



## Friends of SVACA Announces Second Chance at Life Fund

Santa Clara, Ca – Friends of SVACA announces the start of the Second Chance at Life Fund. The donations received for this fund will be used to save the lives of animals that require simple health treatments, such as having a tooth pulled, stitches, or treatment for intestinal parasites, to be adoptable. These conditions are easily treated; however each can cost \$300 - \$1,000. This not within the budget of an already overloaded animal control authority. The need for small but necessary medical treatment has escalated to critical levels with the extended economic downturn.

Each year, hundreds of homeless animals in Santa Clara County lose their chance for a home because they need simple health treatment. While all attempts are made to place or transfer these dogs and cats to other shelters, the reality is that there is usually no place with room and even fewer with the ability to treat beyond spay/neuter and shots.

The goal this year is to combine donations with grants and veterinary discounts, to give 50 companion animals a Second Chance at Life. Services provided will include relatively simple but often unaffordable treatments such as dental extraction/cleaning, minor surgery and additional care while awaiting adoption.

Once the animal has recovered, SVACA and Friends of SVACA will follow up with special focus on getting that companion animal adopted into a home that is appropriate and welcoming. The goal is to place these animals into homes within three months. Animals and their stories will be featured on the website and Facebook as well as in community outreach and education events.

The program will be evaluated based upon the success in healing and adoption among the selected companion animals and homes. Based upon the evaluation and success of the first year, the second year's target is for 80 animals. Information and evaluation will also make this a demonstration project that can be replicated with other shelters.

### **About Friends of SVACA**

Friends of SVACA was created out of the passion of two volunteers at Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA) to help companion animals in the shelter find good homes. While doing this, they saw the tremendous need for funds to truly give animals a chance, especially those who were sick or wounded. Therefore, Friends of SVACA was founded as a private nonprofit to raise awareness and funds needed to fill the gaps between adoptive homes and animals for the Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA). Unlike other private nonprofit organizations, SVACA is required to take any animal presented to it. It is separate from the Humane Society and several other shelters and organizations serving the county. Further, as a Joint Powers Agreement, it is limited in the ways in which it can raise additional funds. With the tremendous cutbacks in government funding, it has become increasingly stretched. In 2008, they established Friends of SVACA as a private nonprofit 501(c) (3) corporation.

For further information on Friends of SVACA or to donate, please visit the website at [www.friendsofsvaca.org](http://www.friendsofsvaca.org).

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