

Adoption


Pact

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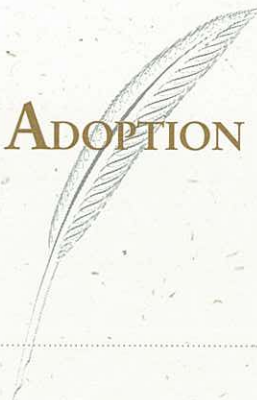
THE SAN FRANCISCO **SPCA**
MAKING FRIENDS FOR LIFE



Of all the cities in the United States, only one city currently guarantees that no adoptable dog or cat will be euthanized. By the end of this year, only one city in the country will also guarantee that every treatable dog or cat will be saved. That city is San Francisco. And standing between life and death for all these animals is The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. 



SAN FRANCISCO CELEBRATES ADOPTION PACT'S SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR!



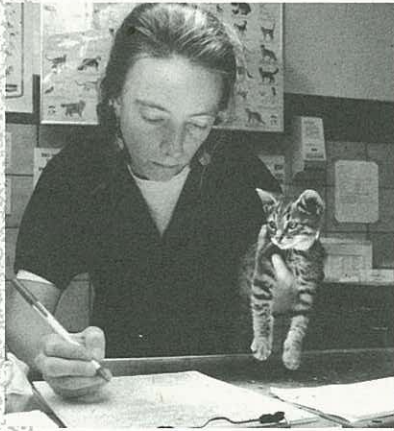
*O*n April 1, 1994, The San Francisco SPCA and the City's Department of Animal Care and Control signed the Adoption Pact. This historic agreement guarantees a loving home to every adoptable dog or cat in San Francisco. The Pact states that if the City Animal Control Center is unable to find a home for any one of its healthy dogs or cats, The San Francisco SPCA will take the animal and guarantee to place him. The Pact also gives The San Francisco SPCA the ability to save the lives of thousands of *treatable* dogs and cats. Under the Adoption Pact, The SF/SPCA takes sick, injured, traumatized, infant, and under-socialized animals from the City Animal Control Center, rehabilitates them, and finds them loving new homes too.

*I*n the 12 months since the Adoption Pact took effect no adoptable animal has been killed in a San Francisco shelter. What this means is that all cats and dogs who were healthy and of reasonably good temperament — even if they were old, blind, deaf, missing limbs or disfigured — were placed in loving homes rather than euthanized.

*A*nd in the past year, The San Francisco SPCA provided 3,382 treatable animals with medical care, behavioral training, foster care or a combination of these and then placed them in loving homes as well. *As a direct result, euthanasias at the City Animal Control Center for sick, injured, traumatized or infant dogs and cats*



VOLUNTEERS
ARE AN INTEGRAL
COMPONENT OF
THE ADOPTION PACT SUCCESS. A
LARGE NUMBER JOINED OUR EFFORTS
IN RESPONSE TO AN INTENSIVE
MEDIA CAMPAIGN PUBLICIZING OUR
NEED FOR FOSTER PARENTS AND
OTHER VOLUNTEERS. MANY WERE
ALSO RECRUITED BY CURRENT VOL-
UNTEERS TO SERVE AS CAT SOCIALIZ-
ERS, DOG WALKERS AND ADOPTION
COUNSELORS FOR AN INCREASED
SHELTER POPULATION. IN ALL,
2,318 SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS CON-
TRIBUTED THEIR TIME IN THE PACT'S
FIRST YEAR, COMMITTING A STAG-
GERING 80,949 HOURS TO THE
GOAL OF SAVING LIVES.



*SF/SPCA veterinary
assistant Lisa Lacabanne
fills out medical chart
for incoming kitten.*

dropped to 1,185 this year. By the end of 1995, the Society
intends to rehabilitate and place *all* such animals, demonstrating
as we go that cats and dogs with treatable medical and/or behav-

ioral problems can be saved and successfully placed if you just make the effort.

