



We Care Animal Rescue News

Summer 2022

Shelter Director's Note

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Last July, I joined the team at We Care Animal Rescue and am looking forward to celebrating my first year at this beloved community institution. We Care Animal Rescue has served Napa Valley for forty years, and I'm grateful to lead the organization into its fifth decade.

As a lifelong animal lover, my career has been devoted to animal welfare, including roles at the Humane Society of Sonoma County, Seattle Humane Society and the New Orleans SPCA. I also founded a nonprofit farm rescue, Rebel Ranch Rescue, that takes unwanted farm animals and places them in loving homes.

In my free time, I volunteer with the Sonoma Community Animal Response Team (Sonoma CART) to provide disaster response training and support evacuation efforts. Additionally, I'm passionate about partnering with local nonprofits to provide free and affordable veterinary services



to low-income and unsheltered residents in Sonoma and Napa counties.

But perhaps my home is the best indicator of my passion for animal rescue! My family shares our space with a rotating menagerie of rescued pets and farm animals. We are constantly modifying our enclosures and enrichment as we play the role of happy host to reptiles, birds, farm animals, dogs and (very understanding) cats.

I'm eager to get to know all of you and learn more about what connected you to We Care over the past four decades. I hope to meet you in person at our Sip and Paint event (see below), the upcoming volunteer orientation (details inside) or on your next visit to the shelter.

Ashley Armstrong
SHELTER DIRECTOR



Sip & Paint

Sip, Paint & Mingle with Our Cats (Drinking Wine and Feline Fine!)

Make your own feline masterpiece while sipping wine and enjoying the cats in our sanctuary. Purrs and attention-seeking antics guaranteed.

Join us on our outdoor patio for a delightful afternoon of painting, sipping wine and enjoying the fine company of our felines on **Sunday, July 31 from 1-4pm.**

Let our talented guide, Liz Harrington, help you create a delightful painting while our cats and kittens sunbathe, frolic and stare down at you from all around. You'll walk away with lots of memories, snapshots and your very own acrylic masterpiece. Space is limited! Reserve your spot by purchasing a ticket for \$50: [tinyurl.com/WCARsipandpaint](https://www.tinyurl.com/WCARsipandpaint)



Our Cats are Wishing and Hoping ...

Can't volunteer at our shelter right now but want to help pets in need? In addition to monetary gifts, our cats always appreciate donations of delicious food and enriching toys.

Some residents, especially our seniors and those with medical needs, remain with us for extended stays as they wait for the perfect home. Our wishlists ensure all of the animals in our care are more comfortable and allows us to provide needed items to pets and their people in our community.

To see what we need, check out our wishlists on Amazon and Chewy. Pssst! Don't forget you can designate We Care Animal Rescue to receive a portion of every Amazon purchase you make by naming us as your beneficiary at smile.amazon.com.

amazon smile



chewy



Welcome Back Volunteers!

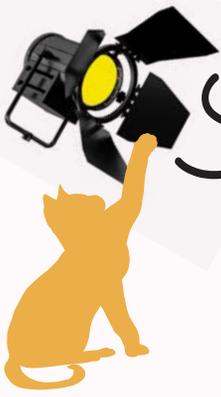
In the spring of 2020, we made the difficult decision to pause volunteer participation as we grappled with changing protocols and health concerns. Two years later, our staff was overjoyed to relaunch the volunteer program in June with fifteen community members. And that's to say nothing of our cats' excitement! We hosted the first orientation of 2022 in our Kitty City building and volunteers were greeted with happy meows and grateful purrs from nearly fifty free-roaming felines.



Are you or someone you know looking for a volunteer opportunity? We are still seeking adult volunteers who are able to commit to a weekly shift Monday through Sunday from 7:00am to 5:00pm. Volunteer roles include:

- **Foster Families** provide a temporary home full of TLC as a vital part of the socialization necessary for successful adoptions. In return, we provide food, litter and supplies while covering the cost of all medical expenses.
- **Animal Care Volunteers** enrich the lives of our shelter cats. By providing love, attention and play time, volunteers ensure every cat at We Care Animal Rescue is getting the best care possible.
- **Data Entry:** There are several opportunities to help with inputting data and keeping track of information critical to our shelter and operations. Attention to detail and the ability to work independently and in a timely manner are necessary.
- **Outreach:** Help us spread the word about the work of We Care Animal Rescue! As an outreach volunteer, you'll set up for fun events around Napa Valley, educate the public about our programs and services, and facilitate off-site adoptions.

