Holiday Newsletter 2017

YOUR GIFT SAVES LIVES

Enroll your Kroger club card online once per year & just swipe it at check out!

Volunteer!
SICSA loves our volunteers. For more information on how to get involved, visit www.sicsa.org/volunteer

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Visit smile.amazon.com & choose SICSA as your charity.

YOUR GIFT MATTERS
Earlier this year, in the bleak, grey days of March, I started an effort at SICSA I call Mission Possible Moments. The goal was for staff and volunteers to send pictures depicting the everyday examples of our mission. The tiny miracles we all get to see, and occasionally take for granted, every day. The response was overwhelming, so I started sharing and posting collages of the pictures. The pictures inspired me, and I would like to believe, others. That even the smallest of efforts could, and often did, make a life-saving difference. Those of you who follow our newsletters may recall a story I am fond of quoting.

As many of you consider your year-end and holiday donations, please know how much your gift matters to SICSA. These pictures and stories are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the many miracles your gifts help to make happen each and every year.

Your gift saves lives. Your gift makes a difference. Your gift matters.

YOUR GIFT MATTERS TO KEAGAN AND JALEN

This year, SICSA was lucky enough to be able to offer two summer “camperships”. As a result of donations received from the community, Keagan and Jalen Hart were chosen and able to attend SICSA Animal Advocates camp for free! The camp, which took place Monday, June 26 through Friday, June 30, taught campers about how to help homeless pets, allowed them to see our veterinary clinic in action, and allowed them to participate in animal welfare service projects.

“Thank you guys so much for the positive impact that you have been able to have on our boys. As parents, we preach positivity to the boys. It is hard when they look for outside ‘role models’ and only have us. So, when a program like your camp comes along and offers a new insight, things become clearer for them. James and I purposely seek opportunities that are unfamiliar and out of the norm for the boys. We want them to look beyond their everyday circumstances and reach for the stars and dream big. You guys definitely helped our cause,” Nastoshia Hart, Keagan and Jalen’s mom wrote in a letter sent to us. “Thanks so much for the scholarships that allowed Jalen and Keagan to attend this week. Jalen is wanting to volunteer when he turns 13. We’ve never even heard him mention the word ‘volunteer’. You guys are awesome!”

Our Humane Education program helps educate and enrich the lives of over 5,000 kids annually. Your gift makes a difference to this program. It helps us continue to provide programs to teach children about empathy towards animals and each other.

YOUR GIFT SAVES LIVES LIKE JASMINE AND HER PUPPIES

Jasmine and her eight puppies arrived at SICSA through our OOps! program. The OOps! program allows someone to surrender an accidental litter of puppies, waiving the intake fee if the owner agrees to get the mamma dog spayed. When Jasmine originally contacted us, he had Jasmine, all 8 of her puppies, and four other dogs living in his home (three male and one female). The owner not only surrendered the puppies, he chose to get the other female dog in the house spayed, and then surrendered Jasmine herself to SICSA. He was extremely grateful that we were able to waive the intake fee for the puppies, provide Jasmine with a chance to have another family, and prevent more puppies in his home. We’re happy to say that Jasmine has found a forever home, as have all of her puppies.

Your gift helps us continue our OOps! Program. Without this program, we wouldn’t be able to help dogs like Jasmine and her puppies. Your gift helps us make strides towards eliminating the unwanted kitten and puppy population, as well as find loving, forever adopters.

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO SUNDAE AND GREENIE

Meet Sundae and Greenie. This bonded pair of siblings found their way to SICSA when their owner unexpectedly passed away. Prior to coming to SICSA, the pair had spent three weeks living in a veterinary clinic until family members were able to get Greenie and Sundae into our Adoption program. Before SICSA, Greenie was found wandering in the street and claimed as “wild” by each other and their owner. During the intake process, it was clear these two felines were thoroughly bonded. Finding adoptive homes for bonded cats takes time. While it often increases their length of stay at SICSA, our staff know how important it is to the animals’ well-being. In Greenie and Sundae’s case, it reduced their stress and alleviated further trauma by staying together.

Your gift matters, especially to Greenie and Sundae. Your gift helps us continue our life-saving mission and helps us provide the love, care and all the time these beautifully bonded siblings need to find their forever home. Greenie and Sundae are still on their mission to find their home, but we’re sure that their forever family is right around the corner!

YOUR GIFT AFFECTS ANIMAL LENGTH OF STAY

Animals who find their way to SICSA’s adoption program are given all the time they need to find their forever home. In some shelters, this could mean months of waiting. In others, it could mean euthanasia if the length of time goes too long. At SICSA, we are proud to share that we never euthanize for space. We also saw our average length of stay for animals in our care decrease to just 17.7 days, including any time spent waiting to be spayed and neutered, and/or in isolation for illnesses.

Why is our length of stay decreasing? We like to think it has everything to do MEM: Marketing, Enrichment, and Matching. First, our marketing team works almost every social media channel available to us. From Facebook to YouTube, and everything in between. As a result, our engagement with our online audience increased by 22% in 2017. Second, our Enrichment Team works extra hard to ensure our animals are happy and healthy while in our care. This includes daily exercise with volunteers, interactive feeders, and toys aimed to bust up any boredom. These activities reduce stress and anxiety in our animals, allowing them to ultimately present their best paw forward. Lastly, our adoption team works to match our animals with the best possible home, reducing returns and the stress that can cause.

“My favorite part of volunteering is the reaction I get from a dog that is there for awhile and I know they recognize me when I come in to walk them. We had two dogs that lived to be 12 and 15, but have crossed the “Rainbow Bridge”. We travel so much with our dog that it’s unfair for us to have a dog of our own,” said Kathy Beran, SICSA Volunteer. “I treat each of the dogs I walk as if they were mine. I know how well these dogs are taken care of at SICSA and I LOVE coming in after a weekend and seeing who is gone.”

Your gift matters to the animals in our care. Because of your gift, we’re able to save more lives each and every year. We’re able to find the best match for both human and animal alike, ensuring each home is a forever home.
Duplicate Mailings:

As SICSA’s mailing list rapidly grows, it has become more difficult for staff to discern duplicate mailings. If any reader is receiving more than one copy of SICSA’s mailings, please notify us by emailing info@SICSA.org or call 937.294.6505 ext. 12.