



PASADENA HUMANE

2025

Scoop

EATON FIRE SPECIAL EDITION

CANELO'S JOURNEY: A STORY OF HOPE AND HEALING THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT



CANELO being treated in our ICU

Forty-eight hours after the Eaton Fire broke out, Canelo came to Pasadena Humane. While the wildfire blazed through our community, Canelo was found in the heart of the devastation. **He was alone in the rubble, coated in ash with severe burns on his paw pads.** He was rushed to our ICU for immediate medical care.

Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, his burns were treated, and he was kept comfortable as our medical team worked tirelessly to help him heal. **While we provided critical care for Canelo, his family was desperately searching for him — unaware that he had survived and been brought to safety.** In the chaos of evacuating, Canelo had jumped out of his family's car, and his loved ones feared the worst.



CANELO'S reunion with his family

We soon received a call from Canelo's family, who had seen his photo on our lost pets page. In an emotional reunion, they shared that their house had burned down and they had lost everything. However, with Canelo's safe return, they found a glimmer of hope amidst their devastation.

Today, Canelo is healed and back at home with his family, living the life he deserves. **This story would not have been possible without the support of donors like you.** Your kindness ensures that Pasadena Humane can respond to emergency situations like this one, offering hope, healing, and a bright future for animals in need.

DEAR FRIEND,

Thank you for your unwavering support over the past few months. When the Eaton Fire broke out, Pasadena Humane remained steadfast in our commitment to serve the pets and people of our beloved community. In the face of unimaginable loss, we quickly became a safe haven for evacuated pets, offering them shelter, care, and compassion. Thanks to your generosity, we welcomed all pets in need, never turning away an animal affected by the fire.

The days that followed were long and hard. Animals — pets, exotics, livestock and wildlife — suffering severe burns began to arrive in our Intensive Care Unit. As our heroic veterinary team began the long process of treating their incredibly painful injuries, we spearheaded efforts to send fire-trained animal search and rescue teams into the burn zones.

Our efforts are ongoing. We continue to provide safe shelter for over a hundred displaced pets and respond to sightings of cats who miraculously survived the fire, carefully setting traps to bring them to safety. Our Pet Food Pantry remains open seven days a week, delivering essential supplies to those who need them most.

Our quick and impactful response was only possible thanks to your support. Together, we provided safe shelter, advanced medical care, and hope for the pets and people affected by this devastating tragedy.

Thank you for standing with us.

With gratitude,



CHRIS RAMON
Interim President & CEO



Animal Control Officer JOSE OLIVA
comforts a burned kitten



LT. FERRUFINO of LA County
Animal Care & Control guides
a horse to safety

HOW YOUR SUPPORT POWERED OUR SWIFT EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Immediately after the Eaton Fire broke out, we knew we had to act quickly to rescue animals trapped behind fire lines. **Within days, we had fire-trained emergency response teams out in the field saving the lives of animals.**

In partnership with Los Angeles County Animal Care & Control and emergency response teams from across the country, we responded to hundreds of calls through our Eaton Fire Animal Rescue Hotline.

The emergency responders traversed dangerous terrain with hazardous air quality to reach animals reported lost, missing or stranded. One challenging rescue involved rebuilding a burned bridge which had isolated a bull, goats, and chickens, making it nearly impossible to provide them food and water.

Reports also came in from nearby neighborhoods where safety restrictions prevented residents from returning. Our responders rescued companion animals and reunited them with their owners. In other cases, pets were safely sheltered in place where our teams supplied them with daily food, water, and care until families could return.

We also set up feeding stations and trapped community cats who survived the blaze.

Our quick response was only possible because of supporters like you. Thank you for making our field efforts a success and saving countless lives behind fire lines.

A huge thank you to the emergency response teams from ASPCA, American Humane, San Diego Humane Society, North Valley Animal Disaster Group, Los Angeles County Animal Care & Control, Shelterly, and Kern County Animal Services.

