

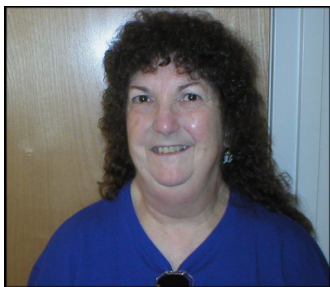
News for the  
Volunteers of the  
Escondido  
Humane Society

## Francene McKelvey and Sue McNabb

*Two volunteers who capture the essence of EHS*

by Karen Field Carroll

Like all EHS volunteers, Francene McKelvey and Sue McNabb demonstrate an exceptional compassion for animals, particularly those with special needs.



**Francene McKelvey**

Francene joined EHS in 1997. Her shining moment as an EHS volunteer came two years later during the shelter fire tragedy.

Because Francene knew all the cats by name, she helped the staff identify

the cats who were missing or lost to the fire.

Francene has always loved cats. These days, she lives with five: Simba, Kenya, Angel, Jessica, and Truffles.

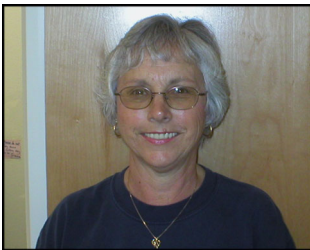
So what advice does an experienced EHS volunteer like Francene have for new volunteers?

"You won't always find your best activity at first," she says. "It's important to keep trying different things until you find your niche."

Like Francene, Sue McNabb, who's been with EHS for ten years, offers great advice for new volunteers.

"Don't be afraid to do the dirty jobs," she says. Having spent many hours cleaning cat cages, she adds, "The unpleasant tasks are the ones that need doing the most, especially during spring and fall, when the kittens arrive."

After five years as a volunteer, Sue began fostering shelter cats. These days, her yellow lab, Sandy, helps socialize kittens "with close supervision," she says. "Sandy's a gentle soul. When kittens interact with her, they learn not to be afraid of every dog."



**Sue McNabb**

Sue expresses a sentiment anyone who loves animals would agree with. "If everyone would spay and neuter their pets, the shelter staff would be out of jobs--for all the right reasons."

### January 2006

Message From Micki.....	2
You Make the Difference .....	2
Dog Training: Some Thoughts from an Expert.....	3
Animals of the Month .....	4
2006 Volunteer Orientation Schedule.....	4
The Needs List .....	5

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*Come help us with Paws in the Park, EHS' annual fundraiser at Kit Carson Park, on Sunday, March 26, from 6am to noon. If you can volunteer, contact Micki.*

*Because we're a non-profit operation, we rely heavily on the partnership of our volunteers.*

### **Rabbit Room Update**

The air conditioning system in the rabbit room is now working properly. Please do *not* change the setting for any reason. If you think there is a problem, immediately speak to a staff person, preferably Bob Stout (760-888-2232).

### **Message From Micki**

I am so excited to share with you the first Escondido Humane Society volunteer newsletter. This venture came about due in part to the efforts of our volunteer newsletter editor and designer, Karen Field Carroll. Karen, who found EHS through Volunteer San Diego, is a technical writer and managing editor for several newsletters.

Although I'm able to talk to some volunteers every week, rarely do I have the opportunity to speak to others directly. The objective of this newsletter, then, is to share what's happening with EHS, provide information about our current volunteer needs, introduce new programs, recognize the contribution volunteers make to the shelter, and share ideas. Because we are a non-profit operation, we rely heavily on the partnership of our volunteers. If you know what our needs are, for example, you might be able to help, or you might know someone (friends, families, coworkers) who can. You are an amazing group of people with multiple talents, experiences, and resources; I want to tap into all that positive energy to create a strong, supportive network for the animals in our care!

In 2006, I would like each volunteer to focus on continuing to provide exemplary client care when you work at and represent EHS. Each person who walks through our doors is a potential adopter, donor, volunteer--or all of the above! Let's embrace this potential pool of supporters and create such a friendly, informative environment that they can't resist helping our animals in whatever way works best for them. We might not be the largest humane society in San Diego County, but that won't stop us from being the organization with the highest level of client satisfaction!

