



# On Location!



## NEWSLETTER OF ACTORS AND OTHERS FOR ANIMALS

WWW.ACTORSANDOTHERS.COM

SUMMER 2008

### ACTORS AND OTHERS LAUNCHES



Long before “spay and neuter” became part of the American vernacular and the focus of political debate, Actors and Others was hard at work providing spay/neuter education and assistance to pet guardians. Steadfast in our conviction that the only way pet overpopulation can ultimately be controlled is to drastically reduce the birth rate, Actors and Others throughout its 37 year history has at times stood alone in its zeal for the need of widespread spay/neuter.

Today, Actors and Others has taken another step in our quest to eliminate pet overpopulation by launching *SpayCalifornia*, a state-wide referral network/database that will connect pet guardians throughout the State of California (via internet and telephone) with participating programs and veterinarians offering low cost services. Working in association with *SpayUSA*, the goal is to make it as easy as possible for Californians to spay/neuter their pets in these turbulent financial times. Currently, referrals are only available by phone (1-866-PetSpay). The website ([www.SpayCalifornia.org](http://www.SpayCalifornia.org)) will be gradually introduced on a county-by-county basis with Los Angeles the first up. Our staff member, June, is hard at work identifying, contacting and registering hundreds of providers in 58 counties while at the same time answering an already busy phone line.

### E.A.R.L. HOLLIMAN MEDICAL FUND ESTABLISHED

The good news is that companion animals are living longer because of the advancement in veterinary medicine. The bad news is that for some, these higher costs for treating an ill pet means the animal may not get the help it needs.

The **Emergency Animal Relief Lifeline (E.A.R.L.)** fund has been established in the name of our president emeritus Earl Holliman to carry out his vision to help animals in need and to honor his many years of dedication and leadership.

While maintaining our current medical subsidy program, the E.A.R.L. fund will be utilized for a select number of more serious cases each year. The level of assistance provided will depend upon the ability of the pet guardian to pay a sizable portion of the cost and provide follow-up care.

Meet Diesel, the first recipient. Adopted from an animal shelter, this sweet Shar Pei found his forever home with Jacquie and her husband, Jacques. But soon, the high fevers

began. Diagnosed with “shar pei fever,” a genetic inflammatory disease which in addition to causing episodes of high fevers, also causes the ankle (or hock) joints to swell, such dogs also can suffer kidney failure. As soon as Jacquie was getting used to the spells, Diesel’s fever spiked to 108° and he broke out with a systemic infection in his back hocks that caused his legs to be raw to the bone. Hospitalized for four days, Jacquie couldn’t stand to see him suffer. But each day when she visited, Diesel wagged his tag just a tad and gave her a loving glance which was all that she needed to keep up the fight. After borrowing over \$4,500 on their credit cards and feeling emotionally drained, Jacquie turned to Actors and Others for some needed encouragement and financial assistance. Thanks to the E.A.R.L. fund, Diesel is now on the road to recovery. “Thank you so much in the efforts of saving the kindest and gentlest dog that I have personally come across.”

Diesel



## Caring for Animal Companions Who Share Our Homes And Our Hearts



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Edited by Susan Taylor

## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUSAN TAYLOR



*Susan with Clio and Kelly  
Photo by Rachel Heller*

On September 27, 2007 the President signed the FDA Amendment Act which calls for, among other things, updated standards for the labeling of pet food within 24 months. The Secretary of Health and Human Services was directed to consult with AAFCO and other stakeholders. AAFCO stands for the Association of American Feed Control Officials. While AAFCO does not regulate pet food, it does provide model regulations and standards that are followed by pet food manufacturers and adopted by a large number of State governments. Take a look at a can of cat or dog food, and you will likely see their name. In addition to its members, AAFCO has long utilized advisors to serve as non-voting committee members. Such heavy hitters as the American Feed Industry, American Veterinary Medical Association and the Pet Food Institute to name but a few. Noticeably missing -- anyone representing the pet food consumer. That is until now.

Working at the invitation of and in association with Mike Floyd, the founder of Defend Our Pets, I attended the AAFCO mid-year conference in San Antonio as an advisor. Defend Our Pets is a consumer watch group consisting primarily of families whose pets were the victims of last year's contaminated pet food catastrophe. Our main goal was to urge AAFCO to set up a pet food working committee to begin addressing the new law sooner rather than later. Our proposal was presented and accepted and a working committee was established with our welcomed participation. While we certainly view this as a victory, it is tempered with the awareness that AAFCO moves slower than a snail's pace and that many members and advisors believe their current standards are adequate.