I has been recommended by leaders in the animal welfare movement that
for purposes of maintaining a positive image shelters should only offer “desirable”
dogs and cats for adoption, implying that all other animals should be killed. We do
not share that view, and we have proven that the public does not share it either. In
the Adoption Pact’s first year, while the number of treatable animals taken into our
facility rose, our rate of adoptions rose as well. In fact, the Society tallied a record
number of adoptions in the first year of the Adoption Pact — our best year ever as
a private adoption agency. The SF/SPCA found loving homes for 5,054 dogs and
cats in that period, including animals with disabilities or medical conditions, cats
and dogs recovered from injury or illness, older animals, pets requiring training and
behavioral treatment, and all those abandoned dogs and cats who would have faced
certain death in almost any other shelter in America. In fact, in cities and counties
throughout the country, most of the animals we received would have been deemed
“unadoptable” and kept out of public view, where they would have been quietly
euthanized and taken out the back door. In San Francisco, they are going out our
front door, wagging their tails into open arms and loving homes.



THE SOCIETY ACHIEVED ITS FIRST-YEAR GOALS OF SAVING ALL OF THE ADOPTABLES AND MOST OF THE TREATABLES IN LARGE PART BECAUSE WE SUCCEEDED IN FORGING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY TO WORK TOWARD THESE GOALS.

With all the adoptables guaranteed a home, and the treatables soon to be guaranteed as well, what animals will remain for whom rehabilitation and adoption cannot be guaranteed? The San Francisco SPCA is working to ensure that by the end of 1995 the *only* animals in San Francisco shelters who will be euthanized will be those who are *nonrehabilitatable*. These are animals for whom euthanasia is the only option, such as dogs and cats suffering from painful, incurable illnesses or injuries, or aggressive behaviors that pose a threat to public safety.

In the past 12 months, the vast majority (74%) of the animals killed at the City Animal Control Center were nonrehabilitatable. Next year, when this becomes the *only* category being euthanized in this city, *the euthanasia rate for San Francisco will drop to 47 dogs and cats killed for every 10,000 inhabitants. It will be by far the lowest euthanasia rate anywhere in the United States.*

The extraordinary goal of eliminating euthanasia for all but nonrehabilitatable cats and dogs could not be accomplished without the assistance and support of the community. The Society achieved its first-year goals of saving all of the adoptables and most of the treatables in large part because we succeeded in forging a partnership with the community to work toward these goals. This was achieved with the help of contributors, the media, staff, an expanded volunteer base and adopters.



*The fact that
"Countess" is blind
didn't prevent
Nancy from
falling in love.*

At the conclusion of the Adoption Pact's first year it is clear that the animals have benefited, the community has benefited, and local government has profited through the reduction of costs normally incurred in killing animals. Thanks to the Pact, The San Francisco SPCA is saving more animals than ever, and the city of San Francisco can proudly claim to have the



THE SF/SPCA'S EXTENSIVE ARRAY OF SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS LIMITS THE NUMBERS OF YOUNG PETS COMING INTO SHELTERS SO THE ADOPTION PACT CAN WORK. ANIMALS SHELTERED AT THE SF/SPCA ARE SPAYED OR NEUTERED AT OUR CLINIC FOR FREE PRIOR TO ADOPTION, AND THE SF/SPCA IS PERFORMING SPAY/NEUTER SURGERY ON UNALTERED DOGS AND CATS AT THE CITY ANIMAL CONTROL CENTER BEFORE PET PLACEMENT. THE SF/SPCA'S CLINIC ALSO PROVIDES LOW-COST SURGERY TO PETS BELONGING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND PERFORMS NO-COST SURGERIES ON THE CITY'S FERAL CATS AND ON PETS BROUGHT TO US BY SAN FRANCISCO SENIORS. THIS YEAR, THE CLINIC OFFERED A NEW PROGRAM FOR SAN FRANCISCO RESIDENTS, PROVIDING FREE SPAY/NEUTER SURGERY FOR THEIR CATS — PLUS \$5 CASH BONUSES FOR THEM!

lowest per capita euthanasia rate

of any city and county in the country. This has been accomplished in one of the most culturally and economically diverse urban areas of the United States. It was done without resorting to coercive or punitive government mandated programs. And it was done without any cost to the taxpayers.