HEARTACHE AND HOPE

A firsthand account from a shelter veterinarian

By Dr. Maria Pyrddek, DVM, Chief Veterinarian & Animal Care Officer

As I drove home on the evening of January 7, flames raced down the hillside, transformers blew out, and hurricane-force winds warned of the disaster that would become the Eaton Fire. By the time I arrived home, our leadership team was already gathering to prepare. **Sadly, nothing could have prepared us for the scale of destruction and displacement that followed.**

When I returned to the shelter at 5 a.m., a long line of evacuees and their pets awaited help. The reality hit me as I stood on the corner of Del Mar and Raymond, waiting for an owner and their pony who had walked four miles through Old Town Pasadena to seek refuge. Everyone had a heartbreaking story of fleeing the flames.

While we welcomed hundreds of displaced pets through our doors, animals found behind the fire lines began arriving in critical condition. **Our incredible veterinary team jumped into action, bandaging burned paws and skin, providing oxygen assistance to animals suffering from smoke inhalation, and removing toxic ash from their fur.**

Providing this level of care has been an immense responsibility and an incredible honor. I am profoundly grateful for our courageous staff, dedicated volunteers, and, of course, supporters like you, who make this lifesaving work possible.



DR. MARIA PYRDEK, DVM, comforts CANELO, a severely burned dog found in Altadena

PROVIDING CARE TO OUR WILD NEIGHBORS

Your love extended to more than just cats and dogs – you helped all kinds of animals.



The devastating Eaton Fire didn't just destroy homes — it also scorched over 14,000 acres of the Angeles National Forest, displacing and injuring countless wild animals. **Many of these animals suffered from smoke inhalation, dehydration, and burns, prompting numerous calls to the Sandra J. Goodspeed Wildlife Center at Pasadena Humane.** In the month following the fire, the shelter took in 86 wild animals in need of urgent care.

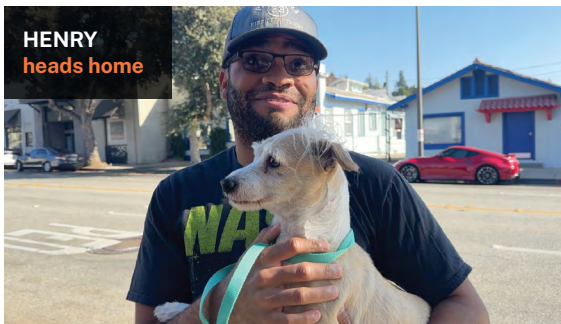
Among them were three bobcats — an unusual sight, as bobcats are rarely seen in urban areas and seldom end up at the shelter. One particular bobcat was found in a Sierra Madre backyard, lying motionless. Concerned, the homeowners contacted Pasadena Humane, and an Animal Control Officer arrived to investigate. The officer observed that the bobcat appeared emaciated and didn't attempt to flee, a strong indicator of injury.

Upon examination at the shelter, the wildlife team discovered burns on all four of her paw pads. Too weak to move, she required immediate pain relief, hydration, and weeks of specialized care. Slowly but surely, she regained her strength under the team's expert treatment. **Finally, after weeks of recovery, the bobcat's paws were healed and she was deemed healthy.**

Her successful rehabilitation was a bright spot in the aftermath of the fire — a testament to the resilience of wildlife and the critical role of compassionate intervention.

TRANSFORMING INTO AN EMERGENCY SHELTER

Thanks to your support, we can pivot quickly in natural disasters like this one.



During the Eaton Fire, many residents were forced to flee their homes with little more than the clothes on their backs and their beloved pets. **As the designated pet evacuation center, Pasadena Humane quickly became a safe haven for displaced animals.** It's because of the generosity of supporters like you that every family forced to evacuate had a safe place for their beloved companions at Pasadena Humane.

In the month that followed the Eaton Fire, we provided emergency boarding for 563 animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, reptiles, birds, and even koi fish.

