



Jameson Humane receives grant to help low-income Clearlake residents with spaying and neutering pets

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Elizabeth Larson



From left, Alyx Redmayne-Titley and Amanda Vollstedt of Jameson Humane visit with “Dasher” at Clearlake Animal Control in Clearlake, California, on Thursday, December 17, 2020. Photo by Elizabeth Larson/Lake County News.

CLEARLAKE, Calif. – A newly awarded grant will help address canine overpopulation in the city of Clearlake.

Dogs Trust USA, based in New York, has awarded \$30,000 to Jameson Humane to help fund its “Neuter Now Lake County Project,” which was launched in November 2020 and will last until October 2021.

Jameson Humane, headquartered in Napa Valley, has begun allocating spay/neuter vouchers, microchipping and vaccinations for dogs of low-income residents from Clearlake.

The group, founded in 2014, offers spay/neuter assistance across nine counties in the Bay Area and beyond.

Jameson Humane representatives said the group was honored to accept this funding so it

could continue to directly impact the lives of animals by working with the community and collaborating across multiple organizations to offer financial assistance for those in need.

“Every day in the United States, 70,000 dogs and cats are born against only 10,000 humans

– we will never rescue our way out of the problem if we don’t look at the systemic problem - overpopulation,” said Monica Stevens, Jameson Humane president and cofounder. “This is why Jameson Humane funds and facilitates lifesaving spay/neuter surgeries, necessary vaccinations and microchips throughout our extended community. By funding to date 5,000 lifesaving spay/neuter surgeries, Jameson continues to stem the tide of overpopulation, thus addressing the root of the problem.”

Over the past six years, the organization has provided the community with nearly 5,000 vouchers, resulting in an estimated 1,875,000 animal lives saved.

Since its inception, Jameson Humane has offered key assistance to local animal rescue organizations and animal control agencies in Lake County.

In 2015, just a year after its founding, Jameson Humane played a major role in assisting in the response to the Valley fire, helping evacuees and pets and gathering donations.

The following year, it was part of a team – including the SPCA of Lake County – that opened the “Pet Pantry” in Lower Lake to support Clayton fire survivors and their pets.

The group has continued to support and co-sponsor free spay and neuter and vaccination clinics in Lake County, particularly in Clearlake, in the years since.

Familiar with the continuing need to address pet overpopulation within Lake County specifically, Jameson Humane said it was primed to respond.

The city of Clearlake has a high poverty rate relative to the rest of the county – about 34 percent – which is why it is the top priority for the distribution of vouchers, Jameson Humane said.

With the dog population in Clearlake estimated at around 8,900, this project contributes to Jameson Humane’s overarching goal to further increase the live-release rate at the two local shelters while also decreasing intake at a rate of 10 percent by 2022.

Jameson Humane representatives Amanda Vollstedt and Alyx Redmayne-Titley, who are part of the community animal assistance program, visited with Clearlake Animal Control staff and toured the new animal shelter on Dec. 17.

Charmaine Weldon, animal control technician as well as the adoption and rescue coordinator for Clearlake Animal Control, estimated that of the dogs that come through the shelter, 99 percent of them have not been spayed or neutered.

Vollstedt said Jameson Humane continues to want to assist Lake County, noting that about

50 percent of its requests for assistance come from here.

“We know the resources are limited,” Vollstedt said.

Jameson Humane estimated that the grant-funded 200 vouchers, some of which have already been distributed, will help prevent thousands of dogs being born who might have otherwise faced euthanasia.



From left, Matthew Lopez, a Clearlake Animal Control technician; Charmaine Weldon, animal control technician and adoption and rescue coordinator, holding “Scruffy”; Clearlake Police Chief Andrew White; Amanda Vollstedt, Jameson Humane community animal assistance program manager holding “Dasher”; Lt. Tim Hobbs of the Clearlake Police Department; and Alyx Redmayne-Titley, Jameson Humane’s community animal assistance program coordinator at the Clearlake Animal Shelter in Clearlake, California, on Thursday, December 17, 2020. Photo by Elizabeth Larson/Lake County News.

“We are incredibly grateful to Jameson Humane for the ongoing partnership and collaboration the past five years. It takes a community and the success is attributed to the belief in the work that the city of Clearlake is doing for its animals. We thank Dogs Trust and Jameson Humane for making these 200 dog spay and neuters available to our community and keeping their pets healthy,” said Clearlake Police Chief Andrew White.

Ensuring that qualifying residents are aware of the opportunity to get their dog spayed/neutered, Jameson Humane has begun working directly with the SPCA in Lake County in Kelseyville and Totem Animal Small Animal Veterinary Practice in Napa County, which are the two designated clinics where the spay/neuter surgeries take place.

The veterinarians carry out an average of five surgeries per week, or 20 per month, Jameson Humane said.

"As president of the SPCA of Lake County, I am all too aware of the tremendous need in this

county of pet owners. Lake County is large in geographical area, yet small in population, in a fairly remote area. Many of the people that live here are retired or disabled and living on a fixed income. The basic needs/expenses of companion animals such as vaccines, spay and neuter are often a financial stretch for this population,” said Brenda Crandall, SPCA of Lake County’s immediate past president.

“Jameson Humane has recognized that need and stepped in repeatedly to assist, through yearly vaccination clinics and through providing free spay/neuter vouchers to be used throughout the year. Because of Jameson’s assistance, the SPCA of Lake County is able to render assistance to a larger number of animals than would be possible without Jameson, and it is my firm belief that through this ongoing process, Lake County will have a reduced number of homeless dogs and cats in the coming years,” Crandall said.

“Totem Small Animal is greatly looking forward to helping the dogs and their guardians of lake county with this spay/neuter project,” said Dr. Katy Wilson of Totem Small Animal.

Impact is measured through shelter data from the two public shelters in Lake County – Lake County Animal Care and Control in Lakeport and the shelter in the city of Clearlake.

Jameson Humane said it focused on intake rates as a measurement metric for this project and obtained data on litters too to better represent the effects of its efforts.

Thanks to its collaborative relationship with local authorities, Jameson Humane also tracks the number of calls to animal control to report stray dogs and expect them to decrease over time.

A limited amount of vouchers are still available, so low-income Clearlake residents are encouraged to email helpinganimals@jamesonhumane.org or contact the Jameson Humane helpline at 707-927-3536 as they are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The requests for vouchers are approved based on a series of questions on income, proof of receipt of government assistance or other type of financial aid.

Those who are allocated a voucher receive instructions on how to schedule an appointment and drop off pets at the hospital.

If it weren't for this award, cross collaboration, and participation by the residents, these dogs’ health would remain at risk, including being more susceptible to cancer and pyometra, Jameson Humane reported.

“The education that results from such a service such as this, helps affect real change and save animal lives,” the organization said.

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