



Mission Moment

From Officer C. Hart: I was leaving the shelter late when I observed 3 SBSO vehicles at SMAC. One of the deputies stated that the elderly golden retriever had had a seizure at the finder's residence. "Bruno" had a tag on, but the phone number connected to it appeared invalid. He was fortunately chipped, but the address was in SLO. I set Bruno up with a suite for the night, and as I was leaving for a second time, I received a text message and phone call from Bruno's mom and dad. They were on vacation in India, and Bruno was spending time with Grandma in Santa Maria. Bruno had an appetite for cat food and decided to trick or treat for kitty kibble a week early. I informed his owners that he was safe for the night and could be picked up in the morning; however, his family asked if another family member could pick him up that evening due to his seizure disorder. I didn't want Bruno to suffer or have a seizure in our kennels, so I stayed a bit longer and met with Bruno's family so he could go home. Bruno had quite the adventure; getting out and searching for kitty kibble, riding in a police car, exploring the shelter, and eventually, a late-night ride back to San Luis Obispo. I'm happy to have been at the right place at the right time so that Bruno could make it home ❤️

Shelter Operations

We ended the month with a 90.6% live release rate. This may feel lower than we historically report, but for the first time in a long time, this is the TRUE live release rate, which means we are counting all noses in and noses out. Historically, SBCAS has used Asilomar standards, which means that all pets who come into our care as owner-requested euthanasias are NOT included. We believe that every life matters, and we must give them all equal opportunity for placement.

We launched a new Live Release Checklist to support equality and bias removal. This document ensures that all outcome opportunities are considered before making behavioral euthanasia decisions (attached). In November, we will hold a rescue town hall to review the process and notify our partners of what they can expect to see, what we are committing to, and how they can support some of our most in-need pets.

While intake was generally the same as in October 2021, there was an increase in strays and a decrease in owner surrenders. We had a significant reduction in owner redemptions and rescue transfers. [Adoption and reclamation fees were waived](#), including at ASAP and BUNS, for the month as part of an effort to accommodate construction at the Santa Maria shelter. The length of stay for cats was just over seven days and just short of 8 days for dogs.

October was an excellent month for staffing: Three animal welfare specialists were hired: Anastacia Funes, Matthew Soqui, and Melissa Avila, and Rachel Jones started as an extra help Shelter Supervisor.

As we look at opportunities for improvement, it is essential to note that SBCAS conducts 22 or more adoptions every day we are open, indicating that over the year, we could be missing out on more than 1,000 Sunday adoptions annually.

Volunteers

One hundred thirty-one volunteers donated 1,766 hours supporting programs assisting with events, animal care, administrative tasks, and marketing. This was an increase of over 1,000 hours from October 2021. Additionally, Righetti High School resumed their [Thursday evening dog runs](#), taking some shelter pups along during their training.

Half the shelter needed to be vacated to accommodate construction to replace the outdated swamp coolers at the Santa Maria shelter. [Fosters from across the county](#) supported us, and we placed 148 pets into foster care. This is an increase of 259% from last year!

Animal Protection Activities

Two new officers were hired and began training: Angelo Torres and Amanda Swiebel. This leaves just two vacancies remaining to fill. Additionally, two new county employees were trained as officers for Dangerous and Restricted hearings related to dogs that cause damage when off their property.

Community Engagement

As we resumed our community activities, we held vaccine and microchip clinics in Santa Maria and Lompoc, serving about 30 people. The pet pantry, held together with partners across the county, served over 100 families across three locations.

A refocused social media campaign resulted in the SBCAS Facebook page reaching nearly 51,000 viewers and Instagram just shy of 9,500. Facebook has a more significant impact in North County, with 23% of the audience, while Instagram has a more considerable effect in South County, with 25% of the audience.

Local photographer Wendy Domanski helped bring attention to shelter dogs by [holding a costume contest](#) and encouraging the public to vote. Bernie was the hands-down winner!





October 2022 Animal Services Director's Summary

Animal ID		Started By	
Name		Started Date	
Age		Review Date	
Intake Date			
Intake Type			

REASON FOR REVIEW (Check all that apply) This dog:

- bit a volunteer, staff member, or member of the public while in the custody of the shelter while in (circle one) the shelter, a foster home, or a public outing.
- bit its owner, a family member, or a member of the public while in the custody of its owner
- approached and bit a person while roaming stray
- displayed 'unpredictable aggression' towards a person or animal
- displayed concerning behavior during the intake process
- killed or injured another animal in (circle one) Shelter Own Home Foster Home Offsite
- killed or seriously injured another animal while roaming stray
- this animal has a legal designation that makes it (circle one) difficult or impossible to place
- suffering in the shelter environment (circle one) Injuring Self Declining Beh Repeating Beh
- Other

Action Item	Date	Notes	Who/Sign
Has the pet had a medical exam? (Are medical factors potentially contributing to unsafe behavior?)			
If the pet was a stray, have we attempted to contact the owner through phone, email, letter, and social media?			
Have any incident notes been confirmed via discussion with all parties involved			
Have we contacted the owner/finder by phone and notified them of the at-risk status? Has their situation changed, or do they have any ideas or suggestions?			



October 2022 Animal Services Director's Summary

Have we sent an email notification to current fosters and volunteers seeking options for placement?			
Have we sent a notification to all of our rescue partners notifying them of the pet's at-risk status?			
Have we notified the opt-in notification email group if a deadline has been given for the pet to exit the shelter?			

Please summarize any pertinent information from Chameleon in chronological order:

(add additional pages if necessary)

Form Completed By: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Manager Review: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Chief/Deputy Review: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Result Entered into Chameleon Animal Evaluation Screen (circle one)
 Adoption SLR/SNA Fstr/Rsc Plea Urgent Deadline STR 3Day PTS
 Date: _____ By Whom: _____