Our flexibility allowed for a rapid response to the crisis. Training rooms became dog housing, clinic recovery kennels sheltered cats, and the Critter House transformed into a multi-species habitat. Hallways held fish aquariums, cat center offices became communal rooms, and wildlife rehabilitation areas sheltered goats.

Though many pets have since been reunited with their families, **more than a hundred remain in our care.** Thanks to the generosity of our community, we continue to provide food, shelter, enrichment, and medical treatment for as long as needed.

YOUR SUPPORT ENSURES EVERY ANIMAL RECEIVES CARE DURING EMERGENCIES

We were proud to be able to provide every individual animal with the needs specific to their species – no matter how unique.

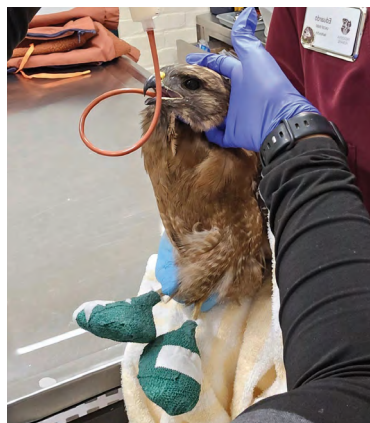


LUCY'S owner walked her four miles after their barn burned down. We temporarily housed the pony in our wildlife garage until she could be moved to an equestrian center.



Our Animal Control Officers picked up a stray pot-bellied pig in Altadena as she fled the fires. Our veterinary team carefully treated the burns on her belly.

There were even some uncommon patients in our Sandra J. Goodspeed Wildlife Center, including peacocks with singed feathers, a red-shouldered hawk with burnt feet, and a baby raccoon who was orphaned due to the blaze.



YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS TO REUNITE FAMILIES

Altadena resident Taffany had little time to evacuate as the blaze tore through her neighborhood. Amidst the chaos, she had been unable to locate her tortoise, Edgar. Sadly, Taffany's entire home burned to the ground.

Edgar's chances of survival felt slim. But there was a glimmer of hope when Taffany spotted a familiar-looking tortoise in an online group for lost pets that was sharing stray animals from our website.

A good Samaritan had spotted the tortoise wandering through the streets of Altadena, amidst burned buildings and piles of rubble. Fortunately, they were able to rescue Edgar and bring him to safety at Pasadena Humane.

When Taffany arrived at the shelter, she immediately knew that the tortoise in our care was Edgar — who, as it turns out, is 30 years old! In spite of everything Taffany had endured, her joy at being reunited with Edgar was palpable.

Your support not only makes these happy reunions possible — it provides hope to so many who have lost everything.



**EDGAR AND
TAFFANY**
reunited



ALYSON ZILLNER
comforts a badly
burned dog in our ICU



IRINA DI VINCENZO
shows love to a
displaced kitty



KRISTEN SULLIVAN
spends quality time
with a dog found
after the fire

PASADENA HUMANE HEROES: COMPASSION IN THE FACE OF THE EATON FIRE

During the devastating Eaton Fire, the dedicated staff and volunteers at Pasadena Humane went above and beyond, showing true heroism as they worked tirelessly to rescue and care for injured animals. **Their selflessness saved countless lives and brought comfort to those affected by the disaster.**

Alyson Zillner, an essential member of the ICU team, provided critical medical care to animals suffering from burns and injuries. Her expertise and compassion ensured that many animals received the lifesaving treatments they desperately needed.

Irina Di Vincenzo played a pivotal role in managing the intake of lost animals. Spending long hours sorting through the chaos, Irina was instrumental in reuniting displaced animals with their families. Her empathy and perseverance helped to bring much-needed relief to many owners in distress.

Volunteer Kristen Sullivan also stood out for her unwavering commitment to displaced animals. Since the fire broke out, Kristen has been on the front lines, providing care, comfort, and shelter to those in need. Her dedication reflects the heart and soul of Pasadena Humane's volunteer network.

Together, these heroes and so many more exemplified resilience, compassion, and dedication, ensuring the safety and well-being of animals during a challenging time.

