

Summer 2009

**From the Executive Director**

These are exciting times for Animal Samaritans. The site for our new Veterinary Clinic is bustling with activity as tractors are clearing, leveling and preparing the land for construction. We hope to open the doors to the new clinic in December 2009. Not a day too soon because the clinic/shelter on Ramon Road is also extremely busy and poses daily challenges of accommodating the increasing demand...

In an effort to provide more services to the community, we launched Animal Samaritans' Mobile Pet Clinic. So far, we have given an additional 1,400 vaccinations and administered an additional 151 microchips at five half-day clinics.

A second veterinarian has joined our organization. Dr. Sheltraw performs spay and neuter surgeries, dental procedures and pet wellness exams. Turn to page 7 of this newsletter to get to know him.

As always, feel free to contact me with your questions and comments.

Sincerely,



Frederick L. Saunders, Jr.  
Executive Director

## Critter Cash Fun and Unique Gift Idea!



We are pleased to introduce Critter Cash, a practical and unique gift idea!

Critter Cash is good for payment of services at Animal Samaritans shelter and clinic, including spay & neuter, vaccinations, dental, wellness exams and adoptions.

So whether you are looking for a birthday, anniversary or holiday gift, or you want to give free microchipping or spay/neuter for a pet to someone, Critter Cash makes it easy and fun.

To purchase, please visit our shelter/clinic at 72307 Ramon Road in Thousand Palms, order online at [www.animalsamaritans.org](http://www.animalsamaritans.org) or call 760.343.0837.

Did you know you can also make a donation in honor of, or in memory of, a loved human or pet? You receive a tax receipt and we notify the family that a tribute gift has been made by you.

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## Board of Directors

**President:** Bill Blue  
**Vice President:** Betty Maytag  
**Treasurer:** Mike Russell  
**Secretary:** Sandy Beakey  
**Director:** Barbara Flanagan  
**Director:** Karen Reynolds

## How to Reach Us

### Adoptions

**343.3477, ext. 104**

Adoptable animals are also featured on our website

### Development & Membership

**343.3216**

development@animalsamaritans.org

### Education

**343.4326**

education@animalsamaritans.org

### Executive Director

**343.3506**

### Marketing & Public Relations

**343.4908**

pr@animalsamaritans.org

### Shelter/Clinic Operations

**343.3477, ext. 103**

### Spay/Neuter, Dental, Pet Wellness Appointments

**343.3477, ext. 106**

Appointments can also be made on our website

### Vaccination/Microchipping Info

**343.3477** (recording)

### Volunteer Services

**396.7313**

volunteer@animalsamaritans.org

**Phone: 760.343.3477**

**Fax: 760.343.7480**

**Web: animalsamaritans.org**

# New Clinic Update



Our grading permits have been granted. Tractors are now clearing, leveling, and preparing the land at 72-120 Petland Place for brick and mortar. With help from ORR Builders and the project managers at Holt Architects, we plan to open the doors to our new clinic in December 2009.

For information on how to support the *Every Creature Counts* capital campaign and the building of our new clinic, please call 760.343.3216 or visit [www.animalsamaritans.org/capital\\_funding.html](http://www.animalsamaritans.org/capital_funding.html)



## Urgent Needs

### In-Kind and Volunteers

- Towels, blankets, non-clumping cat litter, cat and dog toys, leashes, lots of harnesses for small dogs, Friskies wet cat food.
- Volunteers to help with phone work, administrative work, computer work, and animal fostering. Spanish speakers needed,

### Financial Contributions

**Areas in need of support include Shelter, Spay & Neuter Fund, Senior Pet Wellness Fund, Humane Education.** In 2008, Animal Samaritans gave more than \$97,000 in subsidized vet care to qualifying community members and free spay/neuter on feral cats. This year, the need is even greater. We have raised approximately \$40,000 to date for the **Spay & Neuter Fund**. We are also in need of funding for the **Senior Pet Wellness Fund**. Last year, we received \$40,000, all of which was expended before the end of the year. So far in 2009, we have raised \$27,500.

