

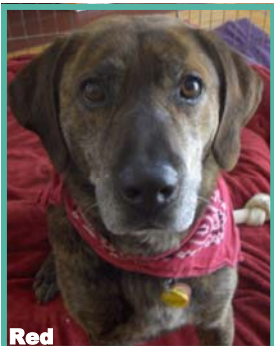


WINTER 2010

# CAPE NEWS

CENTER FOR ANIMAL PROTECTION AND EDUCATION

*DEAR FRIENDS,*



Red

Albert Schweitzer once said “At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”

When I reflect on this past year, gratitude is the word I would use to sum it up. I feel deeply grateful toward all of the people who made it possible for CAPE to save many lives.

The majority of animals we saved in 2010 had special needs. Animals like Molly, Ramona, and Ricky who had complicated medical conditions and required surgery or ongoing medical care. Or senior citizens like Winston, Zach, Red and Kala who have some mileage under their belts. There were also many young, healthy animals like Misty, Star and Odessa who found themselves in shelters crowded with other animals looking for homes too.

What always amazes me are the people who kindly, generously, selflessly step forward and offer to help. People like Dr. Bonnie Yoffe, Dr. Don Conkling and his staff, and Dr. Helen Power who are always a phone call away from us to offer medical advice. Saying “thank you” to them just doesn’t feel like enough. And do you realize that our newsletter design, website maintenance, photography and film production crew are all volunteers? And then, of course, there are CAPE’s exceptional foster care volunteers. They are truly heroes, the ones who actually make it possible to save individual lives. Of course we could not do any of this work without the generous financial support from our donors.

In the words of William Arthur Ward, “Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” I want therefore to express to all of you -supporters and volunteers who have given so much to CAPE - my deep gratitude. Your generous hearts have played a crucial role in saving precious lives. Every time a foster family says “OK, I’m ready to take another one home”, or a veterinarian says “sure, let’s see what we can do to help”, or a volunteer offers to drive an animal from homelessness to a loving foster home, you light the flame within us all.

Warmly,

**JP NOVIC, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Ricky



Kala



From Left: Laura, JP (holding Odessa), Cathy (holding Kala), and Eva at an adoption event at Scotts Valley Feed



# CAPE News

## Winter 2010

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(831) 336-4695

[www.capecanimals.org](http://www.capecanimals.org)

## Helen the Humane Educator



Helen

CAPE's resident turkey, Helen, has been a popular visitor to many classrooms in 2010. Helen loves children. Her gentle personality gives children the joy of interacting with a species who they may never have had a chance to meet before. As one of the students from Spring Hill School said, "Helen lets me pet her, like my dog does. She is so sweet." When visiting classrooms with older

students, we talk to the kids about the benefits of a plant based diet. Call us at CAPE at 831.336.4695 if you would like Helen to visit your classroom.

## Animal Beat: CAPE's new educational website

Animal Beat is a news website aimed at providing people with information about animals and the issues they face in today's world. Animal Beat has covered the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus, the horse racing industry, a crocodile sanctuary in Belize, animal rights conferences in Washington D.C., and books and movies that pertain to animals. Please bookmark [www.Animalbeat.org](http://www.Animalbeat.org).

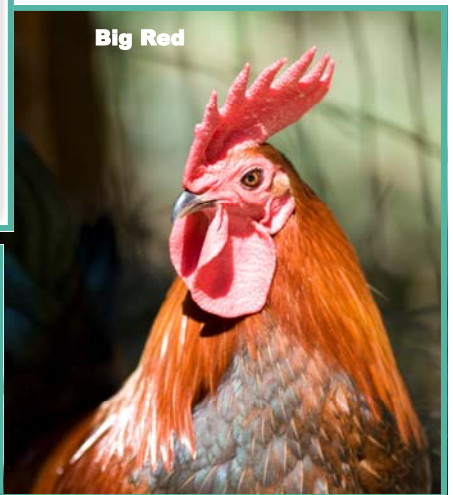
## KIDS TEACHING KIDS AND HELPING ANIMALS

We are so excited to be teaming up with kids to help get the word out about animal issues. We were invited by Kirby Preparatory School to work with some of their students who want to get involved with local charities. Twenty creative students from Kirby will be launching CAPE's new "Animal Eyes" episodes produced by and for kids. Some of the students have also offered to write articles for our new online newspaper, Animal Beat ([www.animalbeat.org](http://www.animalbeat.org)). Kids often have great ideas about how to educate their peers. Be on the lookout on our website for our new "Kids teaching Kids" program.