HEROES UNITED: WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE ANIMALS

The overwhelming support of our community — both locally and nationally — in the wake of the devastating Eaton Fire has been nothing short of miraculous. **When disaster struck, you answered the call with open hearts and generous spirits. Because of our incredible community, we were able to take in over 1,500 animals when they needed us most.**

But we didn't stand alone in this crisis. Animal welfare organizations and shelters from across the country rallied to our side. This powerful network of resources multiplied our impact, creating an alliance of skilled professionals all working toward one goal: to help provide emergency resources to animals.

Veterinary teams worked around the clock providing lifesaving medical care. Shelter staff created safe spaces for traumatized pets. Together, we administered immediate specialized care that wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of our animal welfare community.

Your support didn't just save lives — it restored hope. It enabled multiple organizations to work as one unified force against devastation. This crisis has shown that when we combine our compassion and resources, there's no limit to what we can accomplish.



COMMUNITY STEPS UP: UNPRECEDENTED SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS AFTER THE EATON FIRE

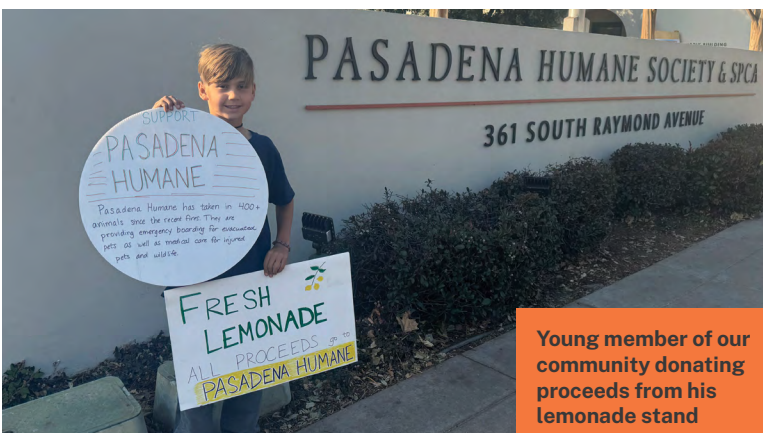


In the wake of the devastating Eaton Fire, the community's response has been nothing short of extraordinary. Thousands of people offered to volunteer and foster, coming together to help animals in need.

Our front parking lot quickly filled with essential supplies as donations poured in — everything from food and litter to beds and blankets. Volunteers showed up to help sort donations and distribute much-needed supplies to pet owners who fled the fire.

Young animal lovers showed their support by hosting lemonade stands, donating the funds they raised to support our work, sending homemade cards to staff, reading to the animals to help calm them, and so much more.

The support we've received from the community during this crisis has been truly humbling. Thanks to you, we've been able to provide lifesaving care and comfort to the animals affected by the fire. **Your kindness means the world to us — and to the animals we serve. Thank you for standing with Pasadena Humane!**



CELEBS LEND A HELPING PAW

Pasadena Humane received an outpouring of support from across the country in response to the Eaton Fire, including several big-hearted celebrities who volunteered to help animals in need. These compassionate stars had the opportunity to work alongside the dedicated Pasadena Humane team, assisting in the socialization and care of pets separated from their owners amid the fire.

Some were so touched by what they witnessed that they wanted to do more to make a difference for the animals affected by the Eaton Fire. Paris Hilton and Lance Bass lovingly opened their homes to foster dogs and Adrien Brody spent time providing tender care to burn survivors in our ICU.

The support of our celebrity friends has not only amplified awareness about our emergency response efforts but also helped to play a key role in reuniting lost pets with their families. We are deeply appreciative of the time they dedicated to being with us and the love they gave to the animals.



