

JOY

THE MAGAZINE OF

joybound
PEOPLE & PETS

SUMMER 2025

POLLY'S PURPOSE: A SHELTER DOG TURNED HERO

5 Fun Ways to
Enjoy the Dog
Days of Summer

PLUS

Fun Events for the
Entire Family Headed
Your Way



From Our CEO

Hello Joybound Friends!

Doesn't summer seem to amplify the fun—and yes, the JOY—in everything? From mopping up sprinkler-soaked paw prints (my pups' specialty) to a lazy cat nap on a weekend afternoon with a purring friend, it's the season to savor and celebrate. We hope this edition of JOY magazine inspires you to indulge in even more pet-friendly ways to enjoy the season.

Speaking of summer fun, kitten and puppy season is in full swing at Joybound, resulting in daily love matches between pet people and these adorable, wide-eyed youngsters—and their grownup counterparts, too! Every adoption brings happiness not just to the animals, but to the happy humans welcoming a new best buddy into their lives.

All Joybound services, such as adoptions, create what we call Beneficial Community Impacts. It works like this: Say a family of four humans adopts two kittens. Four humans are smiling, and two kitties are purring in a secure home. That makes six impacts!

But Joybound's journey doesn't end at adoption. We make sure Joybound's own and all pet families in our community can find the support they need for a lifetime loving connection: training, grooming, community veterinary services, and more. Because pet families need support throughout their journey together, and Joybound is committed to making those relationships long, strong, and healthy. That's the Joybound "And Also ..." effect you'll hear a lot more about in the coming months.

And now for some fun: we've elected Joybound's very first Board of Fur-rectors! A sassy cat named Mr. Blue Eyes Rocco and a paw-tastic pooch named Meeka will be representing the voices of our four-legged constituents this year. Read more about their rise to leadership on page 11.

Thank you for being part of our Joybound family. From the summer sunshine to the winter cozies and every day in between, Joybound follows our animal friends' examples of loyal companionship. Here's to the lifelong joy we create and support together for pets and the people who love them!

Warmly,

Susan Lee Vick
President & Chief Executive Officer



5 Ways to Enjoy the Dog Days of Summer	3
Happy Tails: Adoption Updates	4
Homework, Litterboxes, and Love	5
Ladybug's Lessons	6
Rebuilding Her Life, One Dog at a Time	7
Polly's Purpose	8-9
Calendar of Events	10-11

On the Cover:
Joybound Around Town 2024 attendees

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Connect with us online at joybound.org and on social media.



5 Fun Ways to Enjoy the Dog Days of Summer!

Looking for fun ways to enjoy summer with your dog? Whether your pup's into hiking, playing games, or just sniffing every tree in sight, we've got plenty of ideas to keep you both smiling all season long!

Paws in the Pool

1.

Help your dog beat the summer heat. Set out a few shallow kiddie pools and let them splash, cool off, and burn some energy at their own pace.



Hit the Trails

2.

Nothing beats a scenic hike with your dog by your side! Follow the tips below to have a great time:

HYDRATE

Always bring plenty of water and collapsible bowl to stay nice and cool

TRAIL TIMING

Plan your hike early or late to avoid hot pavement and overheating

BEAT THE HEAT

Stick to shady trails with lots of trees to keep your pup cool



Doggy Playdates

3.

Invite a friend and their pup over for some tail-wagging fun. Whether it's a game of chase in the backyard or a relaxed trail walk, it's a great way to socialize, exercise, and enjoy some quality time.

Level Up with Joybound's Dog Training Classes

Puppy Socials
Build social skills.

Basic Obedience
Sit, stay, and slay the basics.

Reactive Rover
Build calm.



4.

Games & Enrichment

Keep your pup mentally sharp with these games:

FROZEN TREAT TREASURE HUNT

Freeze treats in an ice cube tray or toy and let your dog "excavate" the goodies.

+

SNUFFLE MATS & PUZZLE FEEDERS

Sprinkle your dog's food into a snuffle mat or puzzle feeder to turn mealtime into a fun mental workout.

+

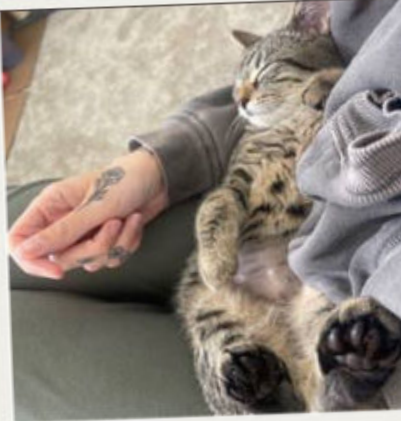
DIY OBSTACLE COURSE

Use chairs, boxes, tunnels, and broomsticks to create a backyard agility challenge.

5.

Happy Tails Adoption Updates!

Visit joybound.org/story to Submit Your Adoption Story



Hello from Talia!

