



PLACER SPCA PROUDLY RECOGNIZES

★ HUMANE HEROES ★

Youth in our community who make a difference for animals.



The girls pictured above are members of the Sierra Service Girls Club. This is an extremely unique group of young ladies. They don't do projects to get awards or because they are required to do community service for school, these young people formed this group simply because they wanted to make a difference in their community.

I had the pleasure of meeting this group in early February and I was truly amazed to hear about the work they do in our community. I was impressed with their enthusiasm for helping others. The really amazing thing about this group is that they don't think what they do is special, but I know it's not only very special, it's extremely rare.

As a Humane Educator and Youth Program Coordinator for more than 13 years, I have met thousands of young people who care about animals. Many of those young people have expressed an interest in helping the homeless animals only to get discouraged when they find out they can't work hands-on with the animals. Thankfully, there are some who, despite not being able to work hands-on, have completed a scout or school project that benefits the animals and we are very grateful for their efforts. It is extremely rare and very heartwarming to meet young people who know they can't work hands-on, aren't being asked to do a project but just want to do whatever they can to make a difference.

The money they raised and items they collected will be a big help to the animals at the Placer SPCA, but knowing these young people are in our community helps all of us and gives us hope for a brighter future.



Humane Heroes... Our Shining Stars!



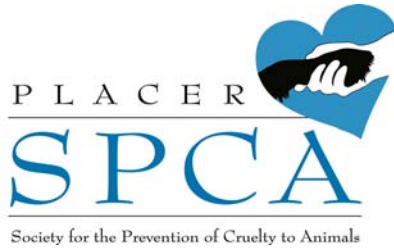
Placer County's Companion Animal Welfare Experts – Where Your Donations Stay Local

Companion Animal Care Center
150 Corporation Yard Road, Roseville, CA 95678
916.782.7722/530.885.7387 Fax: 916.782.8655

Pet Adoption & Resource Center
1482 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn, CA 95603
530.823.7722

www.placerspca.org

The Placer SPCA is a private, nonprofit organization not affiliated with any other entity.
We do not receive donations through the ASPCA or HSUS.



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Pictured above are some of students in Mrs. Grider's third grade class at Rock Creek Elementary. Every year at the holidays Mrs. Grider asks her students to collect items from the Placer SPCA's wish list to help us care for the homeless animals.

It has been my pleasure to visit her class each December, along with one of our education dogs, to meet her wonderful students and pick up all of their donations. It is truly the highlight of the holiday season for me to be able to thank Mrs. Grider for her ongoing support and have the opportunity to talk to her class.

In addition to collecting lots and lots of things that we need to help us care for the animals, each student selects an animal that is available for adoption and writes them a personal holiday card. These cards are read to each animal and placed in their folder for visitors and potential adopters to see that there are wonderful young people in our community that care about these animals and want them to find their new permanent homes.

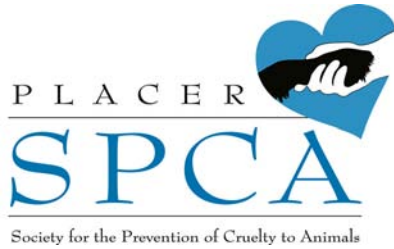
The animals at the Placer SPCA are extremely fortunate there are wonderful people in our community like Mrs. Grider and her students who make sure that every year the homeless animals know they have not been forgotten.

THANK YOU MRS. GRIDER AND STUDENTS FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE PLACER SPCA!



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Pictured above are some of the members of the Leadership Group at Stoneridge Elementary School. The group consists of approximately 30 5th and 6th graders. The members pictured visited the Placer SPCA in December of 2011 loaded down with gifts for the homeless animals.

One of the members of the group has been attending the Placer SPCA's Humane Kids Camp summer program for the last few years and encouraged the group to help the animals. The group told me they loved animals so it didn't take a lot of encouragement – they were excited about the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these less fortunate animals.

The group had some unique fundraising ideas that resulted in them being able to raise the money needed to buy all of the treats and toys pictured above. In addition to their hard work raising money and buying items for the animals, the group took the time to write a card containing notes of thanks and holiday wishes to the volunteers and staff and staff at the Placer SPCA for the work that they do on behalf of the homeless animals.

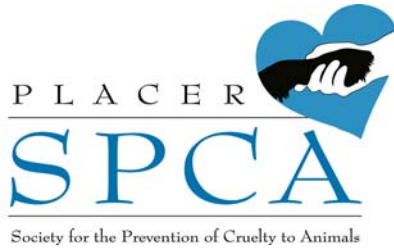
I had the pleasure of meeting this group when they came in and was extremely impressed by their dedication to the animals. The animals are very grateful for not only what this group did to help them today but, more importantly, what they will do to help them as tomorrow's leaders.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE LEADERSHIP GROUP AT STONERIDGE ELEMENTARY



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Alissa and Maya adopted the cats they are holding, “Waffles”, “Willow” and “Socks”, from the Placer SPCA in September 2010. Visiting the Placer SPCA to adopt their new “friends” made quite an impression on these two young ladies. They saw all of the animals waiting for homes at the Placer SPCA and decided that, in addition to giving three very lucky kitties a great new home, they could do something to help the animals still waiting for their loving home.

Alissa and Maya are twins and they were going to be celebrating their 10th birthday shortly after adopting their new kitties. They decided that it would be a great idea to ask for presents for the homeless animals in honor of their birthday, rather than presents for themselves. Their celebration was a success and the homeless animals benefited from their unselfishness.

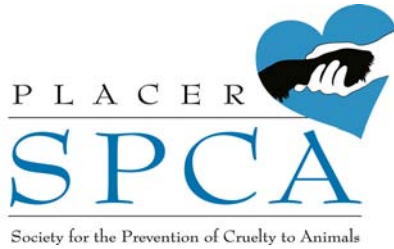
What they did for the animals was great, but they didn’t stop there. They both decided to learn more about animals and attended the Placer SPCA’s Humane Kids Camp in the summer of 2011. When it was time to celebrate their 11th birthday, they did not forget that there were still thousands of homeless animals in Placer County that needed help. Once again they provided the Placer SPCA’s wish list to their friends and relatives and, once again, the animals at the Placer SPCA were the beneficiaries of their continuing generosity.

While it is not unusual to find young people who love animals, it is extremely rare to find two young people who are so unselfish and so willing to continually do great things on behalf of the homeless animals. The animals at the Placer SPCA are very fortunate to have young people like Alissa and Maya looking out for them.



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If the names Talia and Kaylee sound familiar it's because this isn't the first time they have gone above and beyond to help the homeless animals at the Placer SPCA. I first met Talia in 2008 when she was a member of the Placer SPCA's Youth for Animals Club. The YFAC is a service/learning club designed for young people who want to make a difference in the lives of homeless animals.

What Talia learned in the club she shared with her younger sister and between the two of them they have continued to work to help homeless animals. They have done two fundraisers, both of which resulted in a substantial donation of funds to help us continue our work of caring for the thousands of homeless animals we receive each year.

While it's not hard to find young people who love animals, it is extremely rare to find young people who continuously work to improve the lives of homeless animals. This year, Talia & Kaylee worked very hard to put together a summer carnival for their neighborhood. They baked and sold homemade dog treats, hosted games, sold homemade dog toys and held a raffle all in an effort to raise funds to help the homeless animals.

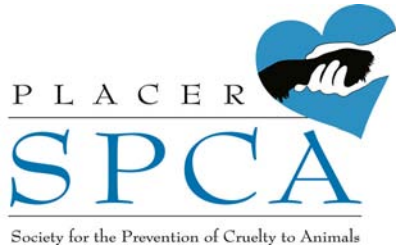
They explained to me that they learned about the homeless animal problem several years ago when they adopted their dog from an SPCA. Not only did they learn that there are many homeless animals that need help, they have worked very hard to make sure those animals have everything they need until they are able to find their new permanent homes.

The animals at the Placer SPCA are very fortunate that there are young people like Talia and Kaylee in our community. These young ladies give me hope for a future where animals will not be abused, neglected or abandoned.



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Junior Girl Scout Troop 1504 visited the Placer SPCA in April of 2010 to earn the Pet Care Badge. Around that time they were working on the requirements for their Bronze Award. As it turns out, all of the girls have pets and most of those pets were adopted from a shelter or a rescue. They told me they all love animals and they fell in love with the homeless animals they saw when they visited the Placer SPCA.

Thankfully, that love of animals, coupled with what they saw and learned when they earned their Pet Care Badge, resulted in the scouts deciding to help the homeless animals for their Bronze Award project.

