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Dear Friends and Supporters,

As it was last year, we find ourselves unable to open our doors to friends old and new. While we would love to see familiar faces, share food, laughter, and holiday shopping this year, it simply isn't time just yet. COVID continues to rob us of treasured experiences, but we have come so far since last year and are hopeful for a future that includes celebrations with our partners in lifesaving.

VCA continues to prioritize the safety of their staff as well as Peter Zippi volunteers. This is being done by minimizing the amount of exposure we all have to outside sources. In July, VCA opened its doors to those who have appointments with doctors, and we were able to invite our adult volunteer staff back. In addition, we are also hosting "meet and greets" by appointment for the cats and kittens in our care. As "post-COVID" life becomes more stable, we will be able to do more.

While COVID did a lot for homeless pets last year, the anticipation of "returning to normal" contributed to a reduction in adoptions mid-year which has brought us back to "pre-COVID" placement numbers. There has been a steady increase in rehoming requests as well as a record number of kittens born this year. We have taken over 550 calls year to date. Most of these calls were related to rehoming and found litters of kittens throughout Southern California. We've taken it all in stride and continue our work, one cat or kitten at a time.

So far this year we have been able to rescue 95 cats and kittens from the shelter system as well as the streets. Of those 95, 13 needed advanced medical or surgical attention and 43 were neonates with and without mothers to care for them. Our youngest surgical case this year is named Milo. It's short for Milagro, which means miracle in Spanish. He was turned into a city shelter with a makeshift splint on his front left leg. It turned out that what a good Samaritan thought was a broken foot was actually a deformity that was a danger to him. Milo had to have his leg amputated but that doesn't slow him down at all. In fact, he runs, jumps, climbs and plays just like any other kitten now. It wasn't possible prior to his surgery.

One thing I would like to touch on this year is the losses that Peter Zippi volunteers experience. We don't highlight these because we don't want to be that organization, but it happens. This year we had the honor of providing Hospice care to a beautiful cat we named Godiva. We rescued her from a local shelter knowing she had a mass and it was our sincere hope to help her heal. Unfortunately, it was discovered that she had

metastatic breast cancer. While devastating we knew that our mission for Godiva had to change. One of our Board Members, Diane Corbett, stepped up and provided a safe and loving home until it was Godiva's time to cross. We are forever grateful for the time and energy our fosters give to all of our charges, even when the outcome may not be what we all hope for.

It probably goes without saying that the care of our cats and kittens while in our shelter is also of the utmost importance. We have staff scheduled seven days of the week to work in our cat rooms ensuring the areas are clean and our charges remain happy and healthy through proper diets, enrichment, as well as medication and supplements when needed. Consistency is key to a cat's well-being which means our policies and procedures must be documented and shifts must be covered. One can probably imagine the Herculean effort it takes to provide proper documentation and manage 20+ people in 6 daily two hour shifts. That is why our 2021 Volunteer of the Year is our Volunteer Manager, Gayle Kirma. When we received the green light to allow adult volunteers back into the facility she sprung into action, contacting every single pre-COVID volunteer to determine who would be returning and what their shift preferences were. Gayle built a well-rounded schedule taking everyone's preferences and skill-sets into consideration in just a few weeks. In addition to managing their coming and going, Gayle continues to recruit so we have 12 hours of continuous coverage 6 days per week.

As you know, medically endangered cats and kittens as well as providing financial assistance to our community members for spay-neuter surgeries are also high priorities for us. Sadly, COVID shut down many animal hospitals last year and prevented non-emergency services from being performed, leaving so many unaltered cats in homes and on the streets. We ramped up our efforts to get spay-neuter to the community via free mobile spay-neuter events where we've funded surgeries, vaccinations, and flea treatment for approximately 200 cats and kittens. In addition, we have issued 575 vouchers for spay-neuter surgeries to date.

For the second year in a row, we've had to draw from our "safety fund" to ensure our work in these critical areas continues. We are so very grateful to have been offered a \$10,000 challenge grant again this year and hope we will be able to claim it for the 14th year in a row. It is through your generosity that we will be able to continue our hands-on work with homeless cats, including complex medical cases, while sponsoring much needed spay-neuter services in Los Angeles County.

In closing, with the retirement of two key players, we have found ourselves in need of people who can add value through leadership and managing more high level aspects of the organization. We are currently seeking Fundraising and Social Media managers in addition to Adoption Counselors. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the team that is taking Peter Zippi forward, we would love to hear from you.

With Love in Pets,

  
Dr. Alice Villalobos, Founder

  
Christine Lugo, President