No matter which role you choose, our volunteers can look forward to spending quality time with our shelter residents. To learn more, visit our website to fill out the quick, online application or email Ashley Armstrong at ashley@wecareanimalrescue.org with your questions. And please **save the date** for our **next volunteer orientation on Saturday, August 13 at 11am!**



Adoption Spotlight

Adopt a Shy Cat Have a Friend for Life

Why are cats sometimes shy? Well, just like people, our feline companions have a range of personalities, quirks and experiences that may make them wary of interacting with humans.

When new cats enter the shelter, our team spends a great deal of time with each one on their terms, to get to know them and eventually gain their trust. We've found that for these gentle souls a little love, patience and understanding goes a long way.

But hiding and shying away from pets can make it harder for a cat to connect with prospective adopters. Our intro-kits (introverted cats) are often overlooked once a gregarious kitten or friendly tabby distracts visitors with their confident greetings.

To encourage connections with our not-so-confident guys and gals, We Care has waived the adoption fees for all for shy cats like Harold, Kuro, Pitch, Bella, Lint, and Opal.

We've seen time and again that cats who are more on the cautious side often build confidence after some time in a loving, patient home. And though shy cats may take more time to win over, that can make it even more rewarding when your new companion purrs or cuddles up in your lap for the first time.

We hope you'll make the first move and meet these intro-kits in person. Our shelter is open to visitors Wednesday through Sunday from 11am to 3pm.

Harold



Kuro



Pitch



Bella



Lint



Opal



**Give a
Helping
Paw –
Donate
Your
Vehicle!**



1345 Charter Oak Avenue
St. Helena, CA 94574
wecareanimalrescue.org

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
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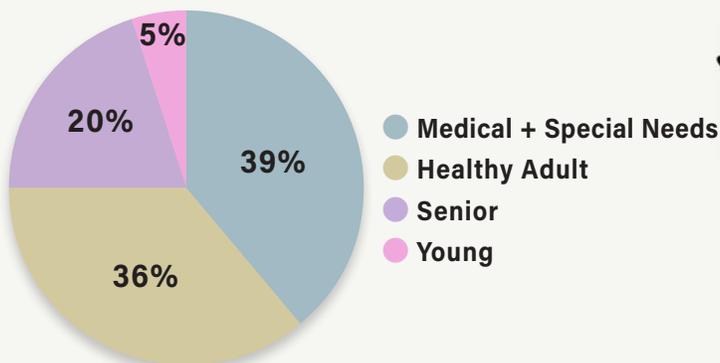
Did you know you can donate a car, truck, motorcycle, RV, or boat to We Care Animal Rescue? Our partner, **CARS**, makes donating your vehicle easy — they'll arrange a free pick-up at no cost to you within 24-72 hours. To get started, you can contact them 7 days a week at **(855) 500-7433** or visit their website tinyurl.com/CarsforWeCare

Our Impact in 2021 *by the numbers*

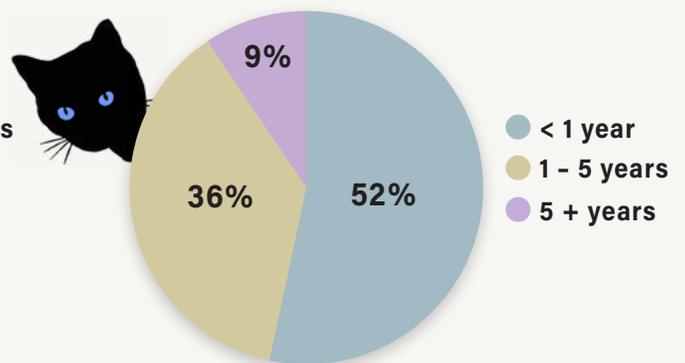
Many shelters and rescues have the capacity to care for healthy, young and adoptable animals, but few have the expert staff and flexible space to work with pets that have advanced medical or behavioral needs. We Care Animal Rescue fulfills this unique need in Napa Valley.

We welcome cats from local shelters and families that have no other options. Some are young and adoptable while others take more time to find a home suited to their unique needs. Our 2021 adoptions reflect their diversity and our long-term commitment to the animals in our care:

Adoptions by Category



Length of Stay in Shelter



In 2021, we also provided a wide range of resources to pets and their people in Napa Valley, including over 1,500 pounds of food for community cat populations, financial assistance for life-saving veterinary care for seven families, more than 75 vouchers for spay and neuter services, plus responses to hundreds of inquiries from the public with critical questions about animal care, resources in the area, and lost and missing pets.