If you can help, please call 760.343.3216 or make a donation online at [www.animalsamaritans.org/makedonation.html](http://www.animalsamaritans.org/makedonation.html)

# The Meaning of Membership

## **The Value of Membership**

What is the value of membership in an organization? The true value of membership is the recognition and self-fulfillment that what you are supporting is important and does make a difference.

Many join a nonprofit because they believe in and identify with the mission of the organization.

Animal Samaritans SPCA, Inc. continues to be "Animal Samaritans Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc." The purpose of the Society is to eliminate the abuse, cruelty and suffering of animals through proactive services that include low cost spay and neuter services, low cost veterinary care, sheltering and adoptions, humane education aimed at teaching responsible animal care, animal assisted therapy providing therapeutic value to patients, special needs children and retirement center residents.

Our work helps "improve the lives of animals and people" in the Coachella Valley. Members have an important part in achieving this mission.

We currently have seven hundred and forty (740) active members and thousands of donors. Next time you make a contribution, please consider investing in a membership. There is no better way to say "I am also committed to the cause of reducing animal overpopulation, abuse, neglect, and the euthanasia of adoptable dogs and cats."

## **A Nonprofit Corporation**

Animal Samaritans SPCA, Inc. is recognized as a public benefit corporation. The Society is a tax exempt entity, organized under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No profit or any portion thereof, remainder or residue from dues, donations or income from operations shall inure to the benefit of members or officers. This means that surplus earnings are retained by the organization for future provision of services and programs, and improvement and replacement of facilities and equipment.

Nonprofit corporations exist to provide programs and services of public benefit. These programs and ser-



*Bill and Bonnie Ruttan with therapy dog Porter. The Ruttans have been members since 1999.*

vices are not otherwise provided by local, state or federal entities.

Non-profits can use income to more effectively accomplish their mission by expending funds for effective internal management, ensuring accountability for results and systems to monitor and report results.

## **Building capacity**

Membership fees are a revenue source that helps fund operations such as humane education, sheltering and adoptions, which are all non-revenue cost centers. These vital programs depend upon your membership fees and other contributions to

keep providing services to our communities.

Adequate membership revenue means that Animal Samaritans does not have to dip into reserves and other operating funds to keep these vital programs going.

## **Members have a voice**

Members have a voice in Animal Samaritans. Board of Director members are Board volunteers that represent the membership. Members also have a voice in voting, the right to be heard at Board meetings, and the right to petition to membership on the Board of Directors. Copies of the bylaws are available for more detail.

## **Membership is tax deductible**

Animal Samaritans offers several Individual Membership levels ranging from \$25 to \$5,000 as well as Business Memberships ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. Membership dues are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS.

## **Join Our family of members!**

We need your help to achieve our mission! We cannot do it without you! If you are not already a member, please consider joining by calling 760.343.3216 or visit <http://www.animalsamaritans.org/membership.html>

For questions about the organization, please contact Fred Saunders, executive director, at 760.343.3506 or [fsaunders@animalsamaritans.org](mailto:fsaunders@animalsamaritans.org)

# Animal Samaritans Roundup



## Magazine Feature

The **BottomLine** ran two feature articles in the June "Pet Edition" of the magazine. One was an update on the organization and our new clinic, while the other followed an amazing therapy dog as she visits profoundly disabled children, hospital patients, and the mentally ill. These animals transform lives!

## Shiny Apple Award

In May, The Palm Springs Unified School District awarded Animal Samaritans' Animal Assisted Therapy program with its coveted Shiny Apple award for our teams' work with disabled children in the schools. The award is typically awarded to the district's top teacher or administrator; this is the first time an animal welfare organization has been given the honor.