Please remember how important your efforts are to the health and welfare of the animals here at the shelter. If you have comments about or ideas for the newsletter or comments (good or bad) about anything, please contact me by phone (760-888-2270) or e-mail (mickih@escondidohumanesociety.org). I'm eager to hear from you.

Best,  
Micki

### **You Make the Difference**

by Micki Hickox, Director, Volunteer Services

No question about it: Volunteers keep the shelter's doors open. Because of you, the shelter saves hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in staffing costs.

For fiscal year 2004-2005, the EHS volunteers contributed **44,481** hours to our animals. That's an increase of 31% from 2003-2004. It's also the highest number of volunteer hours ever recorded for the shelter.

Let's do the math. According to Volunteer San Diego, one hour of volunteer time in the state of California equals \$18.64. That means that EHS volunteers contributed \$829,126 of time to the shelter--the equivalent of 20 full-time staff. The shelter simply can't run without you. Keep up the great work!

## Dog Training: Thoughts From an Expert

By Lydia Tucker-Clark, EHS Dog-Training Volunteer

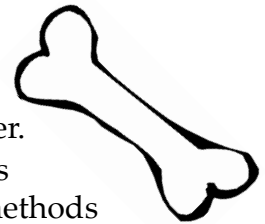


As a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) and a professional dog trainer since 1997, I've developed some methods for training dogs that I'd like to share with you.

*For training dogs to walk on a leash, I often use a front-clip harness, which encourages the dogs to walk politely.*

To begin, I usually use a "lure-reward" method for training. The lure-reward method involves rewarding the dog as soon as the dog does the right behavior. Rewards include petting, toys, praise, and EHS-approved treats. I often use verbal behavior markers ("good dog") for the exact moment the dog does the behavior I'm cueing, and then I follow that immediately with the reward.

For training dogs to walk on leash, I often use a front-clip harness to encourage the dogs to walk politely. These harnesses are like head harnesses for the body because they encourage the dog to turn toward the handler when the dog pulls on the harness. Then the handler can reward the dog for looking at him or her.



Above all, because each dog and each handler is unique, I am flexible in my training and teaching methods for dogs and students. At EHS, I teach the following commands:

- Attention.
- Lie Down.
- Come. I always reward with lots of petting, praise, and sometimes a toy or treat.
- Wait. I teach this at EHS' doors and gates. This differs from "stay" and is useful to prevent dashing out a door or kennel.
- Stay (from a short distance).
- No Pull on Leash. I teach that no collar, halter, or harness by itself trains the dog; we use these tools to teach the dog.
- Leave It (don't touch a certain item). The dogs learn that they are cued to "take it" (such as a treat or toy) when they try *not* to get it.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have, such as questions about training a certain behavior or about your own pet. The EHS dogs are always eager to demonstrate how to learn a new behavior! Contact Micki and she will put you in touch with me.

### For Dog Walkers, From Micki

Volunteering as a dog walker is a vital contribution to EHS. Loyal dog walkers equal happy, healthy dogs. Each dog needs to get out every day, as many times as possible. Our need averages about 10 to 12 dog walkers per day, seven days a week.

Please stay faithful to your scheduled day/time to dog walk. If you need to make a change in your schedule, or you no longer plan to dog walk contact Micki immediately so she can fill your slot!

And remember, you can always exceed your commitment by dropping in more often; the dogs will love you for it!



EHS' Thursday Morning Volunteers





## Animals of the Month

*Shelter animals most in need of forever homes. Please share with friends and family!*

The cats, dogs, and rabbits appearing in this column often have been at the shelter the longest.

### Cats

**Rachael** (right), a black domestic longhair/Persian spayed female, has been at the shelter since July of 2004. The shelter staff thinks she's about six years old. Her bright green eyes are glowing with the hope that she'll find her forever home one day soon.



**Quinn** (below), a handsome, medium-haired neutered black-and-white male, has been at the shelter since May of 2005. About five years old, Quinn wants a forever home with someone who can appreciate his striking beauty.



### Dogs

**Phil** (right), a neutered brown, brindle Pit Bull male, is about three years old. Having been at the shelter since September, 2005, Phil has had lots of training, so he's a pro who's eager to find his permanent family.



**Dixie** (right), like Phil, is a brown, brindle Pit Bull mix. She's a spayed female who's just over a year old. Also like Phil, she came to the shelter last September. She's a great family dog, so please help her find her forever family.



