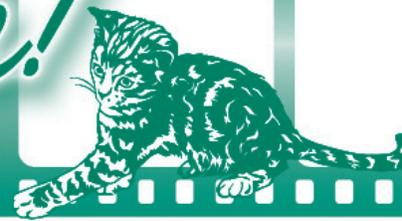




On Location!



SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER OF ACTORS AND OTHERS FOR ANIMALS



THE PANDEMIC EFFECT ON SPAY/NEUTER

Spaying/neutering is commonplace today, but the Covid pandemic has seen the cost rise dramatically and availability decrease considerably. Overnight veterinarians and animal welfare organizations entered unfamiliar territory, having to balance the

protection of their staff and clients with the animals they serve.

While veterinary clinics were designated as essential, spay/neuter surgeries were classified as elective and stopped by most veterinarians. Unfortunately, numerous clinics greatly reduced or suspended their spay/neuter services when surgeries resumed. Some decided not to do feral cats, which are a major source of unwanted kittens. Most raised their fees, some as high as \$600 for a cat spay! And due to staff shortages and backlogs, appointments can take up to three months. This has caused many to forgo getting their pets sterilized.

We never closed our doors and have facilitated the sterilization of over a half-million animals over the years and over 3,500 during 2021. **No matter the obstacles, we remain firm in our commitment to curb pet overpopulation.**

Actors and Others also has a website, www.spaycalifornia.org, as a state-wide referral service where pet guardians can locate affordable spay/neuter services in all 58 counties of California. Lists are provided for dogs and cats, rabbits, and feral cats.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLO?

One of the most expensive and rare foods in the world are truffles. Not the chocolate ones, but the edible fungus that lives underground around the roots of certain trees. Found throughout the world, especially in Italy, truffle hunters use dogs to sniff out this delicacy. The Lagotto Romagnolo, one of Italy's oldest known dog breeds, is a small to medium-sized water retriever with a great disposition and the only dog in the world recognized as a specialized truffle searcher.



THE BETTY WHITE CHALLENGE

The Betty White Challenge started as a social media post asking fans to donate to a local animal organization in honor of her 100th birthday and soon ballooned into a viral memorial celebration of her love of animals. We know that Betty would be so delighted to know that over \$13 million was raised for countless organizations and \$30,000 by Actors and Others. When talking about the importance of spay/neuter, Betty always said that there was no secret to the source of pet overpopulation. "It's not rocket science. It's simple arithmetic." We will be using these donations to provide free spay/neuter surgeries. Please view our Tribute Video to Betty on our website.



Caring for Animal
Companions Who
Share Our Homes
And Our Hearts



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CATS ARE PRONE TO LIFE-THREATENING URINARY BLOCKAGES

Urinary tract diseases are common in cats. There are bladder infections and bladder stones, but the most serious is a blockage of the urethra. The urethra is a tube that removes urine from the bladder. When a male cat has an obstruction, they will try to pee frequently but can't. The cat will feel great discomfort and pain, may vomit, and appear sluggish. If this isn't treated immediately, the bladder will rupture and be life-threatening. Treatment includes clearing the blockage with a catheter and placing the cat on a strict diet. But many cats have persistent problems and then surgery is necessary. The procedure is called perineal urethrostomy (PU), but it's often referred to as a "sex change" because it reconnects the urethra to a new opening in the skin so that urine can be eliminated without passing through the blocked urethra. And it is very costly in the thousands of dollars. You must be very careful in choosing a veterinarian. Here's a first-hand experience from one of our applicants, Roneique:

"When our precious kitty Tuxx awoke screaming in pain, I rushed him to an animal hospital then got the bad news that he has a urinary blockage and will certainly die if not treated immediately. The vet proceeded to play an awful game with my emotions and pocketbook, but that's a story more fit for the Twilight Zone. I contacted Actors and Others in a tearful panic. Beverly reassured me and instructed me on what to do to get him transferred into their recommended care facility. She also made sure that a sizeable pledge was made to help with the vet bills. Once Tuxx got to their vet, Beverly was with me every step of the way. It was a roller coaster of setbacks, but in the end, he pulled through. Steadfast, proactive, and knowledgeable are adjectives that truly fit this organization. They are the real deal. Without them, Tuxx would not be alive, and there are no words to describe my gratitude. It may sound a bit sappy, but Actors and Others renewed my faith in humanity!"



