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## Fwd: May 25th Volunteer Newsletter

Inbox



Reply-To: [jeanne.saadi@sbcphd.org](mailto:jeanne.saadi@sbcphd.org)

### Santa Barbara County Animal Services **Dog Volunteer Newsletter**

May 25, 2016



Dear,

Thank you to everyone who came out to the volunteer meeting on Tuesday. I appreciate your open dialogue and honesty. I want to assure you that PHD and SBCAS leadership have heard you and I hope this will help us be a more effective team moving forward. For a review of the meeting and what was discussed, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Because I truly believe that open and free-flowing communication and trust is the key to an effective partnership, I will be placing a suggestion box in the volunteer office for anonymous feedback and questions which will then be addressed and answered in the newsletter.

We will also begin to have monthly meetings on the **1st Wednesday of every month at 5:15 p.m.** in the breakroom so I can get your feedback, hear your ideas and address your concerns on a more regular basis. [I will put these meetings on the Volgistics calendar.](#)



**TRANSPORT NEEDED:** Ty has been returned, but will be going to border collie rescue. We need a volunteer who can transport him to Camarillo on Tuesday, May 31 in the late morning to arrive around noon.  
**Please email Jeanne if you can help with this.**

## More Dogs Coming from Lompoc/LaPaws

We've had a lot of adoptions lately so our kennels are getting empty. Unfortunately, the kennels at our Lompoc shelter are filling up as fast as we're clearing ours out so we're transferring some dogs down to our shelter to help them out. Here are your new friends that will be coming soon:



**Carly:** 1 year old rottweiler. She's super sweet and great at getting shy dogs to play when in play groups. Andrea thinks she will be adopted in a flash out of the Santa Barbara shelter. UPDATE: I just learned she has an adoption pending in Lompoc so she may not be coming. If she does, we'll be happy to meet her!



**Zeus:** 11 month old mixed breed guy who is great in play groups. He was surrendered for being "disobedient," but the intake staff determined it was the fault of his former owner who refused to put the time in to train Zeus. He is eager to learn and has a lot of fun, puppy playfulness.



**Monte:** 6 year old black lab. He looks like a sweetie, but I don't have much information on him. He was brought in as a stray about a week and a half ago and was already neutered so he was someone's pet at some time.



**Nelson:** just under a year old, Andrea says this guy has a lot of energy and will really benefit from our dedicated volunteers. He will need a bit more work and attention than the other dogs we are transferring to prevent any kennel stress, but he's a happy friendly guy so I'm sure we're up for this fun challenge of a younger dog!



**Courage:** Courage has been at the Lompoc shelter since December. He came in with a horrible skin condition which is chronic, but is managed through medication and diet. He is friendly with other dogs and sweet with people. His long-term shelter stay is starting to make him a bit more grouchy, but I'm confident the attention of our volunteers will soften him up again and find him a great home!

## BEHAVIOR

**Nacho:** highly nervous, doesn't trust much, especially new people. If you walk into the kennel, go slow and give treats when all 4 feet are on the ground. Leave the kennel and repeat. If you cannot get his harness on while in the kennel, use a loop lead to get him out into a yard and then practice putting the harness on, treat, remove harness,

## MEDICAL

**Mabel:** Developed an ulcerated cornea on Saturday. She must keep the cone on while it heals. We separated her from Whitney to avoid further injury from scratches.

## EVENTS

### Behavior Team Meeting

info. meeting about assigned behavior teams for dogs with behavior plans.

Wednesday, May 25 @ 5:30 pm in the Woof Garden

Saturday, May 27

treat and repeat. He needs as many people to work with him as possible. Do not reward him for jumping (unless you've told him to jump as a command/trick) as it could lead to physical injuries with his long, spindly legs.

**Owen:** loves a long walk, will sit for a treat. Make sure strangers are greeting him properly or he may snap.

**Mitchell:** watch to make sure he's not chewing on the leash. He LOVES toys and will let you take them from his mouth. Very affectionate guy. He will hump you, but is quick to stop if you tell him no.

**Archie:** has graduated from his behavior plan - great job to everyone that has been helping him! He is comfortable around big dogs and he seems to be developing a sweet affection for Betty!

**Nala & Wilma** play very nicely together.

**Rocket:** has been learning "down," please help by reinforcing this new trick with him.

**Mitchell:** was neutered on 5/24. Please keep cone on until vet staff removes it.

**Nala:** foot is healed, ok for play groups and normal activity.

**Loretta** - will continue to have her ears cleaned once a week, but seem to be clearing up

**Betty** - skin is improving, continue Chlorhex baths once a week.

**Shrek:** has a mass on head and neck, will do a biopsy to determine cause.

@ 12:30 p.m. in the  
Woof Garden

### Lapdog Lunch Break

**Thursday, May 26** 12:00 -  
2:00 @ Goleta PetSmart

**Thursday, June 2 12:00** -  
2:00 @ Santa Barbara  
PetSmart

### Give A Dog A Home

**Every Sunday** @ 5737  
Calle Real 11:30 - 2:00  
email

[lynniesb@yahoo.com](mailto:lynniesb@yahoo.com) if  
you can take a dog

### Pack Walk at the Beach

**Sunday, May 26** - leave  
the shelter by 10 am and  
meet at Goleta Beach  
Park. [Email Mario @  
mario\\_lany@hotmail.com](mailto:mario_lany@hotmail.com)  
if you would like to take a  
dog.

