Local Girl Shares Puppy Love With County Shelter Animals

Since this week featured Valentine’s Day, it’s a great time to share a love story that keeps on giving.

There is always a lot of love going on at County Animal Services: the care and compassion shown by shelter staff and the love connections made when pets here find their ‘furever’ home. But one love story has been replaying itself at the shelter for the last few years: Sofia and Bailey.
11-year-old Sofia Jordan of Prunedale has known her Chihuahua-Dachshund mix dog Bailey her whole life, her family adopted Bailey a year before Sofia was born.

In honor of Bailey, Sofia has been fundraising and securing donations for the shelter for the last few years. On Bailey’s adoption date of January 11th each year, she donates for all the other animals who aren’t yet as fortunate.

Last year, Sofia’s gifts totaled a value of $700 and this year it topped $800!

How does she do it? She is a gifted crafter, crocheting beanies, scarves, dog headbands and more to sell. She is also savvy and contacted Purina Foods and Kong Toys to get more donations.

Cindy Burnham, Monterey County Animal Services Administrator, says these contributions really help the shelter pets.

"Providing toys gives animals mental stimulation and reduces stress," Burnham says. "Sofia also checks with us about what is needed, so not only does she provide food and toys, but other items we need such as plastic sheets for cages and blankets."

Last year, the shelter cared for approximately 2,200 animals. Those numbers are not lost on Sofia, who is already starting her fundraising efforts for Bailey’s next birthday. If you’d like one of Sofia’s crocheted custom dog headbands, as modeled by Bailey above, you are welcome to email her at sofiamjordan@gmail.com.

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Natividad Rehab Center Earns Accreditation

Natividad’s Sam Karas Acute Rehabilitation Center has earned a three-year accreditation by the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities International (CARF).

The commission evaluated how well patients understood and had a voice in their services, received
the services they needed and wanted, and whether they were treated with respect during their stay. Surveyors also evaluated the center for cleanliness and safety. The accreditation applies to the Inpatient Rehabilitation Programs for Hospital (Adults) and Hospital: Stroke Specialty Programs (Adults).

“We are extremely proud of the CARF accreditation,” said Michelle Toderick, Program Director of the center. “This recognition is a testament to the center’s exceptional doctors, nurses and hard-working staff.”

The Center offers physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language therapy, 24-hour rehab nursing and teaches patients the skills they need to return home.

For those who do not know about the center, it is highly regarded. Besides being the largest acute rehabilitation center on the Central Coast, it is ranked in the top 10% of rehab facilities in Program Evaluation Model (PEM) scoring in the nation and is ranked first in quality for Kindred Healthcare’s Acute Rehab Centers in the western division.

Sheriff’s Office Honors Employees of the Year

Congratulations to all the Sheriff’s Office Employees of the Month for 2018 and special kudos to the two who were selected as Employee of the Year.

These awards are peer to peer. Sheriff staff nominate their colleagues for Employee of the Month.
honors and at the end of the year, two of the monthly winners are selected as Employees of the Year.

The recognition program is sponsored by the Deputies Benefit Association.

Honors were handed out last week at an awards presentation and lunch. Employee of the Month awards were handed out for the last three months of 2018 and then the Employees of the Year were announced.

All the winners received plaques.

Congratulations to all those nominated and honored.

Employee of the Year winner Robert Pulido, Senior Inmate Support Specialist.

October Employee of the Month: Deputy Cynthia Dorgan.

Employee of the Year winner Deputy Zack Richardson

November Employee of the Month: Deputy Nathaniel Rodriguez.

Employee of the Year winner Deputy Zack Richardson

December Employee of the Month: Miguel Barron.