What does this mean for you and me? It means that as we pass the first anniversary of the melamine pet food contamination, it is more important than ever to make sure that our representatives don't forget the importance of protecting the food chain for our pet companions as well as ourselves. So, please take a minute and send an e-mail to the Chairman of the AAFCO Pet Food Committee, [David.Syverson@state.mn.us](mailto:David.Syverson@state.mn.us). Thank him for working with us, and let him know how important it is to you that our pets are protected and that pet food standards are improved. Be sure to send a copy to me at [actorsandothers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:actorsandothers@sbcglobal.net).

# ACTORS AND OTHERS MAKES TOAST OF FRED WILLARD

The incredibly witty *Fred Willard* took the hot seat at the 2007 Celebration of Caring fundraising event, heading a star-studded dais that left the sold out crowd laughing for more and raising over \$200,000 to help animals in need.

Actors and Others' new president, *JoAnne Worley* (in from New York and her role in *The Drowsy Chaperone*), presided over the day's festivities. Saluting president emeritus Earl Holliman who, for the first time was able to just sit back and enjoy the show, JoAnne set the show's comedic tone when she presented Earl with the obligatory gold watch "lovingly purchased from a New York street vendor on her way to the airport."

The *PETCO Foundation* returned as the key sponsor of the event. Many foundations "talk the talk" about all their good work, yet set criterion that few can meet. The **P E T C O Foundation** "walks the walk" and has helped countless animal welfare organizations in all 50 states. We thank them for their commitment to enhancing the lives of companion animals and for their continuing support and friendship.



*Top left to right: Jim Piddock, Martin Mull, Gary Owens, Fred Willard, Ted Lange, Bob Perlow, Norm MacDonald, Steve Edwards, Steve Bluestein Bottom left to right: JoAnne Worley, Doris Roberts, David L. Lander, Sarah Purcell, Loretta Swit and Lulu the dog*



*Ashley and Courtney Chase*

*Ted Lange, Steve Bluestein, David L. Lander, Norm MacDonald and Bob Perlow.*

The Celebration of Caring Award was presented to two sisters, *Ashley and Courtney Chase*. Observing a neighbor trying to drown his dog in the bathtub, they

Master of Ceremonies, the perennial beloved *Martin Mull*, kept order over the uproariously entertaining assembly of Fred's friends, *Catherine O'Hara, Doris Roberts, Sarah Purcell, Steve Edwards, Jim Piddock,*

## A BIG DOGGY KISS TO ALL OF THESE VERY SPECIAL FRIENDS



- D.E.L.T.A./Leo Grillo
- Barbara Fodor
- Earl Holliman
- Stewart Foundation
- Bruce Tyson/Weston Capital Management
- Rob & Laura Word
- Edwina Anderson
- Kelly Bowers & John Wagner
- Gail Campbell
- Erlin France
- Alice and Leonard Maltin
- Dr. Joyce and Page Layne Miller
- Ray Romano
- Val Tonione
- Clara Tortomasi
- Mary Willard
- belinda
- Burbank Junior Chamber of Commerce
- Dream Fish, Inc.
- Larry Fazio
- Michelle Gavaldon
- Jackie Lewis
- Lithographix
- Dale Olson
- Pasadena Junior Chamber of Commerce
- Michelle Skrabut LaPierre
- Michael Stern
- Mark's Garden
- Willing Art Services

quickly reacted. Rushing to get to the closest veterinary clinic, giving the limp dog mouth-to-mouth resuscitation



*Fred Willard, Mary Willard, Susan Taylor, Paul Jolly and JoAnne Worley*

all the way, they not only saved Toby, the 10 month old Shih Tzu, but brought this animal abuser to justice.

For more on the event, visit [www.actorsandothers.com](http://www.actorsandothers.com).

# LET ACTORS AND OTHERS HELP PAY TRIBUTE TO THAT SPECIAL PERSON OR ANIMAL COMPANION



Biggles 1996-2008

*Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose.*

*-From the television show The Wonder Years*

Expressing one's emotions or offering condolences after the passing of a family member, friend or beloved animal companion plays a vital role in the healing process. It serves to celebrate and preserve their remembrance as well as prepare us to open our hearts to love again.

What better way of remembering such occasions than by acknowledging those special people and pets and, at the same time, bestowing a heartfelt gift that will allow us to provide more services for the benefit of animals in need.

We invite you to honor and share such a memory on these pages. Birthday wishes or a thank you to a special animal lover or veterinarian are also welcome. When accompanied by a contribution of \$20 or more, tributes or accolades will be printed in our bi-annual newsletter, and the newsletter will be posted on our website.