### Volunteer Feedback Monthly Meeting

**Wednesday, June 1** @  
5:15 p.m. in the SBCAS  
Breakroom

**[Sign up for any of  
these events on  
Volgistics  
or \[email Jeanne\]\(#\)](#)**

# ADOPTIONS!!!

We have had a great couple of weeks with some fantastic adoptions! Check out all these happy tails here!

After **586 days**, **ADAM** really seems to be in his forever home with this adopter who has always had big dogs, appreciates the quirks that may come with them, and knows about the unconditional love that they provide. ADAM will be enjoying hikes with his new buddy and will have roam of the house and yard when his owner is out earning to buy dog toys and puzzles. Volunteers and staff are lucky that adopter is local, so will be able to cross paths with one of their favorite pups.



**BEAR** found a great family right before we closed on Tuesday so he came back on Wednesday and made it official. Bear was so relaxed with this guy, who has had German Shepherds before and was very open to all the expert information from Andrea and insight from our volunteers. He has a home office where Bear will keep him company and a family with two very dog-savvy and mature teenagers who already met Bear as well. We see lots of hot dogs and cheese sticks in Bear's immediate future while he learns how to be comfortable in his new environment.

A special thanks to Trish for working so hard with Bear to bring out his inner family pet while he waited for this great family to find him!



[More Adoptions:](#)

**Ozzie, Melody, Augie, Otis and Stephanie**

## FAQs About Conversational Adoptions



It seems there has been some confusion about what "Conversational" or "Open" adoptions means and because of this confusion there is still apprehension on embracing a process like this. I'm hoping I can address most of the concerns with these Frequently Asked Questions, but please reach out to me if you have other concerns.

Also, check out these great resources, including a wonderful video on how to initiate these adoption conversations from

ASPCAPro: <http://www.aspcapro.org/blog/2014/05/27/go-ahead-try-it-open-adoptions>

**DOES OPEN ADOPTIONS MEAN THAT IF SOMEONE WANTS A DOG, WE DON'T HAVE TO SCREEN THEM TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE A GOOD MATCH?** No. In fact, a conversational adoption approach actually gives you more flexibility to do what you feel is necessary to ensure the dog is going to a home that is a good match for the dog or to make the adoption easier for the dog and adopter when it's appropriate.

**I HEARD WE'RE NOT DOING LANDLORD CHECKS ANYMORE. IS THAT TRUE?** While we still require landlord approval, a conversational adoption approach would mean that there is flexibility in this requirement. Our expectation is that most of the time we will need to ensure we have approval from the landlord before sending a dog to a rental property. We know that in Santa Barbara it is currently difficult to find rental properties that accept dogs and even tougher to find rentals with no breed or size restrictions. However, with conversational adoptions, you have the ability to waive this requirement based on your knowledge of the adopter, their past experience and the answers to your questions. For instance, if your adopter is considering a 10-lb. dog and they told you that their 12-year old chihuahua just passed away and they have lived at the same rental property for the last 15 years, you can safely assume that their landlord will not object to them bringing a new dog into the home. However, if you as the adoption counselor still feel you need to hear that from the landlord before you grant the adoption, then you should request that landlord approval.

**I DON'T WANT TO SEND A DOG TO A HOME WITH KIDS UNLESS THE KIDS MEET FIRST, BUT I HEARD WE DON'T REQUIRE EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY TO MEET THE DOG ANYMORE.**

If you feel the kids should meet the dog before the adoption is finalized, then there is probably a good reason you feel that way so we should make sure that's done. However, if you're having an open conversation with an adopter and you feel their kids are old enough or experienced enough to be able to welcome the particular dog



that adopter is considering into their home without any problems, then you can waive that requirement. We recommend that small children in the home are introduced before any dog goes home. It may not be as necessary for teenagers or other adults in the home to meet, but this is based on the dog, the adopter, the family and the conversations you

have had with those that are considering adoption. Use your best judgement and trust your gut!

**CAN WE STILL DO YARD CHECKS OR HOME CHECKS?** Absolutely! Again, we will not require yard checks simply because a dog is of a certain breed. However, we may require yard checks because of the dog's behavior or history of getting loose and ending up in the shelter or we might require a yard check or a home check based on concerns we may have about the adopters.

**IF ALL THESE THINGS ARE NOW "FLEXIBLE," THEN WHAT IS REQUIRED TO ADOPT?** We have not fully adopted the "open" adoptions process yet. We still require adopters to fill out an application. We will still verify home ownership or landlord approval unless we are advised by leadership staff that it is not necessary. We check in our computer system to make sure they have no past violations of animal cruelty, abuse or neglect. If they live in the county and their current pets are not licensed, we will advise them that they have 30 days to correct that, but we will not hold up or stop the adoption because of that. Most importantly, the adopters have to be willing to have a conversation with you about why they want to adopt and how they are prepared to care for the dog they are considering. If they are not willing to have a conversation, we are not prepared to move the adoption forward.

**A new adoption process, questionnaire, adoption counselor training and adoption policy are being discussed in the Adoption Sub Committee meeting. Our ability to be flexible with past restrictions and allow a better experience for our adopters is part of this process. Consider this a test-market or trial period for the processes that are being discussed.**



**Santa Barbara County Animal Services will be closed to the public on Monday, 30th in observance of Memorial Day. You may still come volunteer from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

[VOLGISTICS IS YOUR FRIEND! CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE HERE.](#)

Stay Connected



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Sent by [jeanne.saadi@sbcphd.org](mailto:jeanne.saadi@sbcphd.org) in collaboration with

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