**Rootie, Lucy, and Big Red are permanent CAPE residents. Hope has been adopted. Molly is seeking her forever home.**



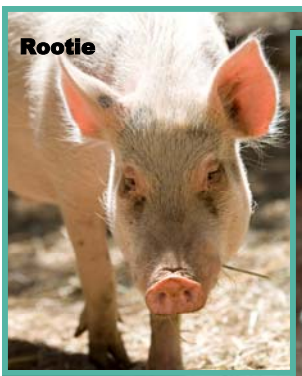
Hope



Big Red



Molly



Rootie



Lucy

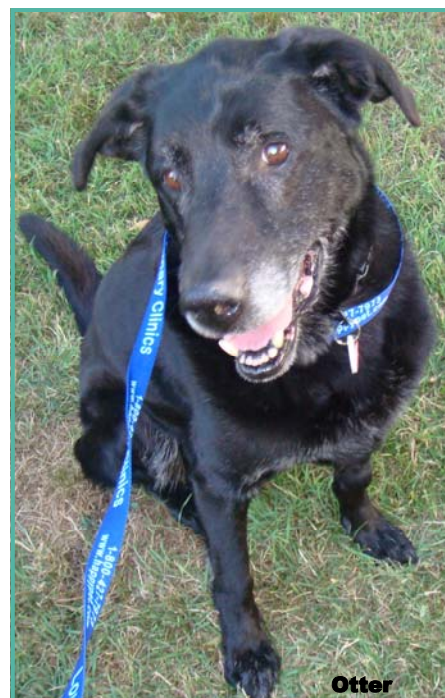
## Otter's Story by Marilee Geyer

For as long as I can remember, I've had a thing for old dogs. Pauline, a small grey dog of unknown heritage, was our family dog and my mother's beloved companion who lived to see her 17th birthday. She was the first dog I ever knew and the first dog I ever loved.

Other dogs followed: Jetz, Shadow, Eleanor, Freckles, Carmen, Punky and Huck-leberry -- cherished members of the family each and every one of them.

Although people ooh and aah over cute puppies – and they seem to garner most of the attention of potential adopters – the truth is that old dogs are cool. Puppies and young dogs have an excess of energy. They demand your constant attention, poop on the rug and chew on just about anything they can fit in their mouths. But old dogs have a certain dignity and wisdom that comes with having lived a little. They'd rather cuddle than chase the cat, snooze at your feet than bark at the UPS guy. And, they usually have very good manners. Chew on a favorite shoe? So passé.

Recently, as I was perusing the web site of my local shelter, I saw a 14-year old shepherd mix listed in the lost animal section. Immediately, my old dog maternal instincts kicked into full-blown alert and I called CAPE's JP Novic. Is there something CAPE can do to help this dog? I asked. A 14-year old dog should not die in an animal shelter in the arms of a stranger. (No animal, of course, should die in a shelter for lack of a home, although three to five million are still euthanized in shelters every year in this country. But for me, the thought of an old animal spending his last days in a shelter seems especially tragic.) JP arranged for the dog, whom I christened Otter, to be released from the shelter as a "hospice rescue" (see next page).



On the morning I went to pick him up, JP warned me that the volunteers described him as decrepit. But when I put his leash on and we headed out the front door, this "decrepit" dog nearly drug me across the parking lot! He jumped, without any prompting, right into the passenger seat of my truck and off we went. At home, I introduced him to my two other CAPE-rescued dogs, Charlie and Jem, and he moved right in. One thing that confused him, though, was the sleeping arrangements. Later that first day, I found him looking quizzically at Charlie and Jem, both of them deep in sleep on the couch. He seemed amazed when I encouraged him to join them. "Are you saying I can sleep THERE? On the couch? For realz?!!!"

Otter is a beautiful old guy. He has a soft and glistening black coat, and a gray muzzle that adds an air of distinction and elegance to his aged face. He has splashes of gray on his feet and belly, and soulful, intelligent brown eyes. Often, I look at him and wish he could tell me what those eyes have seen and experienced during his 14 years. I'm sure he has interesting stories to tell.

