

Ruff Times

Volume III Issue 1

Animal Rescue Friends (ARF)

July/August 2013

In this issue:

**Pg 2: Sadie Says;
Online Auction**

**Pg 3: Mayoral
Musings**

**Pg 4: Safe at
Home**

Pg 5: Puppies!

**Pg 6: ARF Staff in
training**

**Pg 7: Baxter's
Buddies - Puerling**

**Pg 8: Ruby Fea-
tured in Calendar**

**Pg 9: Adoptees of
the Month**

**Pg 10: Dogs and
Cars**

**Pg 12: Economics
and Pet Care**

Director's Message

Tail Not Required



A tail is not required, but commitment and support from our community and the patience and love from Seiger's forever human...are. Found on Highway 74 near Idyllwild two months ago, Seiger is a beautiful pure-bred German Shepherd.

His body was worn down by the neglect and abuse of humans. But his spirit was never broken. Buckshot is spread throughout his body, he was anemic, had continual diarrhea, and a growth on his tail. After extensive antibiotic treatment, and numerous surgeries, Seiger is left with no tail. He is currently on probiotic treatment and finally had his cone removed. And Seiger says... "Who needs a tail? I can still play football, romp in the yard, and smile."

You've come a long way, Seiger. And with the community's continued support and the love of his human, we won't stop until your body is healed.

Visit the ARF website arfidyllwild.weebly.com



Continued on page 2



Director of Operations: Maria Lehman

Treasurer: Mary Lou Prosin

Search & Rescue Director: Robert Hewitt

A non-profit organization

P.O. Box 719, Idyllwild, CA 92549 (951) 659-1122

ARF House: 26890 Hwy 243, Idyllwild

arfidyllwild.weebly.com



Secretary: Janice Murasko

Sadie's Clinic Director: Caryn Gilbert

Newsletter Editor: Janice Murasko



Sadie Says

Help Keep Our Clinic Here for YOU

Please help us keep our clinic doors open! Sadie's Clinic is a non-profit community service provided by ARF along with our part-time vet, Dr. Michael Nastro. Since its inception, we have helped over 1,000 dogs and cats from Idyllwild and surrounding communities, often saving their guardians money and an uncomfortable drive down the mountain.

While we can't perform surgeries and some other procedures, most routine needs can be met. A recent designated grant allowed us to purchase equipment to enhance the scope of our exams. In addition, the grant helped us partner with The HELP Center to identify low-income seniors who could benefit from financial assistance for the medical care of their pets.

All the clinic staff are volunteers with the exception of Dr. Michael, who drives up the mountain from the LA area. He continues to offer exams for only \$25.

Our expenses are minimal but ongoing: monthly rent, advertising, and an annual premises permit renewal which comes to just under \$5,000 a year. We order and pay up –

front for heartworm prevention, charging clients just what it costs us.

We want to continue to make Sadie's Clinic available but need your help to do so. You can call the clinic for more information at 659-4772 #2, or send a donation in care of ARF to PO Box 719, Idyllwild CA 92549. PLEASE BE SURE TO WRITE ON YOUR CHECK THAT THE MONEY IS A DONATION FOR SADIE'S CLINIC.

Thank you for your help. We appreciate the opportunity to continue working with you and your pets. 🐾

Director's Message Continued

where we have a link to GoFundMe.com set up just for Seiger's continued care. We have currently used \$1177.00 in medical treatment, *and* we have not yet even addressed the buckshot. ARF extends a warm thank you, and Sieger's eyes say the rest. Thank you. 🐾

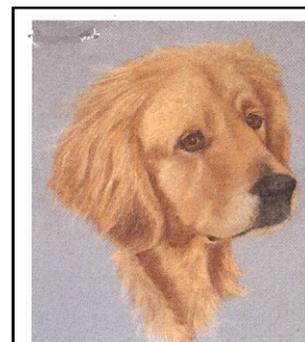
-Maria Lehman



Online Auction to Benefit ARF

Pieces of art, fine china, and other items are being auctioned online at arfidyllwild.weebly.com, with all proceeds earmarked to help with ARF's operating expenses. Bidding is easy! Click on the "online auction" link on the left of the homepage and peruse the items. Complete the bid form and email it in.

Bidding closes on September 1. All items must be picked up at the ARF House by the winning bidder.



PICTURE YOUR DOG.... and other animals!