## Animal Samaritans' Mobile Pet Clinic



*Coachella pet owners visiting while waiting for vaccinations.*

In April our clinic staff and volunteers went to Mecca, where we gave a record 347 pet vaccinations.

On Saturday, May 30, we did even better. We were in the city of Coachella and gave more than 450 pet vaccinations in less than 6 hours! An all-time record. In addition, we administered pet microchips to 25 dogs and cats.

Animal Samaritans has also brought its Mobile Pet Clinic to Palm Desert's Joslyn Senior Center and Palm Springs' Mizell Senior Center.

We are currently planning another clinic in Coachella, Saturday, June 27 at Veterans Park, 6:30am – 9:30am. Additional locations will follow.

## Pet Adoption Event at Desert Pride Center

As this issue goes to press, we are preparing for a pet adoptions event hosted by the Desert Pride Community Center in Palm Springs on Saturday, June 20, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. We have invited our partners from Riverside County Animal Services to join us with pets for adoption. We are grateful for this opportunity to help our orphan cats and dogs find loving homes.

# Animal Welfare Information

## News, Tips, Legislative Updates

### Pets and Heat

Please remember to never leave your pet in a parked car on warm days, and warn others of how dangerous it can be.

Even on an 85-degree day, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees. At 110 degrees, pets are in danger of heatstroke and death.

If a pet is overcome by heat exhaustion, you must lower the body temperature immediately. Move the pet into the shade and apply cool water, or apply ice packs or cold towels to the head, neck and chest. Let it drink small amounts of water or lick ice cubes. Take it to a veterinarian right away. This could save its life.



### Wellness Exams for Your Pet

Regular wellness exams allow your veterinarian to evaluate your pet's general health before health problems become serious illnesses. Every year for a dog or cat is equivalent to five to seven human years, so it is important that your pet receives a wellness exam at least every year, and more often when he enters his senior years. Many aspects of your pet's health can change in a short amount of time, so make sure your pet does not miss even one exam!

Source: The American Animal Hospital Association



To make an appointment at Animal Samaritans SPCA for an affordable pet wellness exam, please call 760.343.3477 ext. 106

### The REVERSAL Ordinance (630.12) Now in Effect

**What:** The ordinance requires that cats and dogs be spayed/neutered and implanted with identifying microchips. Riverside County Animal Services will enforce the ordinance on pets whose owners let them run stray, bite, bark and otherwise violate the law. Enforcement of the ordinance is based on the cooperation of the owner. The way the ordinance works is similar to "fix-it ticket" laws related to owning an automobile. For example, a police officer pulls you over for a broken tail light. You are told to fix the broken tail light. If you fail to make the repair, you could face higher penalties. The REVERSAL Ordinance puts the responsibility on the pet owner to keep their intact animal in their yard or face possible fines when cited for other violations. Enforcement of mandatory microchipping is also in effect.

**When:** The ordinance was approved in January. Enforcement began June 1.

**Where:** The new regulations apply only to pets in unincorporated areas of the county, and include some exemptions for sick and old animals. The ordinance provides a spay/neuter exemption for recognized breeders who do not want to have their pets spayed/neutered.

**Information:** [www.rcdas.org](http://www.rcdas.org)

***Even if you don't live in unincorporated Riverside County, please make sure your pet is spayed/neutered and microchipped, and encourage others to do the same.***

### Bones 'n Scones Moves to New Store

Our friends at Bones 'n Scones, a pet nutrition center specializing in natural foods for dogs and cats, have moved to a new location, across the street from the original store. The store offers home baked treats, custom gift baskets & baked to order doggie cakes.

Open M-F 9am - 6pm, Sat. 9am - 5pm. Closed Sun.