As the Society commits itself to the Adoption Pact for the next year and into the next century we are reminded of the words of a wise person who once said, "*Most people don't recognize opportunity, because it is often disguised as hard work.*" The Adoption Pact represents a great deal of hard work successfully completed and tremendous opportunity yet to be realized. ■

*Six-month-old "Sheba" in her new home.
SF/SPCA doctors repaired a broken
vertebra and toe prior to her adoption.*



When the Adoption Pact was first proposed by The SF/SPCA, the Society predicted that impounds would increase as the public became aware of the Pact's lifesaving guarantee. The theory at the heart of the Adoption Pact is that more people will surrender their unwanted pets to shelters, as opposed to abandoning or neglecting them, if they know that the animal will be placed in a loving home rather than be killed. And, in fact, total impounds of San Francisco dogs and cats at both shelters did rise by 1,314 animals. The ordinary person's belief that "My pet will be killed if I bring him to a shelter" is changing in San Francisco to "My pet will be adopted by someone who can give him a good home" now that news of the Adoption Pact is spreading.

ARE YOU READY FOR A MATURE RELATIONSHIP?

Adopt a cat or dog 5 years of age or older at The San Francisco SPCA and get HALF OFF all medical treatment for your new pet for *one year* at The SF/SPCA Hospital. Or get HALF OFF professional flea control in your home, guaranteed to last one full year.

Best of all, our pets are already spayed or neutered and only cost \$28!

YOU KNOW, THE GRAY HAIR IS HARDLY NOTICEABLE!



The San Francisco SPCA
2500 16th Street
(between Bryant & Harrison)
(415) 554-3000
Open 11-7, Everyday.
Sat. & Sun. too!

The Adoption Pact is more than just an agreement between two agencies, it is a "Pact" with the community. A Pact that promises if an animal is healthy and well-behaved, regardless of age, disability, deformity or disfigurement, he or she will be guaranteed a loving home. A Pact that next year will provide the same guarantee for all the City's treatable animals. It is a Pact that brings out the best in the community, stops abandonment and reduces the cost of government.

SOURCES OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SPCA'S TREATABLE DOGS AND CATS



The SF/SPCA offers safe refuge, quality nourishment, extensive medical care and abundant amounts of love to every animal in our care. Cats are tested for incurable illnesses, and each pet is given a health exam and behavior analysis, and provided with a comprehensive health care program which includes free spay/neuter surgery prior to placement, vaccinations to prevent contagious diseases, deworming and a 30-day medical assistance plan after placement. While in our shelter, cats and dogs reside in individual apartments where they are socialized, showered with TLC, and in the case of dogs, taken for daily walks. If need be, behaviors are modified to improve a pet's manners in order to make a better impression on adopters.

Volunteer Joyce Brown
with foster kittens



He may look like the perfect poster boy, but when Brodie and his 4-week-old littermates arrived at the City Animal Control Center in the spring of 1994 they were all close to death. Starving, sick and infected with worms, these stray kittens would most likely have been euthanized if they had been born in any other city except San Francisco. But thanks to the Adoption Pact, the newborns were transferred to The San Francisco SPCA, given medical treatment at our Infirmary and then nursed back to health by SF/SPCA volunteer foster parents until they were able to be neutered and adopted. 1,011 underage kittens were treated, fostered, neutered and placed in loving homes by The SF/SPCA in the Adoption Pact's first year.

