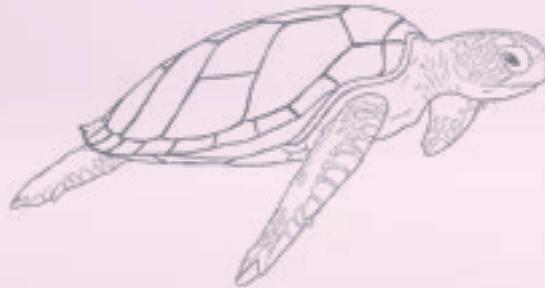


Animal Heroes

on the Central Coast

By Madeline Minas
and Serena Lopez





Turtle and Tortoise Rescue of Arroyo Grande

Cats and dogs are not the only animals who struggle with finding permanent homes. Since 1992, the Turtle and Tortoise Rescue of Arroyo Grande has given animals in need a home and the opportunity for a better life. Owners Jeff and Tammy Dobbs focus on education, conservation, and quality care for every animal on the property.

There are over 300 different animals on the property at any given time. From turtles and tortoises to alpacas and emus. The rescue has open arms for all animals in need of a home. With education as a big part of their mission and goal for the rescue, the Dobbs love working with school and community programs. They also are passionate about working with children and adults with special needs.

“We are making the property more conducive to children,” Jeff Dobbs said. “Especially children with special needs and kids on the spectrum.”

For more information about the rescue and how to get involved, visit turtleandtortoiserescueofarroyogrande.org



Animals in Need Fund

Not all animals in need are in shelters. Some have loving homes, but need funds to receive life-saving surgery or need to get fixed to prevent more animals in shelters.

Founded in 2008, the Animals in Need Fund is a non-profit that serves the Central Coast community by providing low-cost veterinary services through the Feline Network of the Central Coast, grants and no-interest loans for surgeries, and providing foster homes for surrendered pets and high-risk animals in shelters where they are available for adoption after rehabilitation.

Animals in Need Fund also work with the Five Cities Coalition to offer grants for the homeless community to spay or neuter pets and provide basic veterinary services like flea prevention and physicals.

“When it comes time to make a donation or adoption, it doesn’t matter who you choose, just help,” Administrative Director Dawnde Wallen said. “We just want to save them all. In order to do that, we need the support of our community.”

For more information about AIN Fund and how to get involved, visit ainfund.org

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Booze for Paws

Almost 1.5 million shelter animals are euthanized each year, according to ASPCA. Booze for Paws founder Sid Chand and his wife, Christy, launched this organization with one goal in mind: decrease the staggering statistic of euthanizations for healthy, adoptable dogs and cats to zero.

Sid came up with the idea to start Booze for Paws after being inspired by the power of charity-driven efforts, his passion for animals, and his expertise in the alcohol industry. Although still in the beginning stages, Booze for Paws aims to offer different types of spirits and donate 100% of profits to charities saving animals in need.

“Booze for Paws is a labor of love,” he says. “There’s a ton of money in the booze business, so I thought, why not start something that can tap into this?”

For anyone wanting to join the Chands’ efforts in increasing awareness on animal euthanization and decreasing the statistic, visit booze4paws.org.





SLO Dog Adventures

Let your dog join the SLO Dog Adventures pack! Pack Walker and Owner Bonnie Shiffrar takes pride in getting dogs out of the house and immersing them in nature, accompanied by 5-15 other furry friends. Bonnie's pack walks take place in San Luis Obispo, Five Cities area, Nipomo, Santa Maria, and Orcutt.

She says that she finds fulfillment in helping dogs better communicate with each other through guidance in the pack, and helping their owners become better leaders by helping them understand dog behavior and why structure, boundaries, exercise, and socialization are crucial for a balanced dog.

"Dogs really crave to be in a pack. It brings them back to their roots!," says Bonnie.

Learn more about Bonnie's daily walks by visiting slodogadventures.com or following her on Instagram and Facebook: [@slodogadventures](https://www.instagram.com/slodogadventures)