



HUMANE
SOCIETY
OF BOULDER VALLEY

The Dish

AUTUMN 2020

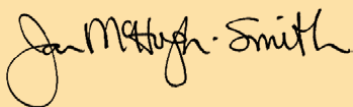


Dear Friends,

In a year full of change, the official season of transformation has arrived. This spring and summer brought significant shifts in our services – adoptions by appointment, socially distanced visits, and curbside care – and a significant increase in the reliance on our community Safety Net – discounted veterinary care for pet guardians in need of support, temporary boarding for displaced families, and free pet food. As we prepare for the chill of fall and a snowy winter, we know even more change is in the air. Our team is busy preparing warm waiting areas for those relying on HSBV, safe indoor meeting spaces for adopters, and pet care service delivery, while also continuing to provide a safe, kind, and loving place for shelter animals. It is because of you that HSBV has been able to meet emerging challenges, adapt, and continue to save and change lives – helping families grow and fostering happy and healthy relationships. In the last three months 831 pets have found loving homes, over 130 lost animals were reunited with their families, and more than 6,500 pet meals were supplied to those in need. Your dedication to HSBV is lifesaving and life-changing. Thank you for ensuring these pets had a safe place to go when they needed it most!

As we reflect with gratitude on the inspiring work you make possible, we look forward to our annual celebration of the pets in our lives and our shared commitment to those who still need us – our fall Dash. This year, things will look a little different as we go entirely digi-tail! The online finale of a life-changing summer, **Digitail Dash 2020** is a chance to see your pets (of all species!) come together to raise critical funding for the programs and services for animals and people at HSBV. Sign up today to help us continue this work. Countless lives have been saved and changed over the 31 years of the Dash because of the incredible efforts of our community, your networks, and our partners. Our DIY (Dash it Yourself) Day is Saturday, October 10 – we'll be featuring Dashers on our social media using **#DigitailDash**, giving you inside peeks at the animals at HSBV, and sharing inspiring updates from animals and families your fundraising efforts have helped along your Digitail Dash trail! Visit our event website digitaildash2020.org to learn more about the difference you can make for thousands and sign up today!

See you online!



Jan McHugh-Smith, CAWA, CEO



Creating healthy relationships between pets and people

The Humane Society of Boulder Valley's mission is founded on compassion for pets and people. By working to strengthen happy and healthy relationships between pets and people, you enable us to strengthen our community with love, empathy, and kindness. Now more than ever before, we recognize that in order to extend kindness to animals, we must always meet people with kindness. We believe kindness is the best kind of contagious – its infectious nature helps others thrive, encourages learning and growth, and feels good.

When it comes to managing our relationships with the animals in our lives, HSBV believes in choices and encouragement. **Our team exclusively uses and teaches reward-based training** – helping reinforce behaviors we want to see more of to overcome challenges. By giving the pets in our care the freedom to choose, we earn their trust, connect on a deeper level, and achieve our desired outcome – whether it's helping a pet learn to use the stairs, house training, walking on a leash, or relieving anxiety. *These science-based, positive reinforcement methods have been proven to have long-lasting positive outcomes on the relationships we share with our pets, and the ones they develop with other people.*

The same applies to our relationship with the people who rely on HSBV and members of our community. **We believe everyone should have a safe place they can turn to** – without fear of being judged. It's about preventing suffering by extending compassion. In order for our mission to be successful, we must seek to be inclusive, curious, empathic, and kind. *Ultimately, all of the programs of HSBV exist to be a resource to everyone in our community – from adoption, to training, lost & found reunions, to safety net services, and we strive to be an open door to anyone in need.*

Striving for kindness is a never-ending journey. As we reflect on the changes 2020 has brought us, we thank you, for not only being our partner on this journey, but for making it possible at HSBV. Our promise to you is that we will always lead with kindness, and always be willing to learn – for animals AND for people.

#BeKind



**Maddie's
Fund**

#ThanksToMaddie

From March to April 2020, more than 100 animals were supported by our foster program – more than twice as many animals than in 2019 during those same months! This incredible effort was made possible by the resources a grant from Maddie's Fund provided – securing critical foster supplies, extending staff and expert resources to support foster parents, and supporting virtual foster home check-ins. Thanks to Maddie and our amazing foster volunteers, more than half of the animals who entered foster this spring never spent another day at the shelter and found loving homes through our foster network!



