



# Paw Prints

SERVING THE ENTIRE BIG ISLAND

SECOND QUARTER 2017

## It Really Does Take a Village

Hawaii Island Humane Society's Kona Shelter manager Roxy O'Neal spearheaded the successful rescue of over 50 dogs, so far, from a residence in Ocean View. The scale of the rescue required intense coordination between HIHS staff, foster volunteers who temporarily took in dogs, people ready to adopt locally and transports to mainland shelters for additional adoptions. The response to the owner's request for help required HIHS deliveries of food and water in addition to a spike in spay and neuter surgeries and general animal care.

To fulfill the commitment that all dogs rescued would be adopted out, fosters came forward to assist and community members helped with needed donations. Generous contributions from Ginger Towle and West Hawaii Humane Society allowed HIHS to transport many of the rescued dogs to mainland adoptions. Mahalo to everyone who participated in this positive outcome.

## Spay. Neuter. Fix the Problem.

How does Hawaii Island Humane Society work to reduce animal overpopulation?

To accomplish this, Hawaii Island Humane Society 1) continues to increase spay and neuter initiatives around the entire island and 2) engages the community in humane education. "There is a direct connection between successful spay and neuter initiatives and the decline in puppies and kitties arriving at our shelters," said HIHS Executive Director Donna Whitaker. "Fewer animal intakes combined with robust adoption programs result in lowering euthanasia."

According to American Humane's online fact sheet on Animal Shelter Euthanasia, national euthanasia statistics are difficult to pinpoint because animal care and control agencies are not uniformly required to keep statistics. Their data estimates that 56 percent of dogs and 71 percent of cats that enter animal shelters are euthanized and adoption rates run at about 25%. The Humane Society of the United States concurs that "...obtaining accurate statistical data about pets in the United States isn't easy."

By comparison, the euthanasia rate at Hawaii Island Humane Society for all shelter dogs is 38% (versus 56% nationally) and for all shelter cats is 61% (versus 71% nationally).

"For adoption comparisons, 100% of all adoptable dogs and cats that enter our shelter are adopted," added Whitaker. "Euthanasia rates are declining and with the community's help, we are working diligently to lower them even further."

### JOIN THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

## Grand Opening CENTRAL BARK DOG PARKS At New Animal Community Center



Howl'ween  
POOCH  
PARADE  
KONA

Saturday, October 28

### UPDATE

The Animal Community Center  
OF THE HAWAII ISLAND HUMANE SOCIETY

The Leeward Planning Commission approved the amended Special Use Permit last month that will enable Hawaii Island Humane Society to expand facilities planned for the third phase of the new Animal Community Center. A larger, state-of-the-art veterinary clinic is being planned with additional stray dog and cat housing designed to meet community needs today and in the future. With multiple surgery suites, HIHS veterinary staff will be able to substantially increase spay and neuter surgeries and provide the highest standard of care for sick and injured animals.

Meanwhile, construction on the Central Bark Dog Parks is in full swing. Mark your calendars for the annual Howl'ween Pooch Parade this October 28 that will take place in conjunction with the grand opening of the new Central Bark Dog Parks.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Donna Whitaker**



**Kona Shelter**  
74-5225 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
329-1175  
Mon – Sat 9:00am – 5:30pm

**Waimea Shelter**  
67-1611 Mamalahoa Hwy.  
Kamuela, HI 96743  
885-4558  
Mon – Sat 8:00am – 3:30pm

**Keaua Shelter**  
16-873 Keau Pahoa Hwy.  
Keau, HI 96749  
966-5458  
Mon – Fri 9:00am – 5:30pm  
Sat 7:30am – 4:00pm

## Aloha,

I am excited to share with you that in June, the Hawaii County Planning Department approved our Special Permit Application for the expanded Animal Community Center. This is the culmination of many years of work, permit applications, land donation and fundraising.

For many years our board of directors has been working towards building a new location for animal sheltering facilities to serve West Hawaii's needs. The current one acre location near the police station and landfill is very hot, too small and poorly located.

We are happy to report that our team has been successful in securing the permits and approvals needed to at long last, make this long dreamed of facility a reality. Construction is now underway at our new 12-acre site at the former Fuku Bonsai and old quarry site in Keauhou.