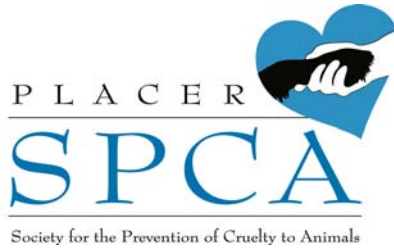
As you can see from the picture above, Troop 1504 is a relatively small troop but this small group of young people made a huge difference in the lives of many homeless animals. The wonderful beds they made will give the animals a comfortable place to rest while they wait for the person that will give them a lifelong home.

The animals at the Placer SPCA owe Troop 1504 a huge **THANK YOU**, not only for the beds, but for being willing to help so many animals that others have forgotten.



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In late 2009 Junior Girl Scout Troop 766 visited the Placer SPCA to participate in a Pet Care Badge program. The girls learned what it means to be a responsible pet care owner, how to keep their pets happy and healthy and why there are so many homeless animals. This program, along with the tour of our Animal Care Center, made a big impression on these young ladies.

When it was time for the troop to earn their bronze award they remembered the homeless animals at the Placer SPCA and decided to help the animals to earn their award. They spoke to some other troops and Troop 1985 and 194 agreed to help them with their project. They also got some of their parents involved and the project actually became much more than just a way to earn an award. The girls told me that had a lot of fun doing this because they all love and care about animals. They also enjoyed the opportunity to bond with their Dads while they were building the scratching posts.

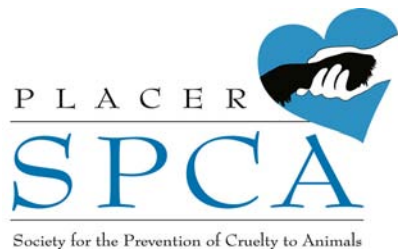
When they were all finished they brought in lots of beautiful new cat beds, individual scratching posts and adoption bags for dogs and cats. They even drew their troop's crest on the adoption bags to let people know that Girl Scout Troop 766 not only cares about animals, but is working to help them get the new loving homes they deserve.

All of the animals at the Placer SPCA owe a huge **THANK YOU** to Troops 766, 1985 and 194, their troop leaders and all of the parents who helped make this project such a huge success. Knowing there are young people like these young ladies in our community gives me hope for a future that will be much brighter for the animals.



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Harrison contacted the Placer SPCA looking for some suggestions regarding possible Eagle Scout projects. At the time Harrison contacted us, we had several needs, including a new pooper scooper dog house, cat scratching posts and dog beds. I gave Harrison the choice of any of those projects, but he chose to do them ALL!

Harrison raised the money necessary to buy materials, gathered some helpers and got to work on all of these projects. We now have a brand new dog house for storage, 50 cat trees for the cats to use in their kennels and some new dog beds.

While it is not unusual to have a potential Eagle Scout contact us for a project, it is somewhat rare to work with someone as enthusiastic and dedicated as Harrison. He wanted to help in as many ways as possible and truly turned this project into a labor of love and not just a project that had to be done.

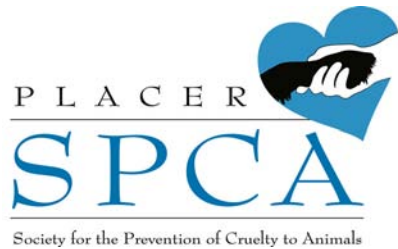
It was great working with Harrison and we look forward to having him as volunteer so that he can continue to make a difference in the lives of homeless animals.

THANK YOU!



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Nick was turning 11 years old just after Christmas. He had received the gift that he wanted most for Christmas and decided he would turn his special day into a very special day for the homeless animals at the Placer SPCA.

Nick and his family are caretakers of many different kinds of pets, including fish, birds, and a dog. Years ago their family adopted a rat (one of my favorite pets,) from the Placer SPCA and Nick has never forgotten seeing all of the animals that are looking for a home. He has visited the Placer SPCA many times to say hello and brighten their day.

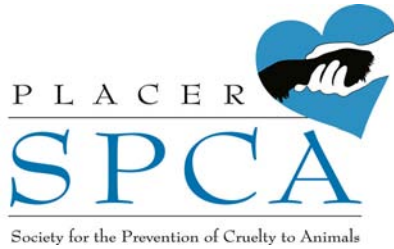
I thoroughly enjoyed meeting Nick, his mom and friend when they came in to give us their donation. As we walked around the Animal Care Center, it truly seemed like the animals perked up when they saw Nick. Of course, that could simply be because he has visited them before or, it could be, that somehow they knew that this young man had done something extremely unselfish to make their lives better.