Happy Tails

You made possible

A lifesaving Safety Net

This September, Bella Dawn suddenly became very sick and increasingly lethargic. Mr. Cross, a veteran who loves his little Bella Dawn very much, went to an emergency clinic but didn't know where to turn because he didn't have much money for her costly treatment. A kind technician at the emergency clinic who knew about the HSBV Safety Net program brought the pair to HSBV. Dr. Groshong and our veterinary team determined Bella Dawn's mystery illness was a false pregnancy, so our team spayed her, ensured she got plenty of rest, and got her back on her tiny feet.

While our team was providing lifesaving care for Bella Dawn, Mr. Cross experienced a ruptured appendix and was hospitalized! Our animal shelter then provided a few days of boarding for Bella Dawn while Mr. Cross recovered. We are happy to report, after both health scares, this loving pair was reunited within a few days. It was all smiles, kisses, and tireless tail wags!

Thank you for ensuring our Safety Net is ready for pets and their guardians when they need it most. You are life-changing.



Billie's adoption love story

"I wanted to give you an update on our sweet girl, who you knew as Ninja. We renamed her Billie, and she has come so far in the last two weeks – I cannot believe it!



We started in the spare room and she was in the upper shelf in the closet. At first we could not get to her easily because she was hiding, she was still so scared. As she got more comfortable, we went from enjoying pets up in the closet, to sometimes coming down from the shelf and wanting pets on the ground, to immediately coming down from the shelf when we walked in the room, to laying with us in the room and playing with all her new toys! She would also take treats right from our hand.

Once she got really comfortable in the room, we decided to start introducing her to our other black kitty, Thomas. Thomas is 5 and a very outgoing and curious kitty - super eager to meet his new friend. Billie was unsure at first, but now they play and hang out like old pals!

It is amazing to me how far she is come in such a small amount of time. She is such a sweet, loving, playful, and brave girl. She really has brought such a light to our little family! I feel very lucky to have adopted her.

Thank you HSBV for this opportunity to have such a sweet girl."

-Sadie V.

ALL DONATIONS
DOUBLED UP TO
\$10,000

thanks to our generous
year-round partners



DASH IT YOURSELF!

To support the animals and community programs
of the Humane Society of Boulder Valley



**HUMANE
SOCIETY**
OF BOULDER VALLEY



DIGITAIL DASH

2020 PRESENTED BY
FLATIRONS SUBARU

REGISTER & START FUNDRAISING TODAY!

Join us virtually on
October 10 to see your
lifesaving fundraising in action!

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP TODAY
digitaildash2020.org

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Saving and changing lives with Bonusly!

When Butterfly arrived at HSBV as a stray, she was overwhelmed with worry about her new surroundings. We knew she could transform into a fun and loving companion with a little help. Over the span of 3 weeks, our Training & Behavior Center's Behavior Modification program helped Butterfly overcome her fear as she learned to trust people. Our team was committed to helping her find a loving home – even after hours! After having spent time with our team to make sure they understood Butterfly's needs and how they could help her successfully transition into their home, a client was ready to take her home. It was at the very end of our business day, but they had fallen in love! Our Training & Behavior Center and Adoption Center teams stayed late to help set Butterfly and her new guardian up for their new life together. The next day on Bonusly, everyone celebrated their hard work to ensure Butterfly didn't spend another night in the shelter. Thanks to Bonusly, our entire organization could applaud the above and beyond effort and care provided, and cheer on Butterfly's flight into her second chance! Thanks for helping spread the love, Bonusly!



On the road again!

Our Transfer program hit the road again this summer to ensure animals in need had access to lifesaving medical care, life-changing behavior resources, and a chance at the love-filled life they deserve. Thanks to a generous grant from the Petco Foundation, our Transfer program has been able to bring 1,050 animals to Boulder in 2020, and help our neighbors by creating space in their shelters to assist with regional disaster response, help lost animals find their way home, and support incoming pets seeking a second chance. Thank you, Petco Foundation!



Your Impact by the Numbers

Adoptions: **1,553**

Reunifications: **271**

Spay/Neuter Surgeries: **1,244**

Behavior Care Animals: **289**

Transfers to HSBV: **750**

Pet Food Share Meals

to Community: **10,821**

Through Q2 2020

Donate to help the animals:

boulderhumane.org/give



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REGISTER TODAY!

Double your impact to support the
animals and community programs of
the Humane Society of Boulder Valley

digitaildash2020.org



Purina's year-round support helps animals like
Ruth look and feel their best while they seek a
loving home. Thank you, Purina for providing
nutritious food to the animals in our care and
making these second chances possible!



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