PETS AND ADOPTERS ARE MAKING FRIENDS FOR LIFE AT THE SF/SPCA THANKS TO CAREFUL SCREENING

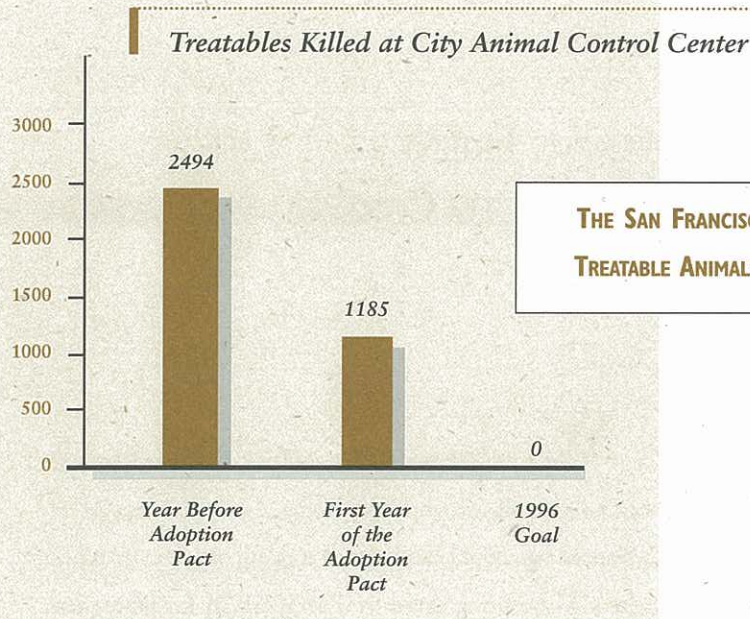


With the Adoption Pact, difficult-to-place dogs and cats — animals for whom problems of health, behavior or advanced age might have meant a death sentence at other shelters — are being saved by The SF/SPCA for placement in adoptive homes. But finding just the right home for a pet

with epilepsy or a 12-year-old dog with a heart murmur requires a special kind of screening. Not only do our adopters have to understand and commit to the tenets of responsible pet ownership, they must also fully comprehend and be willing to take on the extra burdens of care that many of our pets require — and be willing to commit to the pet for the duration of his or her life.

To this end, The SF/SPCA has a four-tiered screening process that begins with a hard working corps of volunteer adoption counselors who initially try to match the needs of both pet and adopter. Last year, 287 adoption counselors dedicated 14,661 hours to finding just the right human for each pet. After this preliminary consultation, applicants fill out a multi-page questionnaire which is supplemented by an in-depth interview with staff adoption specialists. In the case of special needs pets, either a medical staff member or an animal behaviorist is called in to advise on follow-up care or training. For example, an adopter of a diabetic cat will be instructed on how to give insulin injections; an adopter of a blind dog will learn how to set up the house to better enable the dog to find his way around. All in all, the screening process can take several hours. And The SF/SPCA's involvement in the animal's welfare doesn't stop at the Shelter door. Every adopter is called at home after one week to make sure the pet is adjusting well to his new environment. If medical or behavior problems are reported, adopters are steered to free medical care at The SF/SPCA Infirmary or free consultations with an SF/SPCA animal behaviorist.

I SEEKING TO REDUCE THE NUMBERS OF DOGS AND CATS KILLED, MANY COMMUNITIES ARE USING TAXPAYER FUNDED GOVERNMENT MANDATES WITH HEAVY-HANDED ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS THAT SEEK TO PUNISH PEOPLE — EVEN RESPONSIBLE CARETAKERS — WITH FINES, FEES, AND THREATS OF IMPOUNDING AND KILLING THEIR ANIMALS IF THEY DON'T COMPLY. BY CONTRAST, WE BELIEVE THE CORRECT FOCUS SHOULD BE ON WHAT WE, AS A SHELTER, CAN DO TO HELP — NOT PUNISH — THE COMMUNITY.



THE SAN FRANCISCO SPCA'S GOAL IS TO ELIMINATE EUTHANASIA OF TREATABLE ANIMALS AT THE CITY ANIMAL CONTROL CENTER BY 1996

In most communities, older animals or those not deemed “desirable” are considered “unadoptable” and placed in the “euthanize” category. But with the advent of the Adoption Pact, cases like Cosmo have become routine in San Francisco.

Cosmo is a 10-year-old cat who was transferred to The San Francisco SPCA from the City Animal Control Center while still recovering from severe burns on his face and neck that had damaged his left eye. Veterinarians at The SF/SPCA Infirmary treated his burn wounds and provided care for earmites, dental problems and an upper respiratory infection. He was also vaccinated and neutered. Meanwhile, SF/SPCA Shelter staff and volunteer cat socializers worked to coax the traumatized cat out of his depression. Cosmo was adopted by a caring person who saw past his scars to the quietly affectionate nature that had managed to endure.



Jacques was a scarred and terrified dog when he was picked up by City Animal Control Officers. This Doberman mix had been starved by his owner and confined to a tie-out where he was attacked by neighborhood dogs. The Adoption Pact enabled Jacques to be transferred from the City Animal Control Center to The SF/SPCA, where he was vaccinated, neutered, treated for his medical problems and immediately assigned to a behaviorist. The behaviorist worked intensively with Jacques to help him overcome his fear of other dogs, and a volunteer foster parent took Jacques into her home to fatten him up and rebuild his trust in humans. Two months after he arrived at The SF/SPCA, Jacques found a permanent home with a caring couple who continued his training and provided him with the love he sorely needed.