A huge thank you goes out to Nick from all of the residents at the Placer SPCA.



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Allison was planning to celebrate her birthday with a group of friends. As she was thinking about what she wanted her party to look like, she was thinking about two of her best friends, Max and Cassie. Max and Cassie are Allison's two dogs that she loves very much and she told me that she "wanted to help other animals find loving homes too". Even at her young age, Allison recognizes that there are a lot of wonderful companion animals that are not as lucky as Max and Cassie.

Of course, it makes sense that when you are a thoughtful and caring young person, as Allison is, she would surround herself with friends that think like she does. When she told her friends what she wanted to do they were very excited, Allison said "my party was so fun, and my friends were really excited to help the animals too"!

I had the pleasure of meeting Allison and some of her friends when they brought in her extremely generous donation of \$215.00 along with some dog food. As I took them on a tour of our Animal Care Center, it seemed like the animals knew these were special young people as they almost all came to the front of their kennels to say thank you for caring about us. One of Allison's friends told me that she has been inspired by what Allison did and is planning on doing the same thing when it's time to celebrate her birthday.

It was truly a pleasure to meet Allison, her family and friends. The animals at the Placer SPCA owe a huge THANK YOU to these young people for making a difference in their lives.



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Several months ago, the 2009/2010 group of girls from Girl Scout Troop 2616 visited the Placer SPCA to earn their Pet Care Badge. Fortunately, for the homeless animals, participating in that program inspired the troop to help the Placer SPCA for their bronze award.

For a relatively small group, they did an outstanding job. The girls asked their classmates to get involved at both Rock Creek and Ruhkala Elementary Schools. The Rock Creek students brought in much needed supplies for the animals. The Ruhkala classes were each given a donation jar and the students were encouraged to drop change into the jars. The girls even got some help from the employees at NEC who donated supplies for the animals. In addition, the troop collected recycling that they turned in for cash.

After all of their hard work the troop brought in all of the supplies they collected along with a check in the amount of **\$370.00!!** (Pictured above are two of the scouts in the troop, Shelby and Allison). The girls chose to use \$250.00 of their donation, to sponsor a cat kennel for a year. The kennel sponsorship will help with the cost of caring for whatever cats pass through that kennel for the next year.

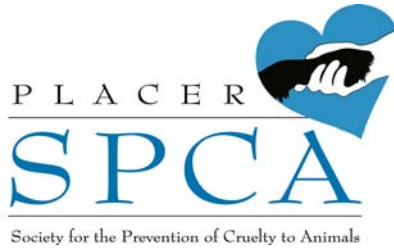
It never ceases to amaze me what a small group of young people, who are willing to work hard, can accomplish. The thing we always need most to help us continue our work on behalf of the animals is money, and these girls made a huge difference in the lives of the homeless animals. The animals at the Placer SPCA are so fortunate that there are young people like the girls in Troop 2616 in our community.

THANK YOU TROOP 2616 !!



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On a cool and wet Halloween eve a group of Boy Scouts along with their friends and family made a huge difference in the lives of the homeless dogs at the Placer SPCA.

Chris contacted me looking for project he could do to earn his Eagle Scout award. I talked to him about the challenge we have when we take the dogs out to the exercise area because they sometimes get too excited by the other dogs that are in that area. Without hesitation Chris said he would be happy to take on the challenge of providing some type of fencing material that would help make the individual areas a little more private.

Chris researched materials and worked with a vendor that was willing to help him make this happen by greatly reducing the price of supplies. Although he was getting a great deal on fencing fabric, he still had to come up with the money to pay for all of the supplies. Chris decided to collect items, organize and staff a garage sale to raise the required funds. Chris's garage sale was a huge success and he raised all the money necessary to buy everything he needed to make this project happen.

The hard work didn't end with getting the supplies. Chris needed to get a team together that would be willing to donate their time, tools and energy to complete this task. I could hardly believe my eyes when car after car of people started showing up before dawn to make this happen. Chris had recruited a large team of wonderful people that jumped right in and started trimming trees and bushes to facilitate the installation of the fence fabric. A project that we thought would take six-seven hours was done in four hours, which meant the dog runs were ready for customers when we opened for business.

What young people in our community are willing to do to help the homeless animals is a constant source of inspiration for me. More importantly, it assures me of a bright future for the animals.



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