



From rescuing thousands of rats from a hoarder in Southern California and advocating for circus animals around the country to rescuing bears from bile farms in China and helping street dogs in the Himalayas, the impact of the Marin Humane Society is being felt around the globe. As told in the following first-hand accounts, MHS has provided a strong foundation for current and former employees to venture out to help animals in need outside of our community. Their stories are inspiring, and reflective of a community that supports the important work of animal welfare both in Marin, and beyond our borders.

Captain Cindy Machado
Animals in the Circus

As home to the Northern California Animal Law Enforcement Training Academy—founded in 1985—the Marin Humane Society takes great pride in training animal services officers throughout the state and beyond. It's a job that not only inspires me, but it also

serves as a reminder of the many talents and expertise that MHS staff can share with other agencies.

Last year I was invited by a partner animal welfare organization to provide circus inspection training to a variety of animal services organizations around the country. The offer came with the understanding that the project would be fully funded by an outside donor with no cost to MHS. The training curriculum was designed with a number of exotic animal experts, animal lawyers, animal welfare specialists, and animal cruelty investigators. Through this unique partnership an intensive four-hour program was developed that focuses on how to properly inspect elephants and other animals in the circus to ensure that basic humane standards of care are being met.

In just nine months I've presented more than 16 training sessions to hundreds of animal services officers in 10 states. Many of the animal services agencies receive very little training on animal cruelty



BEYOND OUR BORDERS

and circus investigations so it has been really well received. What is even more exciting is to hear about their inspections once a circus has come through their towns.

Being able to make a difference for animals beyond our borders is an important component of the MHS mission. Equally important are the animals that have and will continue to receive further protection from the cruel realities of circuses around our country.

Captain Cindy Machado is the Marin Humane Society director of animal services.

Morgan Lance Animals Asia

The seven years that I worked at the Marin Humane Society really shaped my future in the field of animal welfare. During my tenure there, I had the opportunity to work with wonderful people whose concern for animals convinced me that I had found a career path that was in harmony with my ideals.

As the education coordinator at MHS, I had an opportunity to teach students from a variety of cultures and socio-economic levels about the one value that I feel is most important regardless of one's background—compassion. It was also at MHS that I had the opportunity to meet and learn from various speakers who presented there. MHS always went out of its way to highlight the good work of others in the animal welfare field both nationally and abroad and therefore attracted some of the top names in the field.

One guest speaker really made an impression on me. Jill Robinson, founder of the Animals Asia Foundation, first spoke at MHS in 2003. Even as Jill described the horrors of the bear bile trade in Asia, she remained optimistic about Animals Asia's work to rescue bears from bile farms, lobby the governments of China and Vietnam to close down this international trade, and educate consumers about the herbal and synthetic alternatives to bear bile.

After meeting Jill I began volunteering for Animals Asia and eventually made the difficult decision to leave MHS and join the Animals Asia team. Four years later I am now the US Director and responsible for the organization's fundraising and outreach activities both here and in Canada.

I work with a fantastic team in San Francisco and love liaising with my colleagues all over the globe. The highlight of my job is seeing bears formerly imprisoned on bile farms now enjoying life at our sanctuaries. Seeing those bears happily playing after years of suffering is about as good as it gets!

Morgan Lance was the Marin Humane Society education coordinator from 2000 to 2008.

how many of the rats were suffering from skin conditions, parasites, and other medical ailments. More than 1,500 of the rats were transported to Andy's Pet Shop in San Jose where there are still hundreds available for adoption.

At first I was upset with Glen (the owner), but as the day progressed I could understand to some extent how the situation got so out of hand. Animal hoarding is extremely complex and differs from other types of cruelty in that hoarders typically believe that they are saving the animals and don't always recognize the cruelty they inflict.

At the end of the day I was proud to represent MHS as part of a team that rescued thousands of animals in need. I also



Suzanne Gollin
Rat Hoarding Rescue

MHS has provided many opportunities for me to expand my knowledge about small companion animal (SCA) care. Over the years I have learned a great deal and have even given several talks about SCAs for other shelters and rescue groups outside of Marin County. Some shelters don't even put SCAs up for adoption because they don't know how to care for or promote them. Any information that MHS staff can get out there is going to help save lives.

I was honored to be invited to work with the Humane Society of the United States, Marin-based North Star Rescue and A&E's *Hoarders* television show several months ago to remove more than 1,600 pet rats from a hoarding situation in Southern California. When we arrived on scene we found hundreds of rats roaming freely throughout the house. While stationed at the veterinarian's table, I saw up close

learned a lot about the value of working with other animal rescue groups. I think that our supporters will be happy to know that their humane society is working to improve the lives of animals not only in Marin, but beyond our borders.

Suzanne Gollin is an administrative assistant and small companion animal evaluator for the Marin Humane Society.

Gregg Tully
Himalayan Street Dogs

More than 20,000 dogs live in the streets of Kathmandu, the capital city of the Himalayan country of Nepal. Many are severely malnourished, covered with mange, or limping from collisions with cars. It simply isn't possible to remove all the dogs from the streets and find people to adopt them, particularly in a country where many have so little regard for canines that they throw rocks at them. Instead, the Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (KAT Centre) where

I volunteer is creating a healthy, sustainable street dog population through spaying, vaccinations and treatment. When I worked at the Marin Humane Society several years ago, I helped update the MHS website, managed the organization's Facebook and Twitter pages, and made videos about adoptable animals. Now I'm using a lot of the same skills at the KAT Centre to benefit dogs in Kathmandu.

Two years ago, the government of Bhutan, a Himalayan kingdom very close to Nepal, caught and confined thousands of street dogs in fenced-in enclosures. These "dog pounds" were badly understaffed, and the animals were severely overcrowded and lacked basic care. Humane Society International (HSI), Jangsa Animal Saving Trust, and

a humane awareness program. I would say that the impact of my experiences at MHS is reaching far beyond Marin County.

Gregg Tully was the Marin Humane Society marketing and communications assistant from 2008 to 2009.

For more information:

Animals Asia: AnimalsAsia.org

North Star Rescue: NorthStarRescue.org

KAT Centre: KATCentre.org.np

Jangsa Animal Savings Trust: AnimalSavingTrust.org



others convinced the government to release the dogs from the horrific enclosures and try a humane alternative. Now HSI's mobile veterinary teams are conducting a nationwide sterilization and vaccination program. Knowing how many dogs need long-term care or are too old, weak, or injured to survive back on the streets, Jangsa built a dog shelter. However, none of the organization's staff has any experience with running an animal shelter.

I contacted the small nonprofit last year to see how I could assist. Knowing I didn't have the background to help with their most urgent needs, I decided to spend a couple months volunteering at the Marin Humane Society's veterinary clinic where I learned about intake procedures, behavior evaluations and treatment in the clinic, as well as how to give shelter animals the best care possible. Currently I'm in Bhutan working with Jangsa's team to develop operational procedures for high-quality animal care. I also hope to start

Photos:

- (previous page) Pet rats allowed to roam free in a Southern California home made a connection of paths behind walls in the house (photo courtesy of North Star Rescue)
- An elephant performs in a circus
- Dogs rescued by the Jangsa Animal Savings Trust (photo courtesy of Gregg Tully)
- Moon bear relaxing at the Animals Asia Moon Bear Rescue Centre in Chengdu, China (photo courtesy of Animals Asia Foundation)
- Before & after photos of Mango, rescued by the Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (photo courtesy of Gregg Tully)