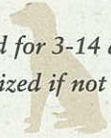


**TYPICAL SHELTER
PRACTICES NATIONALLY**

SF/SPCA POLICY

Healthy and well-behaved
dogs and cats

*Held for 3-14 days.
Euthanized if not adopted*



Cared for until

A · D · O · P · T · E · D

Disabled or disfigured
dogs and cats

Routinely euthanized

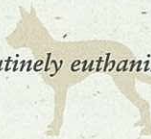


*Examined and treated
for therapeutic needs -*

A · D · O · P · T · E · D

Puppies and kittens less
than 8 weeks old

Routinely euthanized



*Examined and treated for medical
needs, placed in foster homes until
healthy and 8 weeks old -*

A · D · O · P · T · E · D

Dogs and cats with treatable
behavior problems

Routinely euthanized

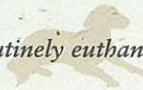


*Assessment made by behaviorists,
training or socialization provided -*

A · D · O · P · T · E · D

Treatable sick or injured
dogs and cats

Routinely euthanized



*Surgery performed or medical treat-
ment administered, animal sheltered
or fostered during recovery -*

A · D · O · P · T · E · D

Dogs and cats
over 5 years old

Routinely euthanized



Examined for special needs -

A · D · O · P · T · E · D



TOTAL LIVES SAVED - ADOPTION PACT'S FIRST YEAR



ADOPTION PACT SUPPORT SERVICES

Contributing to the success of the Adoption Pact are many SF/SPCA programs and services which generate opportunities for adoption and encourage the timely placement of pets with responsible and committed new owners.

Our **ANIMAL SHELTER** is open for adoptions 7 days a week with extended hours of operation to make it convenient for the public to adopt.

The Society's **ADOPTION OUTREACH** program takes shelter pets to neighborhoods, shopping centers, business districts and various community events so the animals can be seen by more potential adopters.

The **DIAL-A-CAT PROGRAM** provides over-the-phone cat selection, free home delivery and free in-home consultation to those responsible care givers who are eager to adopt a cat but who are unable to come to the Shelter due to advanced age or limited mobility.

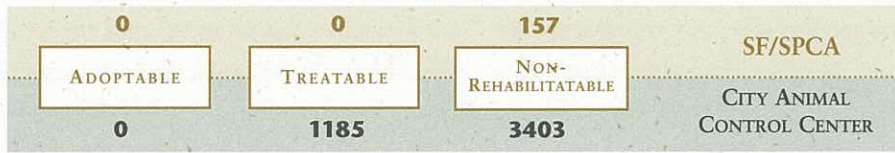
The **SF/SPCA GROOMING COLLEGE** provides beauty make-overs for our shelter animals so they can look their absolute best. Services include: scissors trimming and clipper cutting, skin, eye and ear care, brushing and bathing and pedicures.

Our **OPEN DOOR PROGRAM** provides incentive-based assistance to landlords and "how to" information to tenants to increase rental housing opportunities for people with companion animals and those interested in adopting pets.

Public Awareness campaigns and advertising spread the word about SF/SPCA animals available for adoption. Regular "Pet of the Week" television appearances, public service announcements on radio and TV, weekly newspaper columns, and bus shelter posters are some of the ways people are informed and encouraged to adopt a homeless pet from our Shelter.



TOTAL DEATHS - ADOPTION PACT'S FIRST YEAR



MINNESOTA HAS THE MAYO-CLINIC, LOS ANGELES HAS CEDARS-SINAI HOSPITAL AND SAN FRANCISCO HAS THE PEOPLESOFT PET RECOVERY CENTER

MOST OF THE ANIMALS THAT HAVE BEEN ARRIVING AT THE SF/SPCA UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ADOPTION PACT REQUIRE MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR INJURIES OR ILLNESS. IN ORDER TO TREAT THESE ABANDONED