Since we were first granted our existing Special Permit in 2011 we have received final plan approval and a building permit for phase 1 that includes two dog parks, administrative offices, a welcome center, restrooms and related improvements. We have also received final plan approval for phase 2 that includes three dog dormitories, a cat adoption barn and a barn for larger animals.

Our new animal facility has been designed and engineered to:

- Decrease the number of animals euthanized by offering more space and a better living environment for the animals until they are adopted.
- Decrease animal intakes by increasing spay and neuter surgeries in a new veterinary clinic that will also provide for emergency care and treatment.
- Provide a community place where people can enjoy the animals, the outdoor spaces, dog parks and unique landscape.
- Incorporate sustainability standards and "green" practices wherever possible in design, construction and in everyday operations.

Dedication runs deep at the Hawaii Island Humane Society. We could not accomplish what we do without the dedication of our donors, our volunteers and our dedicated team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your commitment. The Hawaii Island Humane society continues to strive to meet the needs of the animals and our growing community every day. The future is bright and we are working hard to be ready for the challenges and opportunities that are and will be at our doorstep.

## Aloha,

**Adam Atwood**  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
HAWAII ISLAND HUMANE SOCIETY



## SECOND QUARTER STATS

**580**  
DOGS ADOPTED

**274**  
CATS ADOPTED

**17**  
CRITTERS ADOPTED

**187**  
ANIMALS REUNITED WITH OWNERS

**88**  
ANIMALS TRANSPORTED OFF ISLAND

**1,419**  
HIHS SPAY NEUTER SURGERIES PERFORMED

CONNECT WITH US AT  
[hihs.org](http://hihs.org)



## Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

### Kona



Kevin Chatfield

Kevin Chatfield is on the lookout to comfort animals that arrive at the shelter feeling frightened or confused. "I try to help the scared ones build trust in people again. When I can bring that tail out from between their legs and bring those ears up, then I feel better," said Kevin.

Kevin is a very talented photographer who shoots incredible action pictures of older and harder to adopt dogs that reveal their adoption potential. He's been a stellar HIHS volunteer since 2012 and tackles all sorts of projects including parade participation, mobile adoptions, Tropical Paws, shelter volunteer orientations and tours. He has also assisted with Jr Pals, recruited other volunteers, helped build our kitten nursery and even done general repairs.

He works with our New Leash on Life program participants to help capture playful shots of the dogs and said, "I love helping teach the kids the right ways to handle the animals so they grow into responsible pet owners."

Animals have always been a huge part of Kevin's life and his birthday even coincides with The Feast of St. Francis, the day when animals are blessed. His gentle touch always soothes a panicky dog or cat, and some say he just might be an animal whisperer.



PHOTO: KEVIN CHATFIELD

## MAHALO



The **Windermere Foundation** awarded Hawaii Island Humane Society a **\$2,000 grant** to be used toward its New Leash on Life program. Each time a home is purchased or sold using a Windermere agent, a portion of the commission goes into the Windermere Foundation fund to benefit low-income and homeless families in their local communities.



To celebrate **Pearl's first birthday** (she is a deaf and blind dog adopted from Hawaii Island Humane Society) her mom raised **\$2,000** in donations for our Mainland Transfer Program.



### ALOHA DR. OTA

Kona's old-timers along with newer residents were saddened to learn of longtime Kona veterinarian **Dr. Gary Ota's** passing earlier this year. Always soft spoken, Dr. Ota was a dear friend to his patients and their people – several of whom celebrated his dedicated service with memorable tributes. His daughter Chloe Gaines, TTE generously donated his Kona Coast Veterinary Hospital equipment valued in excess of **\$47,000** to the Hawaii Island Humane Society where it will continue to serve island animals.



To **Nancy Jones** for hosting the Hawaii Horse Expo's 2017 Equine Medicine Symposium with proceeds benefitting our **Horse Rescue** fund that helps abused and abandoned horses on Hawaii Island.



To celebrate their **5 Year Anniversary**, **Lava Lava Beach Club – Waikoloa** is giving \$2 from select menu items to different charities with Fish & Chips going to the animals of Hawaii Island Humane Society!