PASTEL PORTRAITS by LOIS SHEPPARD (562) 431-0454 www.pictureyourdog.net



Mayoral Musings

Hello everyone!

It's we Mayors of Idyllwild (L to R, Mikey Mighty-Dog Mueller, aka MM3; Mitzi Marie Mueller, aka MM4, and Maximus Mighty-Dog Mueller, the Second, aka MM2 and Mayor Max 2).

We wanted you to know that Forest Folk is sponsoring a wonderful Puppy Shower for us at The Nature Center in Idyllwild on Sunday, August 25, from 1-4pm. You, your friends, family, and associates are all invited. We hope to see you at the Puppy Shower as it is always wonderful to see you.

The event will be fun, and Forest Folk is providing a wonderful variety of deserts as the food for the event. You are also welcome to bring a desert if you like, but it is not a requirement. Deserts!!!!!! Now we're talking. Phyllis could NOT be happier about this, as she believes that deserts comprise the four basic food groups.

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There will also be entertainment by Keith McCabe!

The Puppy Shower has NO requirement to bring a gift or a donation. The event is for the pure joy of being with you and communicating. However, for those of you who do decide to bring something, in honor of our nanny and PRP (Puppy Rearing Professional), Pookie Mueller, who will also be in attendance at the Puppy Shower and is an ARF Rescue Dog that we adopted from ARF (thank you ARF), Forest Folk is setting up a donation tree where any donations received will be donated to ARF. Isn't that wonderful?! We are so excited about this that we think this is even better than getting toys, though we do love toys, of course. But our passion is helping animals in every way possible.

Thank you Forest Folk for caring so much about the animals and for sponsoring this Puppy Shower for us!

Please come and see us at our Puppy Shower. We will not be puppies for long. In just three weeks, we have gone from 8-10 pounds to 20-25 pounds. Isn't that amazing?

While The Nature Center is pet friendly, because Mitzi and Mikey will not be through with their shots until around September 10, we have been asked by our vet to keep Mitzi and Mikey from direct contact with other dogs at this time. Thank you for your understanding. If you do bring your dog, please remember not to have your pet make physical contact with Mitzi and Mikey. Thank you.

Please know that we love you very much, and we will always love you. We look forward to seeing you at any and all times.

Love always, 

Mayor Max, the Second
And the two Helper Mayors, Mikey and Mitzi



Is Your Dog Safe at Home?

ARF's Search and Rescue program was instituted to assist mountain residents and visitors find their lost and runaway dogs. It is a small program staffed by a handful of volunteers who use tracking skills in an attempt to locate missing domestic dogs.

How can you keep your dog Safe at Home?

- * Make sure yard fencing is secure. It should be designed to help prevent digging underneath and tall enough to keep pets in and predators out.
- * Make sure all family members and visitors are aware of a dog who might bolt out of an opened door. Consider preventative measures, including formal training.
- * Always, always, always leash your dog when outside of your home and fenced yard.
- * Micro-chip your dog and make sure it is wearing a collar with an ID tag at all times. Be sure the phone number associated is current!
- * Have a recent digital photo of your dog ready at hand on your phone or computer.

What to do if your dog goes missing

- * Call the ARF Search & Rescue number: 951-663-6642
 - * Assemble a group to help ARF with the search
- * Post fliers near the "last seen" location and beyond. *Fliers should include a photo and description, along with TWO contact numbers.*
 - * Post photo and information on social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)



951-663-6642

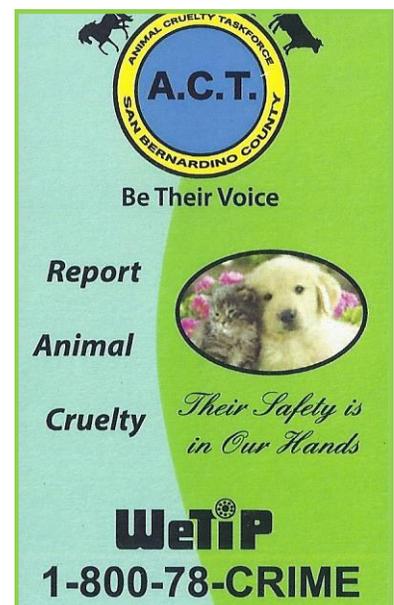


Thank You Living Free

Living Free was there for ARF's cats and dogs when Idyllwild was evacuated last month. ARF staff gathered up its nearly 20 cats and 6 dogs to spend the evacuation in wonderful, caring accommodations at Living Free.

