Sunday, May 15th at Alton Baker Park



Alyssa N.

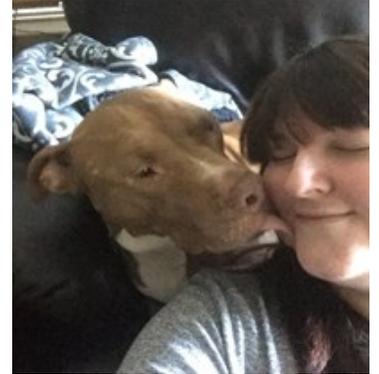
“ I love spending time with the dogs!

Lisa Romano,
volunteer

”

Happy Tails!

Thanks so much for checking in on Lorenzo. We decided to keep his name because he comes to it and it's just so catchy. He seems to be loving life at our home too. He loves to play and go for long walks but also I think he loves to lay around and be lazy. He definitely gets very excited when he sees other dogs on our walks, never aggressive. I think he just wants to go say hello. He loves kids and anyone who will play with him. I unfortunately wasn't able to get into the vet for our free exam because of the holiday season craziness but I do plan on getting him in asap.



Lorenzo

Happy Tails!



Snooper (was Honeypuff)

Snooper is a great cat! She has truly made herself at home. She fits right in around here. She loves her toy that I bought at the shelter. It has feathers and long strings on it. The adoption went very well and we took her to the vet and the only thing wrong is that she needs to get her teeth cleaned next week. Other than that everything is great!

Happy Tails!

Callie is doing great. It's so nice to have an older dog—I can take her for a walk and then she wants to sleep the rest of the day. I took her to the vet. She had a mild case of kennel cough but a weeks worth of antibiotics cleared it up. She is on flea treatment and she is in the process of having her vaccines. I'm so glad to come home to Callie.



Callie (was Star)