



The Sonoma Index Tribune

Pet Tales

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Desiree Stinson, Executive Director of Pets Lifeline

Lately I've noticed something about the Sonoma Valley. There is a community spirit here and an emphasis on helping each other -- whether it be people helping people, people helping animals or animals helping people. This quality is unique to this community and something I have not experienced in quite the same way in other places I have lived.

Take the unfortunate incident at the market the other day. After a long day at the shelter I stopped into the local market to get a few groceries. On my way out I accidentally dropped my wallet. I made my way home, unaware of the loss, and within 20 minutes of arriving home I had an email from someone saying that his mother, who did not speak English, had found my wallet and a business card for the shelter inside. As it turned out, this young man knew another shelter staff member and contacted her to confirm who I was and then contacted me immediately to return the wallet. I was thrilled to have this crucial personal item back and so appreciative that these local heroes had gone to great lengths to get it back to me quickly with everything intact!

Then there is the story of a popular, local private chef. I met him a year or so ago and was impressed when he offered to help with our major fundraising event, The Black Cat Cabaret. While we did not need his assistance with that particular event we've kept in touch and he has proven to be a big supporter of the shelter's work. In fact, last week he brought in a small, unkempt stray dog he came across. A sweet and scared little animal we're calling BoPeep because we needed to shear off so much matted fur. Rob took great care to make sure she was in good hands at PLL, so much so that after he dropped the dog off, Rob came back by the shelter to check on her. If only every homeless animal had an advocate like that!

There are countless stories of shelter animals who, just by being who they are, have helped their people. Take Steve, an employee of one of the local pubs. He adopted a sweet, young terrier mix named Charlie from Pets Lifeline not that long ago. When a shelter employee ran into the pair the other day, Steve reported that adopting Charlie had helped to improve his health. In getting out and walking his new dog each and every day, Steve has lost weight and is feeling trimmer and more energetic. Way to go Charlie! Jenny Craig's got nothin' on you!

Everyday I am reminded, in one way or another, of what a special place Sonoma is. In the words of the great philosopher, Dr. Seuss, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Thank you Sonoma for caring a lot!

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