CHOOSING A VETERINARIAN



These days the cost of veterinary care is a shock to most people. And for the low income, it can be devastating. That is why it is very important to scope out a veterinarian before your pet needs one. Call around and ask about fees for an office visit, shots, or a dental cleaning, compare them, and choose which one feels right for you. Get that old coffee can out, put your pet's name on it and start putting in your change or a dollar a day to save for that day. And when the unimaginable happens, be sure to do some comparative shopping once you have a diagnosis. It could be lifesaving.

Veterinary clinics are not created equal. If you take your pet to an emergency clinic, the cost will be much higher than a neighborhood veterinarian. Many veterinarians pondering retirement who have been in practice for 20-30 years have sold their practices to corporate chains such as Mars (yes, the candy company that also owns Banfield Veterinary Clinics) and VCA. These are publicly traded companies, so expect the fees to be higher. The best advocate for your pet is you.

2021 GREAT NONPROFITS TOP RATED



We are proud to continue to be one of their top-rated charities. Read reviews from those we have helped at greatnonprofits.org/org/actors-others-for-animals.



LOW-COST VETERINARY CARE IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER



Actors and Others helps low-income pet guardians find affordable veterinarians and covers some of the cost. By combining both of these services, more pets receive treatment and remain with their grateful guardians. **Last year we helped over 400 pets.**

Veterinary prices have risen so fast that the low-income care has become inaccessible. To empty shelters, adoptions are offered for free or at reduced fees. What is not discussed is the cost of caring for that pet. When that pet breaks a leg and the cost is \$2,000 to \$5,000, or when their cat is blocked with a urinary infection for a cost of \$5,000 to \$8,000 or dental care is over \$1,500, what does a low-income pet guardian do? Many guardians face the excruciating decision of economic euthanasia. But even that can cost \$300-\$500.

For years we have advocated for the pets of the low-income and the need for affordable services. It's time the humane community acknowledges there is an overwhelming need for low-cost, full-service veterinary clinics. We are encouraged that more organizations recognize the need and concede that it is easier said than done. But every road traveled starts with that first step.

PET THERAPY A GOOD ANTIDOTE TO ANXIETY



While another casualty of the pandemic is the suspension of our pet-assisted therapy program, we feel privileged that we can provide some needed comfort to the medical personnel at Valley Presbyterian Hospital. Diana and Sammy make regular visits to an area outside the hospital. When they started, Sammy felt depressed because his buddy had passed away. Now he just loves all the belly rubs while spreading his medicinal therapies.

Woodbury College and Notre Dame High Schools also invited us back during finals weeks. Once again, Sammy made the rounds together with Candice and Luna, a Husky mix.



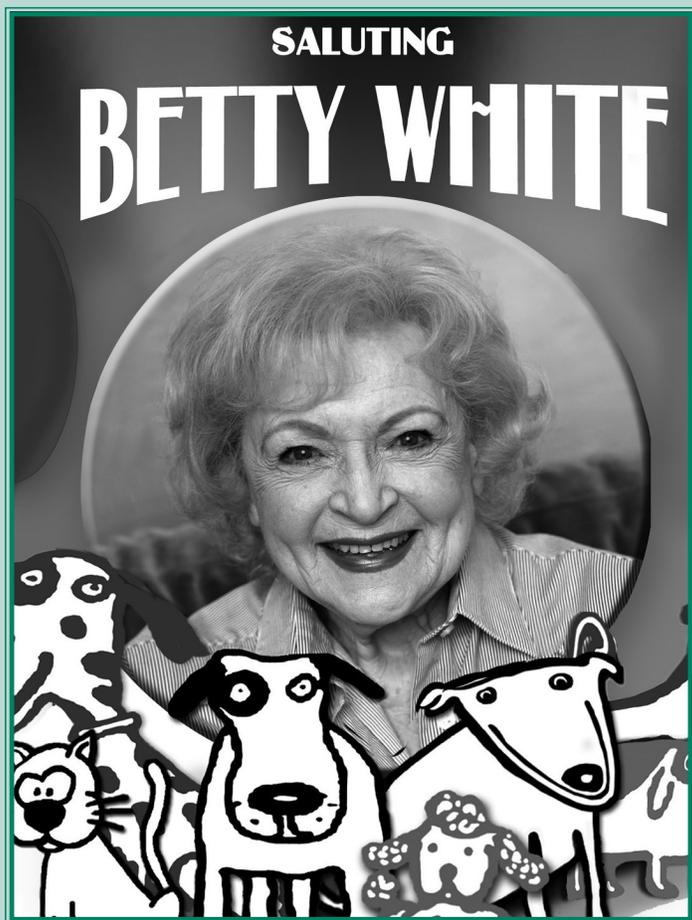
NEW LAW CONCERNING EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