”

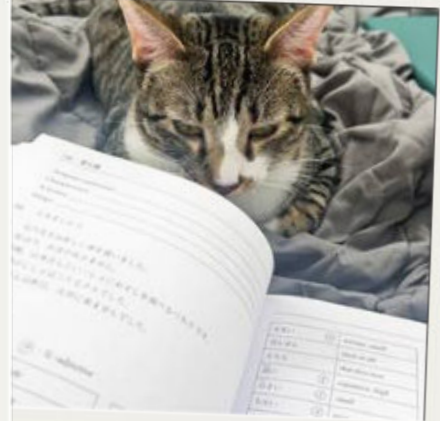
Things are going great!
She's very cuddly and purrs
very loudly when she's
petted.



Hello from Rockwell!

”

Rockwell is rambunctious
but loving at the same time.
Our other dog is still getting
used to him.



Hello from Levvy!

”

I'm really grateful that
Joybound allowed me
to find such a special
companion.



Shout Out to Our Corporate Partners

Their Support Helps People and Pets Find Help, Hope, and Each Other



Homework, Litterboxes, and Love

The Joy (and Challenges) of Raising Kittens

What started as a plan to adopt a cat turned into a life-changing adventure in fostering. Meet Aria (16) and Kevin Yoder (13), two teens who, along with their family, have fostered nearly 100 cats over the past seven years through Joybound.

“We thought fostering might be a fun way to find the right cat,” Aria shares. “But instead, we fell in love with fostering and raising kittens.” And it shows. Just ask Queen Bee, Carpenter Bee, and Bumble Bee, their latest furry guests. This trio, along with their cuddly (and constantly tired) mama, stay in the Jack-and-Jill bathroom between the siblings’ bedrooms.

While the work can be messy (hello, litter box duty), it’s also deeply rewarding. Aria is on food and snuggle patrol, while Kevin keeps things clean and helps out with wet food duties. “The best place to do homework is with a kitten climbing on your keyboard,” Aria laughs.

The Yoders have learned a lot from fostering, especially about love and responsibility. “Knowing these tiny animals rely on you to survive is a big deal,” Aria says. They’ve also found a new appreciation for mother cats. “Watching mama care for her babies is amazing,” adds Kevin. “She never gets a break!”

“It’s a selfless act to raise baby animals for someone else to love. Seeing my kids step up with such care—and joy—has been incredibly heartwarming.”

It’s not always easy. Kittens can be skittish, sick, or not quite ready to eat or play. Also, saying goodbye can be hard. “But that’s the job,” Kevin says. “We do this so they can have the best life possible with their forever family.”

Their mom, Anat couldn’t be prouder. “It’s a selfless act to raise baby animals for someone else to love. Seeing my kids step up with such care and joy has been incredibly heartwarming.”

Thinking about fostering? The Yoders say go for it, but be ready to work and fall completely in love.

Want to make a difference like Aria and Kevin?

Visit joybound.org/foster because a little love (and lots of kitten snuggles) goes a long way! 🐾



**Kevin and Aria,
Joybound foster
volunteers**

Ladybug's Lessons

How One Joyful Pit Bull Helps Dog Parents Connect with Their Pets

What happens when a dog with a big heart and a few challenges enters your life? You gain love, patience, and a fresh perspective on dog training. Sometimes you even discover a lifelong teacher in an unlikely package.

That's what happened to Hope Minton, a Shelter Animal Trainer at Joybound, when she met Ladybug, a scrappy pit bull mix with allergies and bald spots, in July 2023.

"I knew she was special the moment I looked into her eyes," Hope says. "Despite everything, she radiated joy and resilience. I had to bring her home."

"Ladybug had a lot of fear-based behaviors and a sensitivity to sound," Hope said. But instead of backing off, Hope leaned in. "Being her guardian made me more aware of the triggers dogs face. It's made me a more empathetic trainer and deepened my bond with every dog I've worked with since."

At Joybound, Hope helps dogs prepare for adoption by teaching skills like sit, stay, and focus. These tools help ease the transition to home life.

Thanks to Ladybug, Hope has become even more tuned in to individual needs. "Every dog learns differently," she says. "But all respond to positive reinforcement. Rewarding the right behaviors helps dogs like Ladybug thrive."

Are you a pet parent looking to sharpen your dog's skills this summer? Whether you're working on basic manners or building a stronger bond, check out Hope's simple, yet effective tips:



Hope and Ladybug hiking at Shell Ridge, Walnut Creek

Bring the Good Stuff

"Dogs love a tasty reward! Reward them with treats they go crazy for, like chicken, jerky, or even watermelon, to keep their attention on you," says Hope.

Start with the Basics

Start with commands like sit, stay, and loose-leash walking. These simple skills build confidence and help your dog stay connected to you," says Hope.

Turn 'No' Into 'Yes'

"Focus on what you do want," Hope says. "If your dog's jumping, cue a sit. Now they've got a job, a clear expectation, and most importantly, a reason to earn a treat and your praise. 🐾"

Rebuilding Her Life, One Dog at a Time

Adrienne's Story of Hope and Healing



Adrienne brushing a Grooming Academy client

Adrienne's life had been a series of challenges. She lost her husband of 13 years, her beloved dog, and felt like she had hit rock bottom. But within her pain, a spark of resilience burned bright. When her daughter brought her to a recovery program, