A Bright Future in Sight for Turtle

At first glance, Turtle seemed like any kitten: vivacious, energetic, cuddly, and curious. But when the SF SPCA Shelter Medicine staff examined Turtle, they quickly noticed that something wasn’t quite right with his eyes. Turtle was diagnosed with entropion, a condition where the eyelids roll over, so the eyelashes touch the surface of the cornea. This causes irritation, blinks vision, and can even scratch the surface of the eye.

Since this is a congenital issue, Turtle adjusted to it and compensated for his lack of vision. Our dedicated Shelter Medicine team, including Dr. Elizabeth Roberts, Director of Shelter Medicine, knew it was in his best interest to correct the issue by surgically removing skin along the eyelids and lifting the skin around his eyes to pull his eyelids up.

Turtle needed quiet and rest for his recovery, so he returned to his foster home with long-time foster volunteer and SF SPCA Client Care Manager, Stephen Murphy. Stephen provided post-surgery aftercare, dispensing medicine and subcutaneous fluids to Turtle to aid in his recovery.

The surgery was a success: Turtle no longer has to worry about scratched corneas or irritation. Once he was fully recovered, Turtle was ready for adoption. Just one day later, he found his forever home with Jill and Craig Vived and their resident cat, Atticus, who was adopted from the SF SPCA in 2007.

“As Turtle continues to grow, we’ll have a better sense of his level of vision. Cats are incredibly resilient, so even with low vision, Turtle will live a full, happy life,” explained Dr. Roberts.

The SF SPCA is able to help animals like Turtle because of donors like you.

To make a gift, please visit sfspca.org/donate.

Photo courtesy of Isaiah Kutz

First graders at The Brandeis School of San Francisco just completed a week-long “read-a-thon” to benefit the San Francisco SPCA. The students tirelessly collected pledges from their families, friends, and neighbors for each minute spent reading at home over a seven-day period.

This is the third year in a row that Barbara Eisenhauer’s students have raised funds for the animals at the SF SPCA. They came up with this idea after enrolling in the Puppy Dog Tales program, where first graders spend time with Animal Assisted Therapy volunteer, Heather Sanders, reading to her dog, Ginger. While reading out loud to an adult can, at times, feel intimidating and overwhelming for these children, reading to a friendly and attentive dog like Ginger is the highlight of their week. Ginger’s calm, reassuring presence helps even the most timid students gain confidence in their abilities.

“I loved the read-a-thon because it is so much fun to read! It is also very important to care for animals,” said Mika David (age 6), one of the first graders who participated. Ella Morris Weide (age 7) adds, “I love getting into a good book that you can’t stop reading, and you just don’t want to put it down! And I feel happy knowing the money we raised is going to the SF SPCA!”

Not only do these fearless first graders improve their reading skills, they also learn to give back to the community. Thank you for your big hearts!

For more information about our Animal Assisted Therapy programs (including Puppy Dog Tales), email AAT@sfspca.org or call 415.554.3066.