This type of cooperation and partnership between two important animal welfare organizations is what makes this mountain community so special.

ARF truly appreciates Living Free's gracious help in a trying time.



Trainer Talk

Puppies: Early Investment Pays Off

Puppies...so cute, so cuddly, so much work! Puppies, just as children, need guidance. Teaching your young pup what it is you want from him is key for a successful adult dog-family relationship.

Consider this before getting a puppy:

- The learning ability of an 8-week-old puppy is equal to that of an adult dog.
- Learning is a continuous process (and even older dogs *can* learn new tricks).
- Puppies must be properly socialized before 16 weeks of age.
- Puppies can be “vaccinated” against behavior problems by engaging them in formal, positive reinforcement training.
- Puppies should be socialized in more ways than just taking them to the park to see people. They should be socialized in many *environments*, around all types of *people*, around all kinds of *animals* (not just dogs), on different *surfaces*, to different *sounds*, and to a large variety of *household items* and *yard/garage equipment*.
- Puppies experience a “fear period” from 8 to 10 weeks of age where the puppy is most likely to be fearful and sensitive to traumatic events. A traumatic learning experience at this time can have a *profound* negative impact on the overall behavioral wellness of the dog.
- Mouthing and biting is a normal behavior of growing and adolescent puppies.
- Bit inhibition is learned from interaction with littermates.
- Puppies should not be left in the yard unsupervised.
- House training is an important behavior concept for your indoor dog.
- Potty training will not happen overnight, and prevention of accidents through management and supervision is necessary for success.
- Young children must be carefully supervised when interacting with a puppy.

- Children should be included in the training process as *they* must be trained in appropriate puppy handling and interaction.

The bottom line is this: Puppies require a LOT of time and attention. Busy families, especially those where the house is empty for a majority of the day, should reconsider getting a puppy. There are MANY older, mature dogs awaiting adoption for those families who cannot commit a significant portion of every day to the rearing of a puppy. 🐾

Janice Murasko
KPA-CTP APDT

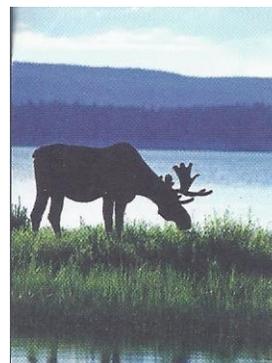


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ARF Staff Participates in Dog Evaluation Training

ARF board members and volunteers recently completed training in the ASPCA *Meet Your Match* shelter dog evaluation program. Participants learned and practiced the 7-step evaluation procedure, designed to help shelter/rescue workers recognize signs of possible aggression.

ARF will use this knowledge to assess dogs taken in, and with the assessment results they will be able to design a program to address any issues and to select the appropriate adopting families.

ARF board members are committed to continual animal welfare education so that mountain community dogs and cats have the best opportunities for finding a forever home and comfortable, appropriate accommodations until that home is found.



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does your dog walk you?***

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Janice Murasko, certified trainer
KPA CTP APDT

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mtpawly@gmail.com



Spay/Neuter Myths Busted!

The following information is adapted from the Humane Society of the United States.

MYTH: My dog will get fat and lazy.

FACT: The only way your dog will get fat and lazy is if you do not provide enough exercise and feed him too much.

MYTH: It's better for my dog to have one litter before I spay her.

FACT: Medical evidence has shown that a dog who is spayed before her first heat cycle is typically healthier than dogs spayed after the first heat cycle or after having a litter of puppies. Most animal shelters and adoption facilities, as well as many veterinarians, now sterilize dogs as young as eight weeks of age.

MYTH: My dog is a purebred.

FACT: At least one out of every four dogs turned in to animal shelters around the country is purebred. There are just too many dogs bred, both mixed breed and purebred.

MYTH: My dog will not be protective if I neuter him.

FACT: A dog's natural instinct to protect his home and family is not affected by spaying or neutering. A dog's personality owes much more to genetics and environment than sex hormones.

MYTH: I don't want my male dog to feel like less of a male.

FACT: Dogs have no concept of sexual identity or ego and neutering does not change a dog's basic personality. He doesn't suffer in any way when neutered.

MYTH: My dog is so special; I want a puppy just like her.

