



PETS LIFELINE

Protecting and improving the lives of cats and dogs in need



Our start:

Before 1982, there were no animal shelters to cope with the problem of stray and abandoned animals in Sonoma Valley. In response, a handful of dedicated animal lovers purchased the property on Eighth Street East to create a local animal welfare organization, and Pets Lifeline was established.

Animals were first housed in makeshift quarters or placed in temporary foster care. Adoptions were "by appointment only" due to limited resources.

Today's shelter, opened in 1987, accommodates 13 dogs and 50 to 60 cats. With the help of foster care volunteers, we are able to help many more animals and welcome visitors to see our dogs and socialize with the cats and kittens in two community cat rooms.

What we do:

We are the only animal shelter serving the 160,000 Sonoma Valley residents from Sonoma Raceway to Kenwood. Our goal is to be a refuge for pets and a resource for people. Our programs include adoption, humane education, dog training, spay/neuter and wellness clinics, trap/neuter/release (TNR) for feral cats, and a very robust volunteer program. In 2015 alone, 451 animals found shelter when they needed it most; 362 homeless animals were adopted into loving homes; 542 animals were spayed/neutered at no cost; 68 lost/stray animals were returned to their guardians; 89 feral cats were spay/neutered; over 453 animals in our community were given microchip IDs, and more than 375 children participated in our Humane Education program.

A single story:

Each cat and dog that finds a loving home becomes a single, special story, but so do the people who adopt or interact with them.

Gloria, a senior widow, was devastatingly lonely after the death of her husband until she adopted Grover, a big, gray, senior cat who had been abandoned by his owner.

James, a client of Becoming Independent, volunteers every Monday without fail to help socialize our cats and dogs – a weekly routine that is a positive part of his life. He is a gift to us, and his contribution to the animals he interacts with is invaluable.

For the past five years, our summer camp alumni (ages five and up) have demonstrated their compassion by donating their allowances, hosting lemonade stands, and suggesting that friends bring cat and dog supplies to their birthday parties instead of presents. It is truly remarkable to receive these amazing donations and to see the look of pride on the faces of the youth who think of the animals before themselves.

Our future:

Pets Lifeline hopes to develop a comprehensive pet-assisted therapy/activity program and a safety net program for pet owners in need. To this end, we are examining ways to renovate our facility to accommodate more updated animal environments and onsite space to expand our programs.


IMPACT100 SONOMA **Impact100 Sonoma awarded an \$800 Community Grant to Pets Lifeline for structural enhancements to their kennels and dog play area (2015).**