



## Santa Cruz Attorney Compassionate About Critters

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**W**ith Hurricane Katrina bearing down on the Gulf Coast, the Nation braced itself for a great deal of human suffering. Then came the order. Residents were directed to evacuate immediately – without their pets.

That was when we learned the disaster would devastate the lives of the Gulf Coast's animal population as well.

In the days that followed, many animals were surrendered to shelters by evacuees struggling to care for themselves. Others were left to their fate as the hurricane approached and their owners evacuated.

Across the country, defense attorney Kate Moore didn't hesitate to join the crusade for the abandoned animals of the Gulf Coast. In addition to being a partner in the Watsonville law firm Grunsky, Ebey, Farrar & Howell and serving on the ADC Board of Directors, Moore is also the President of the Board of Directors for her local SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

As a result, Moore was in a position to help. That help came when Moore and numerous other Santa Cruz SPCA volunteers operated an animal airlift funded by movie star Doris Day and her Animal Foundation. The airlift, appropriately dubbed *Operation: Just Paws*, swooped into the Gulf Coast just in time to rescue a group of surrendered and abandoned animals about to be euthanized due to the disaster.

While *Just Paws* couldn't save all of the devastated Gulf Coast's abandoned animals, many were taken on a remarkable ride. Approximately 130 dogs and cats were picked up from shelters in New Iberia,

Louisiana and flown to the California coast by chartered plane. Once there, the animals were taken by volunteers from the Monterey airport to the Santa Cruz SPCA facility, where they were evaluated and treated by veterinarians. They were then either reunited with their evacuated families or adopted into new homes.

"We have adopted out every one of the abandoned animals except one," said Moore. Before leaving the SPCA, however, each of the animals was personally introduced to – and acquainted with – Doris Day herself.

As the excitement of the airlift and the furor of the hurricane subsided, stories of survival began to emerge for animals and humans who lived through the disaster.

There was the story of Superman, whose owner tied a T-shirt labeled with contact information around the dog's neck before the evacuation. And then there was Bailey, the adorable beagle puppy who survived by treading water inside a flooded cage for days. Superman starred on CNN's *Inside Edition* and was eventually returned to his owner. Bailey was adopted by a California

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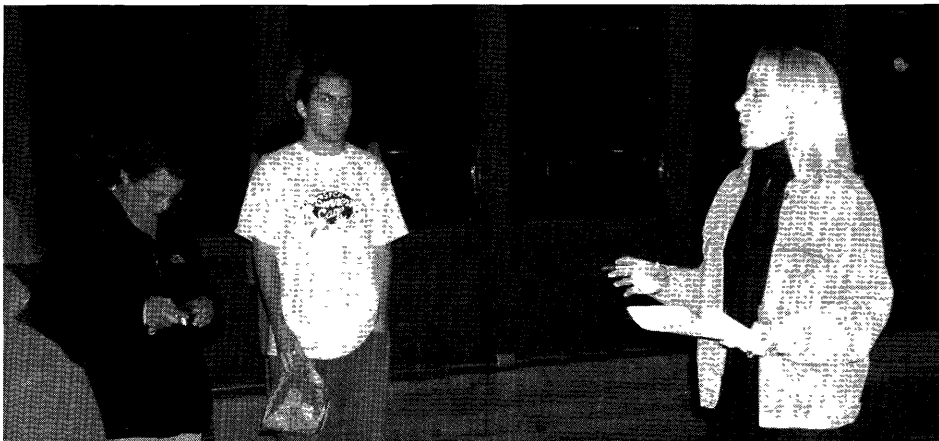
family. Both were rescued by Doris Day and the Santa Cruz SPCA.

While *Just Paws* proved to be a successful and gratifying project, it is not the only one in which Moore has participated. Her love of animals leads her to work as a volunteer with the SPCA and other organizations, to make a difference in the lives of animals. She says her compassion for animals began as a child growing up in Illinois, and has continued throughout her life.

“My family would always adopt dogs at the shelter, so I wanted to do something in my professional life in the same fashion,” Moore explained.

For example, before being admitted to law school, Moore took a job as a receptionist at a Fremont veterinary clinic so she could work with animals. During her first week on the job, she adopted a kitten that had been brought to the clinic to be euthanized. That kitten – now a 10-year-old cat named Abby – still lives with Moore and her husband in Santa Cruz.

Since that time, Moore finished law school and began her legal career. She now works for animals through her service on the Santa Cruz SPCA Board, which provides many services to surrounding communities. Moore explained that the SPCA is a no-kill shelter that often takes in animals from other, more crowded shelters as far away as Marin County. The SPCA also provides programs such as Kids’ Camp, foster animal families for animals in need of care, a pet food bank, grief counseling and other community outreach programs.



As Moore explained, much of the work done by the SPCA involves education about the proper care for pets, which end up overcrowding community shelters when abandoned or surrendered.



Kate Moore (L), on-board vet, Laurie Morgan, and Doris Day’s assistant, Betsy.

“It’s not just about spays and neuters,” she said. “It’s about education, and it’s about compassion.”

“We have humane education programs that go into the schools, and we even have a bilingual instructor to reach those cultures that haven’t been exposed to the need to spay and neuter. When you take a look at one female cat and realize how many kittens she could have over her lifetime, you see the need. Education is so important for young people.”

Moore explained that the lifeblood of the SPCA is volunteers, and more are always welcome. “The SPCA is a private organization operated entirely on private donations. Our shelter runs on volunteers. The best way to get involved is to ask around. If you’re compassionate about

animals then call your local shelter and ask to get involved.”

Those who know Moore feel that both the humans and animals she works with are lucky to have her.

“Kate is very committed to the SPCA and has been for years,” said Dennis Howell, Ms. Moore’s partner at the Grunsky Law Firm. “Kate came on board when the SPCA was in a bit of a downturn, and was instrumental in turning that organization around.”

“She is one of those people who, if they set their mind on something, then look out. Kate works very hard, and is very dedicated.”

Lisa Carter, executive director of the Santa Cruz SPCA, agrees.



The Operation: Just Paws pilots.

“It’s amazing that even though she’s a partner in one of the largest law firms in Santa Cruz County, you can just pick up the phone and count on Kate to be there to help when you need her,” said Carter.

“Kate devotes hours and hours of her time for animal care and anything else we need. She’s really selfless. She has no ego to get in the way, and in this day and age that’s really wonderful.”

Kate Moore is a full-time, busy defense attorney who is actively involved in the ADC, yet still manages to have time for her community and animals in desperate need of adoption. ☐