FACT: A professional dog breeder, whose bloodlines stretch back for generations, has no guarantee of getting a particular characteristic from a litter. The dog owner's chances are even slimmer. In fact, a whole litter of puppies might wind up getting only the worst characteristics of your pet dog and her mate.

MYTH: Spaying and neutering is too expensive.

FACT: The cost of spaying or neutering is based on the age, size, and sex of the dog, your veterinarian's fees, and other variables. However, spay or neuter surgery is a one-time cost, and if you factor in the many benefits, such as improved health throughout your dog's lifetime, it is a relatively small charge. It's a bargain compared to the costs associated with raising a litter of puppies, such as exams for the mother dog, puppy checks and vaccinations, the extra food you need, etc. And consider the vet costs in the event of a complication during the birthing process!



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Baxter's Buddies

Who are Baxter's Buddies? They are his fellow ARF adoptees and their stories. Each month, Baxter will share the story of an ARF rescue, adopted into a loving, forever family.

This month I am here to tell you all about Puerling, an awesome feline ARF alumni. Puerling was called Clarence by ARF staffers, for a very good reason (see the answer to my second question...anyone remember the TV program "Daktari"?) Puerling has found a wonderful forever home right here on the hill. I spoke with Roger Bates, Puerling's new "dad."

Q. How did you come to make this ARF adoption?

A. I moved to Idyllwild a year ago this past June and am now semi-retired. After having raised golden retrievers years ago in my prior life, I decided it would be more manageable to have a cat this time around. ARF was the obvious place to start (and end) my search.

Q. Do you have any cute/unique stories about your adoptee?

A. I have always had some (manageable) vision issues. Puerling, a Siamese, is noticeably cross-eyed and that caught my immediate attention. He also has a slight club foot issue and often stands on only three legs, holding the club foot paw slightly off the ground, a most endearing pose. I was drawn to him immediately at ARF, thinking, with his obvious "flaws," he is nonetheless

"purrfect" in every way. (In fact, he purrs incredibly loudly!) From the start there was a connection – he was comfortable being held by me on my first visit to the ARF facility. There was an immediate affection between the two of us and he



Puerling's beverage of choice.

seemed naturally at ease with me – something that I think is very unusual for "man and cat."

Q. Is this pet your first pet adoption (from anywhere)?

A. Yes!

Q. How has your ARF pet fit into your family's day-to-day lifestyle?

A. Puerling is the perfect companion – smart, sweet, affectionate, yet self-contained. I couldn't be happier.

Q. Did you keep the name ARF had assigned to your pet, or did you change it?

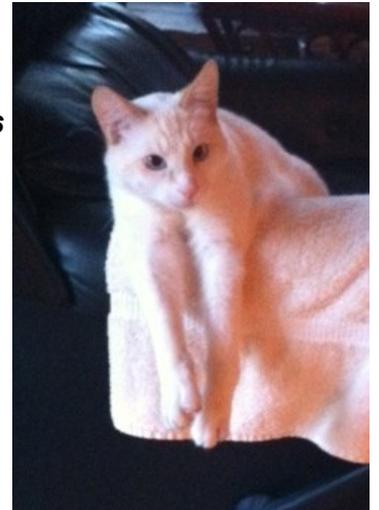
A. : I changed it. He is named after Gene Puerling, the founder of, singer in, and arranger for the Hi-Lo's and the incomparable Singers Unlimited, two of the best vocal jazz groups of all times. I sing close harmony in a couple of groups, and Puerling (Gene, that is) is a long standing idol of mine. Puerling, the cat, is now at home with me at Harmony Ridge, the name I have given my new home in Idyllwild.

Q. How did you come to know about ARF?

A. I read about ARF initially in the *Town Crier* and live less than a half mile from the facility. I thought adopting a rescue animal would be the best way to go, and ARF was the natural place to look first. I was impressed by how well cared for Puerling was at ARF. He was happy, healthy, and lively at ARF and now is only more so at my home. He was raised well!

Q. Do you have any words of encouragement or recommendation for someone considering pet adoption?

A. See if you're lucky enough (as I was) to find that special "connection" with one of the animals at the shelter. First impressions really do count. If there is a sense of connection, run with it! These wonderful critters are just looking for love like everyone else and have so much to give.



Councilmember Ruby Featured in Calendar

Idyllwild Councilmember Ruby, elected to office last spring, was chosen to be part of the Human Society of the United States 2014 calendar. Ruby's mother, Marcia Krull, entered her photo into the calendar contest. Although Ruby didn't get enough votes to win a full page, the HSUS liked her photo so much that they asked Marcia if they could use it as a corner photo. Of course she said yes!