577 E. Sunny Dunes Rd.,  
Ste. 8  
Palm Springs, CA 92264  
760.864.1133  
[www.bonesnscones.com](http://www.bonesnscones.com)

# What's Happening?

## Events & Programs

### ***The Bradley Ryan/Desert Falls "Putts for Pets" Golf Tournament***

*Benefitting Animal Samaritans*

Sunday, December 6, 2009, 12 noon shotgun  
After Party: 5 - 9 p.m. with Awards, Music, Dancing  
Desert Falls Country Club  
(Takes the place of this year's Putts for Mutts)

### ***Men of Pompeii Fashion Show***

*Benefits the "Every Creature Counts" Capital Campaign*

Saturday, January 9, 2010, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Hyatt Grand Champions Resort, Indian Wells

### ***ARF Academy Awards***

*Benefits the Spay & Neuter Fund*

Sunday February 21, 2010  
Location TBA

### ***Walk with the Animals***

*Benefits Humane Education and the Shelter*

Saturday, March 20, 2010, 9 am - 12 noon;  
registration 8 - 9 a.m.  
Start a walk team—pledges and donations are needed  
Palm Desert Civic Park, Palm Desert

### ***Vaccination & Microchip Clinics***

June 27: Coachella 6:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Veterans Park

### ***Dog First Aid & CPR***

September—November: Call for dates.  
Call 760.343.4326 to make reservations

### ***Critter Camp***

June 22 - 26, 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon. Ages 5 - 12.

### ***Animal Assisted Therapy Orientation***

Last Saturday of each month, September - May

### ***Pet Loss Support Group***

Call 760.772.8462 or email [GriefCoach@aol.com](mailto:GriefCoach@aol.com)

***Unless otherwise indicated,  
please call 760.343.0837 for information or visit  
[www.animalsamaritans.org](http://www.animalsamaritans.org)***

## Clinic & Shelter Hours

### **Low-Cost Spay and Neuter, Dental and Other Veterinary Services**

By appointment M-F and two Saturdays per month.  
For appointments and Saturday schedule, call  
760.343.3477 ext. 106 or visit [animalsamaritans.org](http://animalsamaritans.org)

### **Low-Cost Vaccinations**

Walk-in, M-F and two Saturdays per month  
9:30 a.m.-12 Noon; 1:00-3:30 p.m.

### **Shelter/Adoptions**

Walk-in, M-F 9:00 a.m.-12 Noon; 1:00-4:30 p.m.;  
Saturdays 9:30 a.m.-12 Noon; 1:00-3:30 p.m.  
Call 760.343.3477 ext. 104.

### **Saturday Veterinary Clinic (Two Saturdays/month):**

**July 11 & 25,  
August 8 & 22, September 12 & 26, 2009**

## Animal Samaritans is Not Affiliated with Pets on Parade

We have received many phone calls regarding this year's Pets On Parade (POP) event from people wanting their POP entry money to go towards Animal Samaritans Spay & Neuter Fund. Please know that Animal Samaritans' is not involved in POP, and your money will not go to our programs. Proceeds from the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual ARF Academy Awards, held May 3, went to our No-Cost Spay & Neuter Fund—but more funds are needed! To support the Spay & Neuter Fund, call 769.343.3216 or go to [www.animalsamaritans.org](http://www.animalsamaritans.org)



## Sign Up for Email News Briefs!

News happens every day and from time to time, we send out short email blasts with information we think is of interest to you. Sign up on [animalsamaritans.org](http://animalsamaritans.org) or send an email to [acrist@animalsamaritans.org](mailto:acrist@animalsamaritans.org) with the subject "Subscribe to email".

## Where Are They Now?

**Have you adopted a pet from Animal Samaritans? If so, we would love to hear from you with a photo and a note about your pet. Mail or email it to the editors at the address on the back of the newsletter.**



“Can you help?” is something we hear often when we answer the phone. This call, back in February, came from a local veterinary office. A female dog had died, leaving four motherless, three day-old puppies behind.

There were no foster parents available, so two Animal Samaritans’ staff members shared the responsibility of giving the young pups a chance at life. Kelly Lerma cared for and fed them during the day, with help from other staff members. Angie Crist took the night shift, picking up the puppies each evening on her way home to her family.