DOGS AND CATS AS WELL AS MEET OUR OWN AMBITIOUS GOALS FOR SPAY/NEUTER OPERATIONS, THE SF/SPCA'S OLD 1,607 SQUARE-FOOT INFIRMARY RECENTLY UNDERWENT A MAJOR RENOVATION AND EXPANSION TO BECOME THE NEW 5,849 SQUARE-FOOT PEOPLESOFT PET RECOVERY CENTER. A MEDICAL TEAM OF SEVEN GREW TO TWENTY-EIGHT AND ONE SMALL SURGERY ROOM, ONE TREATMENT AREA AND TWO RECOVERY

WARDS TURNED INTO A SPACIOUS SURGICAL THEATRE, TWO TREATMENT AREAS AND FOURTEEN RECOVERY WARDS. AND THE PRICE TAG IS GROWING RIGHT ALONGSIDE THE NUMBERS OF ANIMALS TREATED. PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION PACT, THE ANNUAL COST OF OPERATING THE INFIRMARY WAS \$550,000.00. THIS YEAR, THE TAB FOR OPERATING THE PEOPLESOFT PET RECOVERY CENTER IS BUDGETED AT \$1,330,000.00.



IN MOST SHELTERS IN THE U.S., ANIMALS REQUIRING TREATMENT OF ANY KIND ARE ROUTINELY KILLED. THIS IS NOT THE CASE IN SAN FRANCISCO. THANKS TO THE ADOPTION PACT, 3,382 TREATABLE DOGS AND CATS RECEIVED ANOTHER CHANCE AT LIFE THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SPCA. THEY INCLUDED:

Snowy 3-year-old cat. Impounded at City Animal Control Center with rubber band wrapped tightly around front leg, causing irreversible atrophy of the limb and requiring surgical removal by SF/SPCA doctors. Vaccinated and neutered.

ADOPTED

Reggie English sheepdog. Abandoned and starving (weighed half his normal body weight when taken into custody). Delicately shaved and bathed at The SF/SPCA Grooming College to remove matted, feces-encrusted coat. Treated by SF/SPCA doctors for multiple abscesses and wounds, dermatitis, severe malnourishment, worms, diarrhea and infections in both ears. Vaccinated, fostered and neutered.

ADOPTED

Cypress 10-year-old long-hair cat. Operated on by SF/SPCA doctors to remove kidney stones. Diet adjusted for age. Vaccinated. Neutered.

ADOPTED

Aesop 6-month-old collie mix. Leg surgically repaired at The SF/SPCA after he was hit by a car and abandoned. Fostered, house-trained, instructed in basic obedience. Vaccinated, neutered and groomed.

ADOPTED

Missy Brown tabby cat with broken palate and fractured tibia incurred falling (or being dropped) from a high place. Operated on extensively at The SF/SPCA Hospital to repair fractures. Vaccinated. (Previously spayed.)

ADOPTED

Satori Labrador retriever mix, transferred to The SF/SPCA from the City Animal Control Center and treated for malnourishment and mange. Eye surgery performed by SF/SPCA doctors. Vaccinated and neutered.

ADOPTED

Chip 4-week-old domestic short-hair marmalade kitten. Found alone and starving. Treated at The SF/SPCA for ulcer on tongue, upper respiratory infection and worms. Vaccinated, fostered and neutered.

ADOPTED

Leroy German shepherd mix. Hit by a car and abandoned at a local animal hospital. Left rear leg amputated at The SF/SPCA. Trained to walk on three legs, given physical therapy and basic obedience instruction. Fostered, groomed, vaccinated and treated for roundworms. Neutered.

ADOPTED

Pillsbury 3-year-old bluepoint cat. Treated at The SF/SPCA for corneal ulcers and scarring and upper respiratory infection. Vaccinated and neutered.

ADOPTED



THE ADOPTION PACT'S FIRST YEAR

- *No adoptable dog or cat was killed in a San Francisco animal shelter*
- *The SF/SPCA placed a record-breaking 5,054 animals in loving homes*
- *2,314 more San Francisco dog and cat lives were saved than in the previous year (a 40% increase)*
- *3,382 animals were medically or behaviorally rehabilitated by The SF/SPCA and placed in loving homes*
- *2,318 SF/SPCA volunteers contributed 80,949 hours to save lives*
- *SF/SPCA membership grew from 57,760 to 70,991, providing the financial means to make the Adoption Pact dream a reality*





Photo: Chris Wahlberg

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