JUAN PABLO ESPINOSA, NATHAN LANE, ERIC MCCORMACK, and DR. EVAN ANTIN (L to R) spend time with a dog found in Altadena after the fire



ALEXANDRA SHIPP socializes with a stray cat hoping to be reunited with its family



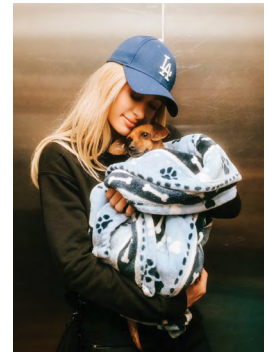
LANCE BASS visits with a stray kitten in our Neely Cat Center



DR. KWANE tours the shelter and lends support

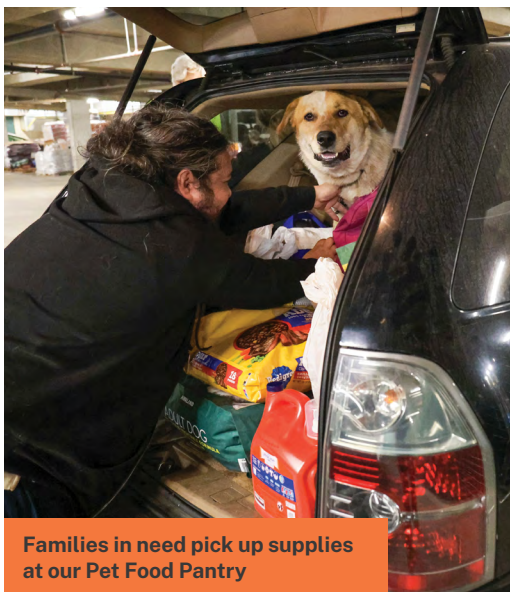


ADRIEN BRODY comforts a badly burned cat in our ICU



PARIS HILTON fosters a dog displaced due to the Eaton Fire

PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES IN NEED



Families in need pick up supplies at our Pet Food Pantry

Immediately after the Eaton Fire broke out, we expanded the hours of our Pet Food Pantry to provide pet supplies to those affected by the fires. Many were forced to flee without time to grab their pet's essentials, and we stepped in to ensure pet owners had access to these much-needed supplies.

To meet this growing demand, our Pet Food Pantry now runs daily from the shelter's underground parking garage on Raymond Ave. Clients can drive through to receive food, supplies, toys, and crates — all free of charge.

We are also working with human service organizations to ensure that even more pets receive the supplies they need. Since February, our staff and volunteers have partnered with YMCA and LA Regional Food Bank to host pop-up pet food pantries in the San Gabriel Valley. Placing these pantries where people already receive assistance creates a convenient one-stop shop.

In the first two months of 2025 alone, over 120,000 pounds of pet food were distributed, and the demand shows no signs of slowing. **Pasadena Humane remains committed to supporting pets and their people in times of crisis.**



HEALING SPIRIT

A story of recovery, thanks to the compassion of our community

In the wake of the Eaton Fire, Spirit, a brave cat, was found in the burn area of Altadena. His whiskers had been singed and his body was covered in painful burns. His paw pads were severely damaged, causing him immense pain whenever he tried to walk. Spirit was in critical condition and urgently needed help.

Thanks to the generosity of animal lovers like you, Pasadena Humane was able to provide the immediate care Spirit so desperately needed.

In our ICU, our team worked quickly to treat his wounds, manage his pain, and provide much-needed fluids and oxygen. With your support, we were able to offer Spirit the critical care and comfort he needed to begin healing.

With time, Spirit's health began to improve, and he was soon ready for a fresh start. We are thrilled to share that he found a forever home with a wonderful family who is giving him all the love he deserves.

None of this would have been possible without you. Your support ensures that Pasadena Humane can continue to respond to emergencies like the Eaton Fire and provide lifesaving care for animals like Spirit. Thank you for being a part of his journey to recovery!

EATON FIRE RESPONSE BY THE NUMBERS JAN 7-FEB 28, 2025

These services are still ongoing.

1,500+

Animals taken in and cared for

1,600+

Pets reunited with their families

120,000+ lbs

**Food distributed through our
Pet Food Pantry**

16,000+

Hours volunteered



PASADENA
HUMANE



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