## Humane Educator Corner



The summer is in full swing and Jr. Pals at all three shelters are learning and having a great time. The pets love the energy and fun the kids bring. My favorite is watching the kids help a shy or fearful dog conquer that fear with their gentle guidance. A dog that may have a fear

of water will quickly get over that fear with 10 kids eagerly hopping in the pool to show them how fun it is! And running through the sprinkler? Who doesn't remember that fondly?

We have lots of new faces and many familiar ones too in our 8th running of the Jr. Pals program. A few of the Jr. Pals have been participating for 5 years now.

Summer always has me looking back over the past year. Our educational programs have continued to grow each year, reaching more island keiki with Dayzee's message of kindness, safety and responsible pet ownership. This past year Dayzee and I visited 57 island schools, taught 486 Humane Education classes with 8,673 students participating. Whew! And we look forward to the upcoming year and hope to add more.

If you would like to schedule a Humane Education class and visit from Dayzee, please contact us at [volunteer@hihs.org](mailto:volunteer@hihs.org). We look forward to seeing you.

Aloha,

**Bebe Ackerman and Dayzee**

CERTIFIED HUMANE EDUCATION SPECIALIST



## Vet's Corner

### HIHS Spay/Neuter Program: Where Your Pet is Our Surgery Patient

#### AT HIHS, WE TAKE SURGERY VERY SERIOUSLY

- ✿ Although spays and neuters are routine procedures, doing surgery on an animal is never taken lightly
- ✿ We recognize that our community will only participate in a free spay/neuter program they can trust
- ✿ We never want anyone to say "Well, you get what you pay for," when talking about our free surgeries

#### EXPECT HIGH QUALITY

- ✿ We follow all guidelines by nationally recognized organizations regarding high-quality high-volume spay/neuter clinics
- ✿ The surgical techniques used by our Veterinarians are comparable to top Veterinary Hospitals in our community
- ✿ We use the same anesthetic substances and surgical supplies used by top Veterinary Hospitals in our community
- ✿ Our surgeries are assisted only by trained technical staff, not lay person volunteers
- ✿ Although we do one surgery right after another, each patient is supervised individually throughout anesthetic induction, preparation, surgery and recovery
- ✿ The majority of our patients recover in spacious stainless steel cages. Only a minority (usually cats) recover in portable crates.

#### EXPECT FEW COMPLICATIONS

- ✿ It is rare for our patients to experience problems or infections
- ✿ It is even rarer for our patients (less than .1%) to experience an adverse reaction to anesthesia

#### EVEN WHILE EXERCISING GREAT CARE AND RESPECT FOR EACH PATIENT, WE STILL PERFORM NUMEROUS SURGERIES

- ✿ We do about 20-30 surgeries each surgery day
- ✿ We have 4 surgery days a week in Keau and 3 days in Kona
- ✿ We do 4500-5500 surgeries annually (nearly 50,000 in the last 9 years)

#### THE MORE PETS THAT HAVE SURGERY, THE BETTER FOR HIHS

- ✿ The amount of dogs and cats we intake every year is decreasing
- ✿ A lower intake means less euthanasia
- ✿ We work very hard to make sure every pet has the opportunity for surgery
- ✿ Organizing the surgery program requires much time, skill and commitment especially because we keep it flexible to meet the various needs of our community members
- ✿ Please be patient with our staff while they find you the next available appointment



**Kristina Henricks, PhD, DVM**  
HIHS VETERINARIAN



**HAWAII HORSE EXPO**

*presents*

**THE 2017  
EQUINE  
WELLNESS  
SYMPOSIUM**

*It's All About The Feet*

**September 9 and 10,  
from 10 am to 5 pm daily  
at Pukalani Stables in  
Waimea.**

Online ticket sales open August 1 for a limited number of attendees at HawaiiHorseExpo.com. Tickets also available beginning August 1 at HIHS shelters (and via charge by phone at 808-329-2135 ext. 3).



The mission of the Hawaii Island Humane Society is to prevent cruelty to animals, eliminate pet overpopulation and enhance the bond between humans and animals.

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740-2701  
74-5225 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy.  
Hawaii Island Humane Society



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