Pet Expo is Big Success

Look for full coverage of the Inaugural Pet Expo in next month's *Ruff Times*. There will be photos of contest winners and the day's events.

Plans for next year's Expo are already underway.

Learn a lesson from your best friend!

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Take naps.

Stretch before rising.

Run, romp, and play daily.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Be loyal.

Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

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By Lois Sheppard



Help them find a home

Adoptees of the Month



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This month's Dog Adoptee of the Month was written by Girl's foster dad, David.

Girl has been living in Idyllwild on her own for the past five years or so. Last May, my family and I started taking care of her, but are desperately trying to find her a good, loving home. Girl is an excellent dog. She's friendly, loveable, and great with other animals, children, and people. We have a small dog of our own, who she gets along with very well. Girl is very protective and will watch over your home. She listens very well, and behaves well too. Girl is old, around 8 years of age, however, she could be very playful. She has a young soul, definitely. Overall, Girl is a very good dog with such a big, loving heart.

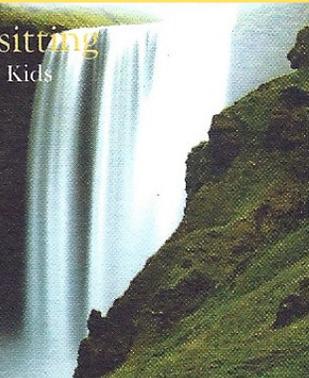


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Tippycanoe seems to be a bit shy for the camera this week, so Tyler II decided to give his best pose. Maybe Tippy thought she needed freshening up to look her best for her audience. No need to meow over spilled milk, Tippy. You are cute as a button. Tyler is the typical big brother flying on all fours through the room, sliding to a quick stop only to flip a toy mouse or ball in the air. He can scale the cat tree in nothing flat, looking back only to make sure Sister is watching his expertise.



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Buying a new car? Consider your four-leggeds!

Edmunds.com has determined the 10 types of vehicle best suited to dog safety, or at least dog comfort. They are all in the large-car category; no sedans. They are presented in alphabetical order.

Dodge Journey: This vehicle has a rearview camera that prevents drivers from backing over pets while going in reverse, say, in the driveway. There's also an in-dash cooler that can be used to store beverages, medicine, or food during long journeys; and steering-wheel mounted controls that can decrease driver distraction. Fifteen people are killed and more than 1,200 injured each year in crashes reported to involve a distracted driver, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and a survey by the Automobile Association of America (AAA) found that one out of three owners admits to being distracted by their dog while driving.

Ford Flex: Wide door openings allow pets to climb in and out easily. And the roomy interior is big enough to fit crates in which a larger dog can feel comfortable. This vehicle also has a refrigerated console.

GMC Acadia: Fold-flat seats in the rear offer more room for pets and their crates, while advanced climate control allows pets to stay cool enough in the back. This vehicle also offers a direct link to Poison Control via its OnStar feature, potentially useful as many dogs, especially puppies, are injured each year from ingesting pet poisons like antifreeze.

Hyundai Tucson: Remote keyless entry allows people to load their dogs more easily when their hands are full, say, managing a dog on a leash. There are also rear fold-flat seats and privacy glass that keep temperatures suitably low for furry friends.

Jeep Liberty: This vehicle, highly specialized for pets, offers owners a choice of crates, carriers, and even a ramp that helps arthritic or other dogs who might have difficulty walking get in and out. Other features include a split-folding rear seat and available keyless entry.

Kia Soul: The option of side curtain airbags can help protect pets (and their owners), and the rear privacy glass insures that pets remain cool and comfortable in the back.

Mazda 5: Sliding rear doors with a one-touch walk-in feature make it particularly easy to load pets into the car. The low cargo floor also facilitates easy pet access. This minivan has side curtain airbags in all three rows, too.

Mitsubishi Outlander: Fold-flat seating and stowable third-row seats give plenty of room for transporting even larger dogs. And the option of steering-wheel mounted auxiliary controls cuts down on driver distraction.

Subaru Tribeca: A rear back-up camera to keep pets safe *behind* the car and steering-wheel-mounted auxiliary controls for decreased driver distraction will keep them safe *during* the ride.