*In the last few months, Actors and Others for Animals has lost several dear friends. Our beloved treasurer, Patricia Bercel, and our much admired friend and supporter, the artist Violet Parkhurst. Both of these women loved and respected animals and never wavered in their support and confidence in our work. We salute them both.*

- ♥ To our sweet boy Biggles, Michelle Gavaldon
- ♥ To Ben Ben, You're greatly missed Brandie
- ♥ In Loving Memory of Patricia Bercel, from the Board of Directors and Staff, Earl Holliman, C. Curtis, M. Boykin, Susie O'Brien, Cathy Singleton
- ♥ Whitie, our sweet, earless cat, we miss you, Henry and Sabrina
- ♥ To Sweet Lulu who made everyone cry, with love

Marina Anderson-Carradine

- ♥ Anna Colemann, who loved and was beloved by animals, your loving husband David
- ♥ In Loving Memory of Violet Parkhurst, Anna and Robert Brooks, Marguerite Carlson/John Matthew Harrison, Nancy Lee Chilson, Dorothy Ebsen, William Gould, Linda Ehlig, Robert Freters, Lady Austin Knight, Sandra Radine, Shirley and Arthur Rasmus, Ann Smith, Specialty Restaurants/John Tallichet, Liz Wasson, Arlene and Herbert Zimmer, Martha Amour
- ♥ In Memory of our beloved dog, Jack, Marguerite Carlson and John Matthew Harrison
- ♥ To Cleo, LaBelle and Crystal, loved and never forgotten, Penny
- ♥ In Loving Memory of Jean Dickin, Holly Coontz, Shelley and Neal Tenen, Helen Cates, Anne and Herb Schoenberg, Patrick McHugh

## DO YOU HAVE AN ESTATE PLAN?

One of the greatest gifts you can leave your loved ones is an estate plan that makes your wishes known. If we care about those we love, including our companion animals who give us so much love, we must prepare for their security and well-being when we are gone. Many states, including California, allow a person to create a "pet trust" for the care of your animal companions if you become incapacitated or pass on. Regardless of your desires for the distribution of your estate, an experienced estate planning professional should be consulted to determine what is best in your individual case.

A bequest to Actors and Others enables us to continue our mission of compassion. We deeply appreciate all those who, by remembering us in their estate planning, created a legacy of love for the animals. If you are interested, please contact us at [actorsandothers@sbcgobal.net](mailto:actorsandothers@sbcgobal.net). Remember, if there is a Will, then there is a way for your legacy to live on.



## SHOP AT RALPH'S GROCERY AND HELP ACTORS AND OTHERS

Remember, if you live in California, you can help support Actors and Others by simply shopping at Ralphs Grocery store using your club card. Every time you shop and swipe your card, Actors and Others will receive a rebate. The one tricky part is that you must sign up annually each September 1st. So even if you signed up before to help us, you need to do so again, and then every September 1st. To do so, go to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com). Click on Community Contributions. Then click on Participant Sign Up. Enter the NPO number 84455. They will ask for your Club Card number, found on the back of your card and your address. This is a great and easy way to help the animals.

# ACTORS AND OTHERS COMES TO THE RESCUE OF A GOOD SAMARITAN



*Poodle Boy*

Early one snowy January morning, Candace noticed that a box had been left at her back door with a poodle inside. He was alive, but barely, and off they rushed to the veterinarian. In addition to being nearly frozen to death, he was matted, had 4-inch toenails and was covered in

harmful foxtails. His right eye was full of puss and bulging out of his head which the veterinarian determined was caused by severe trauma. And, of course, he was not neutered. Not knowing how she was going to handle the unexpected cost, Candace turned to Actors and Others for help.

“Poodle Boy” was sterilized and his right eye removed. He was completely shaved, had his toenails cut and the countless foxtails removed. Weighing just 7 pounds and thought to be about four years old, Candace brought him a sweater to keep him warm during his hospital stay.

But this incredible story doesn’t end here. It was soon discovered that Poodle Boy was blind in his left eye! Candace knew that she was going to have to find a special home for this miracle dog. And that she did. Poodle Boy is continuing his recuperation in a long term foster home with his new blind canine best friend.

## THE HEALING POWER OF ANIMALS

### Actors & Others for Animals



**Pet Therapy Dog  
Kobi**

It was 1990 when Actors and Others began its Pet Assisted Therapy Program with only one hospital and one team. While many health workers recognized the benefits of such a program, others couldn’t see past the unproven notion that animals in their facilities would t r a n s m i t c o m m u n i c a b l e disease. Fast forward to 2008 where such

programs are now commonplace, and it is becoming more and more prevalent to see physicians recommending a pet to their patients as a remedy for the stress of daily life.