I'm sure we have all heard of the turkey, bearded dragon, or kangaroo boarding a plane as an emotional support pet, causing confusion and unease. A new California law has been enacted to clarify the differences between service and emotional support pets and the legal requirements of those who provide certification. Of course, all of us know that our pets are the best at providing comfort, companionship, and love!



MEMORIALS, TRIBUTES, AND CELEBRATIONS

“THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND”



However you remember Betty White, she was America's sweetheart. We were honored to call her our dear, dear friend who inspired us by a lifetime of devotion and philanthropy to better protect and care for the animals who share our world, our homes, and our hearts.

Betty's credits are too numerous to list, as are the awards and honors bestowed on this true icon. She had an astonishing and wide-ranging career. Her first movie in 1951 gave us a hint of her animal activism. *The Daring Miss Jones* was shot entirely on location in the majestic High Sierras to illustrate a new color film process. Two of her co-stars were bear cubs, and during the shoot, Betty actually became the “cub handler” on the set, cementing both of her passions – show business and animals.

We were privileged to have Betty serve on our Board of Directors and honored her ourselves, first in 2005 with a rip-roaring roast and a 2011 salute to celebrate our 40th anniversary, during which we introduced the Betty White Inspiration Award.

You can view our tribute page with all the messages to Betty at [Actors and Others for Animals: Memorial Contribution](#).

IN MEMORIAM OF

CONNIE ELLIOT – **Memory of Biff Elliot**
JANE JOHNSTON – **Memory of Richard Basehart**
SARAH STEPHENS – **Memory of Richard Basehart**
MARY JOHNSON – **Memory of Richard Basehart**
LYNN GONZALEZ – **Memory of Papa Diaz**
ANN PICKERING – **Memory of Elvis Presley**
BONNIE GARNER – **Memory of Mary Willard**
PHIL & MELINDA PROCTOR – **Memory of Fred and Mary Willard**
NANCY & JEFF GRAFF – **Memory Elvis Presley**
RICHARD FOLLETT, LOUISE OLIVER, NICOLASA NEVAREZ, DAVID KALMANSOHN, DENNIS RITCHEY, RONALD HARRIS, BARBARA VAN DUZEE, BARBARA ROACH, DEBORAH HAYLOR, MCDOWELL AND KEVIN ALDRICH, PEGGY & ROBERT BOCK, AND JAY ALDRICH – **Memory of Bob Dugan**

IN HONOR OF AND IN MEMORY OF PETS

TONI SHERMAN AND DON – **To Janet Gallin adopting Dr. Feldman**
TONI SHERMAN AND DON – **To Tracy Sherman Family adopting Oona**
ELLEN BEN BASAT – **In honor of Beazly**
MOLLY SHORE – **Memory of Ralphie**
CHUCK & LINDA LANDIS – **Memory of cat Shirley**
ROBERTA & BOB KAMAUNU – **Memory Becky**
CHERYL PETERSEN & ROGER LUSTBERG – **Memory of Salsa**

MESSAGES OF TRIBUTES AND CELEBRATIONS

ZACH & JODIE MILLER – **Happy Birthday Allan**
THA – **Happy Birthday Clara Tortomasi**
BONNIE GARNER – **Happy Birthday Hope Mulberger**
LINDA & PETER D'APRIX – **Happy Birthday Jackie Joseph Lawrence**
SILA O'GRADAIGH – **To NCIS Art Department**
DANIEL TIRMAN – **To Devon Harvey Happy Holidays**

BEQUESTS

Bequests are essential for ensuring that most charitable organizations can continue their critical work. This is very true for Actors and Others. You can help create a better world by including a charity bequest in your will, and you can make a better life for animals in need by choosing Actors and Others for Animals. And an important part of any estate plan is making arrangements for your pets. We are forever grateful to **YOLANDA VELOZ, LINDA KNOX, JOANNE TEMPLETON, RICHARD FELDMAN, DOMENIC ZIROLI, and SHERYL BATES**.