### Rabbits



**Amelia** (left), a gorgeous white bunny with glowing pink eyes, has been at the shelter since February of 2005. A spayed female Rex mix, Amelia is almost three years old. She's eager to flash those beautiful

eyes at the person who's willing to give her a loving forever home.

**Colby** (right) needs a forever home, too! A handsome, agouti-and-white neutered male, Colby is about 18 months old. Having been at the shelter since July of 2004, he's longing for a residence with someone who loves carrots as much as he does.



## EHS Volunteer Training

### 2006 Orientation Schedule

**Preregistration required. Please contact Micki at 760-888-2270 or [mickih@escondidohumanesociety.org](mailto:mickih@escondidohumanesociety.org) to enroll.**

**January:** Wednesday, January 25th

**February:** Saturday, February 4th; Wednesday, February 8th

**March:** Saturday, March 11th; Wednesday, March 15th

**April:** Saturday, April 1st; Wednesday, April 12th

**May:** Saturday, May 6th; Wednesday, May 10th

**June:** Saturday, June 10th; Wednesday, June 21st

**July:** Saturday, July 15th; Wednesday, July 19th

**August:** Saturday, August 19th; Wednesday, August 30th

**September:** Saturday, September 9th; Wednesday, September 20th

**October:** Saturday, October 7th; Wednesday, October 18th

**November:** Saturday, November 4th; Wednesday, November 29th

**December:** No orientations

## The Needs List

*A few of the shelter's most pressing needs*

by Micki Hickox, Director, Volunteer Services

Every month, the Needs List column highlights some of the shelter's more urgent needs, either for special projects or for ongoing work. Read through the list and see if you or someone you know can help the shelter with these items.

If you can help with any of these needs, please contact Micki Hickox (760-888-2270 or [mickih@escondidohumanesociety.org](mailto:mickih@escondidohumanesociety.org)).

### Outdoor Dog Runs

Thank you to those of you who have already donated your time and money to this project. We are almost there thanks to the help of many.

EHS needs approximately 400 bags of sand to complete the outdoor dog runs. Each kennel needs lots and lots of sand.

At Home Depot, you can purchase a 50 lb. bag of playground sand for only \$4.35! (SKU #169803). If we all pitch in a bag or two, we can get the project done, and get the dogs out in the fresh air soon!

If you decide to donate sand, when you arrive at the shelter with the bag(s), park closest to the outdoor dog runs, come in to Adoptions, let us know you have sand, and we will unlock the outdoor dog runs to store the sand.

We still need a 4- to 6-foot wide commercial weed barrier. About 200 feet would do.

If you'd like to make a monetary donation toward the project in general, please contact Bob Stout at 760-888-2232, or [bobs@escondidohumanesociety.org](mailto:bobs@escondidohumanesociety.org).

Any assistance you can provide is appreciated. With your help, this project will get done.

### Dog Walkers

The warm summer months attracted many enthusiastic dog walkers to EHS. The end of



summer brought about the usual decline in the number of walkers exercising our pups, especially during the weekdays. If you are willing to walk dogs any day during operating hours, Monday through Friday, please contact Micki.

### Establishing a Recall Team

We're looking for a group of volunteers willing to be on call in the event of an emergency (such as the Paradise fire), or for when we are lacking volunteers in vital areas such as the Nursery. Please contact Micki for more information.

### Livestock

We need several volunteers to help clean the livestock corrals and feed and socialize the animals to enhance their overall well-being. These animals help us teach our community

compassion towards all animals. If you can make a six-month commitment to the same day and time each week (2-3 hours each visit) to help out

Ferdinand the Dexter calf, Irwin the sheep, and Pepper, Sheba, and Blackwell the pigmy goats, please contact Micki. You do *not* need experience; the EHS staff will train you!

### Pet Therapy

The Education department needs people and their pets on Tuesdays to help with the Pet Therapy program. This program allows you and your pet to bring a little joy and happiness to the lives of those living in retirement or extended living facilities. With prior approval, you can take your own pet to a facility for one-hour regularly scheduled visitations per week. To learn more, contact Ina Shookoff at 760-888-2261 or [inas@escondidohumanesociety.org](mailto:inas@escondidohumanesociety.org).