Actors and Others is proud to offer our pet therapy program to 18 convalescent hospitals, retirement homes and senior centers. Among the wonderful animals participating are dogs, cats, a Cockatoo and a lop-eared rabbit.

Along with our able-bodied animal volunteers are some remarkable people as well. Gretchen is a single mother with two grown sons who believes strongly in community service. She also personally knows the healing power of the human animal bond for Gretchen is blind and her pet therapy partner, Kobi, is her retired 12 year-old golden retriever guide dog. Together, they are an amazing pet therapy team! They go to the Bleu Chateau Retirement Home in Burbank where the residents have come to love their visits. Gretchen and Kobi can also be found volunteering for the American Red Cross. Her new guide dog, Chai, a labrador retriever, waits patiently at home, allowing Gretchen and Kobi to spend some quality time together doing what they love – helping others. Our hats are off to them!

### Actors & Others for Animals



**Pet Therapy  
Volunteer  
Gretchen Conejo**

## AN OLD-FASHION FEEL GOOD STORY



Shawn, Todd and Lincoln

Recently one of our staff members received a call from a woman in Wisconsin who wanted our help in getting a dog out of one of the LA City shelters. With two dogs already, Shawn wanted to add a third, and so she started surfing Petfinder.com. Always drawn to a dog in need, Lincoln's picture was all that she needed to know that he was the one, and it didn't matter to her that he was in California. (Her husband, on the other hand, would have preferred Chicago!)

Although not something that we usually do, there was something about Shawn that our staff member Beverly thought deserved our help. (Perhaps it was the dozen or so telephone conversations.) The dog, Lincoln, a male Rottweiler had been in the shelter for nearly two

months. One of the hundreds of overlooked strays picked up each year by animal control, on the outside Lincoln was suffering from mange and malnutrition, but on the inside he was just waiting for someone to love him. That was the picture Shawn saw.

So early one morning in February, Shawn and her husband Todd flew into Los Angeles with two carry-on bags containing dog food, dog treats, blankets, bowls, toys, and everything to make Lincoln as comfortable as possible, but no clothes. Incredibly not one question from airline security!

Shawn and Todd were clearly experienced, responsible and loving. Lincoln met his new pet parents and it was, as they say, a match made in heaven. Within a couple of hours the three were on the road for the long drive home.

We were able to send Lincoln off in a brand new large dog carrier and collar. And of course, we had him neutered! Now and again in these uncertain times, if something seems too good to be true, it may be just what it seems.

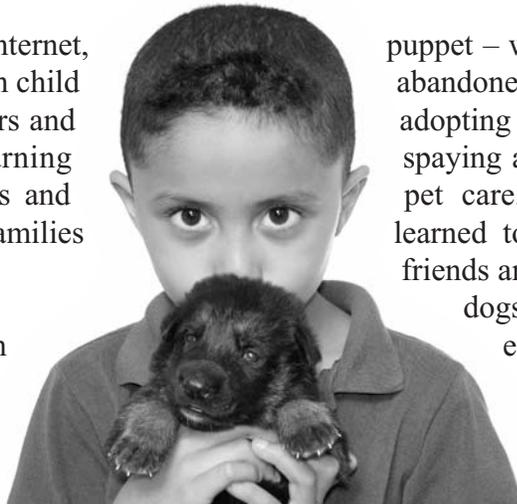
### HELP STOP ANIMAL FIGHTING AND ABUSE

In Los Angeles County, call 2-1-1 to report cases of animal fighting or abuse. If such information leads to an arrest and conviction, you will be eligible for a \$5,000 reward from the Humane Society of the United States.

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE A GREAT PLACE TO TEACH COMPASSION

Due to the ease and availability of the internet, the popularity of the library and its place in child development is dwindling. Here at Actors and Others, we think it is a perfect learning environment to teach respect for animals and the value of compassion because entire families can attend together.

Recently our humane education coordinator, Stephanie, visited Sylmar Public Library. The event was very well attended with over 65 children and parents. Tigger – a huge sheepdog



puppet – was used to tell his story of being an abandoned dog. The children learned about adopting dogs from shelters, the need for spaying and neutering, and about responsible pet care. Both parents and children also learned to have appreciation for our animal friends and how to safely approach unfamiliar dogs. Every child attending received educational coloring books. And thanks to the PETCO Foundation, they also got their own dog or cat mask.