Volvo XC70: A blind spot warning system can be helpful should a dog impede the driver's vision. There's also an optional pet barrier designed to keep pets from flying around the car in the event of a collision. It's not a one-size-fits-all system with suction cups and Velcro. Volvo crash tested the barrier to make sure it remains in place in the event of a collision. It can be installed by the dealer, who bolts it securely into the vehicle.



And while we're on the subject of dog safety in the car, think about this:

If a small pebble kicked up by the vehicle ahead of you can leave a divot or crack in your windshield, what do you think it could do to your dog's eye? nose? mouth? Keep Fido's entire body safely secured inside your car!

Tough Economic Times and Caring for your Pet

When the pocketbook needs tightening, tough decisions must be made. This was very evident in 2011 when one in five dog owners did *not* make a trip the vet even once during the year. Close to 30% of those making no vet visits said the reason was they couldn't afford it. But ironically, statistics show the amount of money being spent in pet stores is up. Does this mean people are choosing to buy treats and toys over paying for, let's say, their pet's dental cleaning?

According to Emily McCobb, DVM, skipping the annual visit to the vet sets your dog up for larger, potentially much more expensive problems down the road. "Every time you take your dog to the doctor, you're investing in the life of your pet," says McCobb. At yearly check-ups, your pet is assessed for lumps and bumps that shouldn't be there, for oral hygiene issues, and nutrition status. Nutrition status alone is critical as there has been a 37% increase in overweight dogs, increasing their risk for osteoarthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, breathing problems, and kidney disease.

The bottom line is the pet owner may feel justified in skipping the vet visits, but she might find herself in a more costly position in the long run. Some might try to save money by skipping their dogs' medicine for heartworm, but all it takes for a dog to get heartworm is to be bitten by the wrong mosquito! Heartworm is transmitted by more than 70 species of mosquito, according to the Companion Animal Parasite Council. Even old or little dogs who never venture out of the yard; mosquitos are everywhere. Every dog should be on heartworm medication every month, year-round. If your dog ends up with heartworm disease because he hasn't been on monthly preventative medication, treatment may be difficult, hard on the dog, and **expensive**.

What options exist for those who are on a tight budget? For those who live in the Idyllwild mountain communities, Sadie's Clinic (open every other Wednesday) offers vet visits and medications at a very reasonable rate. As a matter of fact, heartworm prevention is offered at no mark-up. Call 951-659-1122 for more info.

The Humane Society of the United States offers a huge resource of possible aid:

[National organizations that provide financial assistance to](#)

[pet owners in need](#): Please keep in mind that each organization is independent and has their own set of rules and guidelines. Therefore you will have to investigate each one separately to determine if you qualify for assistance:

[The Big Hearts Fund](#) (financial assistance for the diagnosis and treatment of canine and feline heart disease): www.bigheartsfund.org

[The Binky Foundation](#): www.binkyfoundation.org

[Brown Dog Foundation](#) (prescription medications): www.browndogfoundation.org

[Canine Cancer Awareness](#): www.caninecancerawareness.org

[Cats In Crisis](#): www.catsincrisis.org

[The Dog & Cat Cancer Fund](#): www.dccfund.org

[God's Creatures Ministry Veterinary Charity](#): www.all-creatures.org

[Help-A-Pet](#): www.help-a-pet.org

[IMOM.org](#): www.IMOM.org

[The Mosby Fund](#): www.themosbyfoundation.org

[The Onyx & Breezy Foundation](#): www.onyxandbreezy.org

[Paws 4 A Cure](#): www.paws4acure.org

[Pet Food Bank](#): www.petco.com

[Pet Food Stamps](#): www.petfoodstamps.org

[The Pet Fund](#): www.thepetfund.com

[RedRover Relief](#): www.redrover.org

[Rose's Fund](#): www.rosesfund.org

[California organizations](#):

[Actors and Others](#): 818-755-6323

[PALS](#): Pets Are Loving Support (veterinary care assistance programs for senior, disabled or ill pet owners) sonic.net

[Assistance for spay/neuter](#):

[Pet Assistance](#): 877-772-9738

[Actors and Others](#): 818-755-6323

[Affordable S/N Clinic](#), Temecula: 760-233-5717

[Escondido S/N Clinic](#): 760-688-0108

[All Creatures](#), Murietta Hot Springs: 951-600-0830

[Moreno Valley Animal Clinic](#): 951-413-3780

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.