Today, Bella and Gizmo (left) have been adopted by Angie, while Tiny and Portia have gone to their forever home together. We see Bella and Gizmo often and can’t imagine a world without them.

You too can help save lives by fostering. Please call us at 396.7313 if you can make yourself available for a few weeks to a furry friend in need. Sometimes, all an animal needs is a little time and a little love.

## Meet The Singing Doctor...

On April 6, Animal Samaritans hired Dr. Sheltraw—their second full-time veterinarian—to assist with spay & neuter surgeries, and perform pet dental and pet wellness procedures.

Eight years ago Dr. Sheltraw moved to the Desert to retire with his wife and two cats, Coco and Channel. But when the economy went topsy-turvy he was back in the job market; lucky for us he applied at Animal Samaritans.

He graduated from Michigan State University in veterinary medicine, and did a two-year stint at The Berkeley Humane Society. Dr. Sheltraw then ran his own small animal hospital for more than 40 years. He primarily saw dogs and cats, but recalls one particularly tetchy client with whiskers and fins.

“The military had inserted a sonar device into a 200 lb. sea lion, and asked me if I would x-ray the animal,” recalls Dr. Sheltraw. “For two hours he ruled my clinic. It

smelled like fish for days from all the treats we used to lure him out.”

When asked what led him to his profession in animal medicine, he struggles to answer. There was his father’s friend the veterinarian. There was his childhood, growing up on a dairy farm, where he remembers milking the cows with barn cats at his feet, their hungry mouths eager for a squirt of fresh milk.



*Animal Samaritans’ Dr. Sheltraw.*

After hours the doctor enjoys his passion for singing. While living in the San Francisco Bay area, he sang the national anthem for the Oakland A’s—fifteen years straight. Every Thursday night he performs at the Heritage Palms Country Club. He’s partial to country western music, but rounds out his repertoire with Frank Sinatra and Englebert Humperdink songs. His warm up routine? “Do Re Mi Fa So La Te Meow Woof!” Just a guess.

**Animal Samaritans SPCA, Inc.**

**CLINIC & SHELTER**

72307 Ramon Road, Thousand Palms, CA 92276  
Phone: 760.343.3477. Fax: 760.343.0078

**ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT**

72715 La Cañada Way, Thousand Palms, CA 92276  
Phone: 760.343.0837, Fax: 760.343.7480

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 513, Thousand Palms, CA 92276-0513

**EMAIL**

info@animalsamaritans.org

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*Animal Tales is published for members of Animal Samaritans SPCA, Inc. If you prefer to read our newsletter online, please send an email to [acrist@animalsamaritans.org](mailto:acrist@animalsamaritans.org) with the subject "Newsletter email only" and we will notify you when the newsletter has been posted.*

***Mission Statement***

*Improving the Lives of Animals and People  
since 1978*

***About Animal Samaritans***

***Federal ID: 95-3171876***

Animal Samaritans SPCA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit animal welfare organization committed to eliminating the euthanasia of adoptable animals. Programs and services in place to save the lives of healthy and treatable animals include prevention through humane education, low cost and no-cost spay and neuter, low-cost vaccinations, micro-chipping; shelter and care, and adoptions to lifelong homes. We also offer free services that enhance the bond between people and animals, such as volunteer-based animal assisted therapy programs for hospitals, health care, special needs facilities, and Juvenile Hall. Animal Samaritans SPCA, founded in 1978, is the Coachella Valley's most comprehensive animal welfare organization.

***Please remember Animal Samaritans SPCA in your wills and trusts. Ask about "AnSams ARK", a program to entrust your pets to the care of Animal Samaritans.***

***Is Your Membership Current?***

Your membership is current as of the end of last month if an **M** appears by your name below. To renew/join, please go online or call 760.343.0837.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #149  
PALM DESERT, CA