

You Gave This Rising Star What She Always Wanted

When we first met Stella, her future looked grim. The lonely stray suffered from severe chronic eye disease, dental disease and an untreated hernia. It was clear she hadn't felt the gentle touch of a loving hand, or relief from her pain, in a long time.

Our medical team got to work, removing her damaged eye, repairing her hernia and providing dental care. Through it all, Stella persisted.

"Stella is such a brave girl," says Dr. Jenn Wernsing, SPCA Veterinarian. "She was so sweet through her surgeries with us. We all just fell in love."

"Donations help get these animals taken care of in such a loving and nurturing way."

It's true. Stella became quite the snuggle bug! Stella enjoyed cuddling up with our staff and volunteers as she recovered. When she was feeling better, she joined our humane education team, helping teach schoolchildren how to nurture empathy and kindness for animals.

Stella even became a local celebrity when her adoption photo went viral on social media! People started recognizing her all over town, asking to take pictures with this sparkly little star.



Thanks to your support, Stella found what she may have never known: safety, kindness and relief from her pain.

But the fame didn't matter so much when she found what she always wanted: a loving family of her own.

"She's such a love," says her adoptive mom, Rhonda. "I'm so happy we chose each other."

"When I think of the four pets I've adopted from the SPCA, I'm grateful for the amazing work you do," adds Rhonda. "Donations help get these animals taken care of in such a loving and nurturing way."

Your generosity transformed what could have been another sad story into a hopeful new beginning. Thank you for giving Stella comfort, the promise of love and a kindness she'd never known. 🐾

Joey Was Lost and Hurting ... But You Saved His Life.

Joey, a 13-year-old senior cat, endured something no animal should go through.

In an act of pure cruelty, he was thrown from the window of a moving vehicle and abandoned with his injuries.

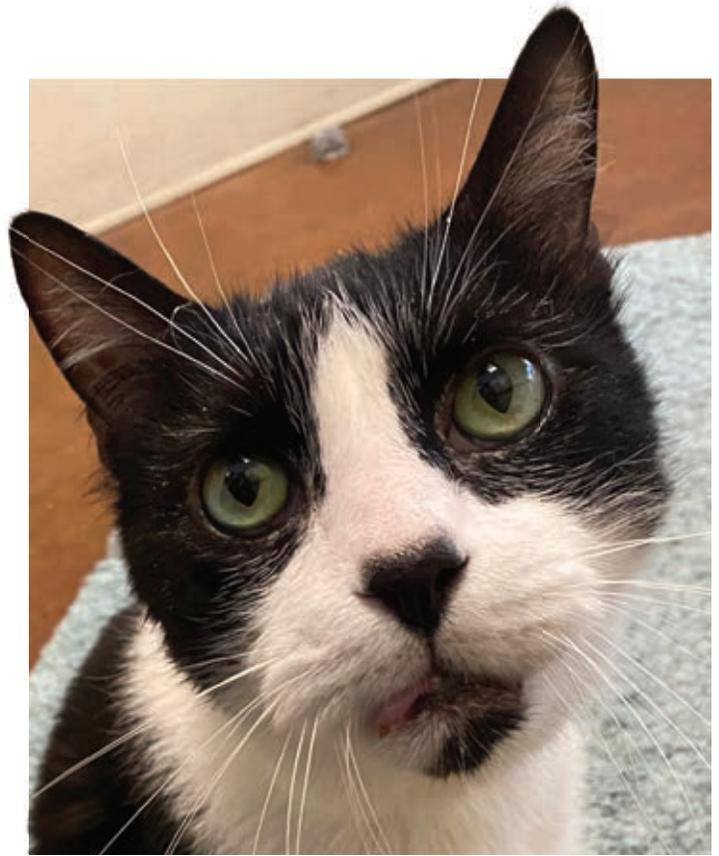
He suffered a broken jaw and severe infection ... but Joey's story became one of resilience, love and new beginnings, all thanks to your support.

"Our veterinary team knew Joey deserved every chance," says SPCA veterinarian Dr. Jenn Wernsing. "His surgery was long and complicated, including multiple extractions, repairing his jaw and treating a major infection, but he healed beautifully."

*"You can give an animal
a good life for the rest of
their time here."*

Throughout his care, Joey's gentle spirit blossomed. "When I was examining him, he climbed onto my shoulder to sit and purr," recalls Dr. Wernsing. "Even after all he endured, he just wanted to be close. How could anyone not love him?"

That same sweetness captured the heart of Donna, who adopted Joey.



You gave Joey comfort in his golden years. Thank you!

"He lets me hold him and kiss him, and he licks my face in return," she says. "I come home from work, and he's waiting by the door to greet me. He's been such a pleasure."

For Donna, adopting a senior wasn't part of the plan ... but it became a gift. "You can give an animal a good life for the rest of their time here," she says.

Your donations make it possible for us to care for senior pets like Joey and ensure every animal gets the chance to heal, trust and be cherished through their golden years. Thank you! 🐾



Breaking

MEWS

There's a new tax benefit you'll want to know about! Starting with your 2026 taxes, you can get a new tax break for your charitable gifts, even if you don't itemize your deductions.

- Single filers can deduct up to **\$1,000** in donations.
- Married joint filers can deduct up to **\$2,000**.

That means your generosity can help animals and reduce your taxable income. Next year at tax time, you'll be glad you gave!



You Nurture Empathy and Compassion in the Next Generation

Thank you for helping us guide and inspire animal lovers of all ages in our community!

SPCA Monterey County has been your trusted leader in animal welfare and humane education for over 120 years. With your generous support, our Humane Education programs can keep growing, ensuring even more students and families benefit from lessons that inspire compassion, kindness and respect for all animals.

Last year, our Humane Education team reached 8,690 children and adults across Monterey County. This year, we're expanding our outreach and deepening our commitment to South County communities. We've added an additional educator and increased the number of classrooms we visit from Chualar to the South County line — while continuing our strong presence on the Peninsula and in Salinas.

Our program is led by two dedicated educators: Kennedy Rivera, who brings experience from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Sea Center and Santa Barbara Zoo, and Blanca Marquez, a former high school teacher born in Guanajuato, Mexico and raised in Salinas. Blanca's strong ties to the region and bilingual skills make her an invaluable bridge to South County schools.

"We're honored to bring humane education to more children," says Blanca. "Together, we can create a kinder future for animals and people alike."

Every presentation and classroom visit is offered free of charge, made possible by your incredible support. Thank you for helping us expand this vital work, and for ensuring children throughout Monterey County learn the values of empathy and compassion!

To bring our programs to your school, please call Dawn Fenton, our Content & Education Manager, at 831-264-5404. 🐾

Are you interested in learning about our vital work and programs, but are past school age?

We'd love to offer you a private tour to learn more about how your donations save and change lives.



Contact **Danielle Dames**, Donor Relations Associate at ddames@spcamc.org or schedule a time on her tour calendar by scanning the QR code.

You're Awesome for Helping These Opossums!



Thank you for ensuring we can take care of animals from all walks of (wild)life!

Opossums are the unsung heroes of our ecosystem. They eat ticks, rodents, insects and carrion, helping to control disease and keep environments healthy.

Last year, your SPCA Monterey County Wildlife Rescue Center rescued 417 Virginia opossums — up from 272 the year before. They were among the thousands of animals we cared for thanks to your compassionate gifts. They came to us after being hit by cars, caught by dogs or orphaned. Our skilled team carefully tube-fed the youngest joeys every 90 minutes, then gradually introduced solid foods like eggs, fruit, vegetables and insects. As they grew stronger, we moved them outside in family groups to forage and adapt to our local climate before releasing them back into the wild.

This lifesaving, round-the-clock care is made possible by friends like you. Thank you for your support that protects wildlife in need. 🐾

You're Keeping This Tiny Goat Family Together

Shirley, a pregnant Nigerian Dwarf goat, was far from safe shelter when our humane officers found her. But thanks to your support, she found comfort and love here with us. Our barn team provided this soon-to-be mama with nutritious food, fresh water and thorough veterinary care. Weeks later, she delivered two healthy babies, who we named Lenny and Squiggy.

The tiny kids loved to run, jump, head butt and climb under the attentive eye of their patient mother. Our staff snuggled and socialized them. But one of our volunteers fell in love. She adopted the entire family, keeping them together. Now, the goats have their own home with a fun play structure — and we get to hear all about them as they grow!

Thank you for making our rescues possible. Your gifts ensure every animal who needs us finds safety and love at the SPCA. 🐾



You gave Shirley and her babies so much more than shelter and care. They found love, and a happy home, because of you!

PLEASE CUT AND DETACH THE REPLY FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR GIFT.



Yes! I want to help save even more animals. I've enclosed a tax-deductible gift of:

\$ _____.

I'm giving in honor/memory of _____.

More Giving Options

- My employer will match my gift. I'm enclosing my company's matching gift form.
- I would like information about providing for animals in my will or estate plans.

My check is enclosed.

Please charge my: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Scan the QR code with your phone to donate now!

For a one-time gift of: _____

For a monthly gift of: _____, until I cancel.



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