He's also an extremely well behaved dog. He would never consider lifting his leg in the house or chewing on anything but his stuffed dinosaur (a Brontosaurus, to be specific). He asks politely to have his ears and chest scratched, and offers sloppy wet kisses to anyone who will accept them. But truthfully, the majority of his day is spent eating, sleeping and farting. We're a perfect match! There are some worrisome signs regarding his health, though. His hips are weak, his hearing and eyesight are fading, and he recently had a cancerous tumor removed from a leg (thank you, Dr. Bonnie Yoffe). Because we don't know what the future has in store, we look at each day as an adventure and a gift.

On the day I brought him home I promised that I would care for him, be his protector and love him forever. And that I would try to make each of his days as fun and magical as I could. So, we go for walks through the meadow next to a river at our local park, or visit the feed store where he carefully scrutinizes the open boxes of dog treats before he settles on his biscuit du jour. We go for romps at the beach and stretch out on the warm sand or stop by the dog park for some canine socializing and sniffing. But his favorite activity, by far, is to go to the school up the street where he flops down on the grass, rolls on his back, tongue hanging out, body wriggling snake-like, in the most joyous display of canine bliss I have ever witnessed. For now, life is good. And whatever the future holds, we'll face it together.

So, who do you have a "thing" for? Is it Chihuahua mixes or orange tigers? Or maybe the black dogs or cats who are often overlooked at shelters? Perhaps you have a hankering for rats or a fondness for chickens. Or maybe, quite simply, your heart breaks for all of them. Whomever moves you, you can save an animal ... an animal just like Otter. Please, visit your local shelter or call CAPE. A homeless animal is waiting for you.

**Addendum:** Sadly, Otter passed on only weeks after this was written. His veterinarians believe that the cancer had spread, and he faded quickly. But instead of dying in the arms of a stranger, he left this world with a sense of belonging and love all around him. He is missed dearly.

## Letter from a Grateful Woman and her Dog

Dear CAPE,

Several years ago I had the privilege of experiencing the amazing work of CAPE for the first time. A neighborhood friend had adopted a large, special breed dog and realized (painfully) that she wasn't able to handle all of the dog's needs.

I'd heard about the work of CAPE through my vet's office. From the moment I called you, you did everything possible to help find a new home for this wonderful dog. You were wonderfully gracious with your time. Thanks to CAPE, we were able to place her in a home with a family who was happy to accommodate her energy and needs.

Fast forward several years and I found myself in a difficult situation. My sweet, 10 year old Lab needed major surgery this summer to remove a pancreatic tumor. Without it, it seemed certain that we would lose her. The economy has been very tough on me these past few years, and I wasn't sure how I was going to pay for the surgery. She is my best friend and my emotional 'life support.'

Again, I contacted CAPE. You were (once again) **WONDERFUL!** Caring, giving and concerned about my dog.

Her surgery was successful! She's now a little more than a month post op and doing great! She wouldn't be here without your help. Once again, I've witnessed the amazing work of CAPE. Patty and I will be forever grateful!!!

With gratitude,

A woman and her sweet, healthy Lab

## CAPE'S Hospice Care Program



The definition of hospice care is supportive care to people in the final phase of a terminal illness with a focus on comfort and quality of life, rather than cure. The goal is to enable patients to be comfortable and free of pain, so they live each day as fully as possible.

Over the years, CAPE has taken and will continue to take animals into what could be defined as hospice care. These animals are in what we believe will probably be their last 6 months of life or less. Animals in hospice are not put up for adoption, but are kept in the loving care of a CAPE volunteer until it is clear that the time has come to say goodbye. CAPE provides these very special foster homes with emotional and medical support as the animal goes through the end of life process.

If you are interested in learning more about this unique program, please give us a call at (831) 336-4695.



## Your gift helps save precious lives!

When you donate to CAPE, you provide critical care for animals in need. Your donation is used for food, medicine and veterinary care, educational supplies, and transportation. All donations are tax deductible.

Yes, I'll help CAPE help the animals! Enclosed is my gift of  
\$15 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed: check \_\_\_ cash \_\_\_

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Mail donation to CAPE, P.O. Box 67176, Scotts Valley, CA 95067-7176

**Your help makes it possible. Thank you!**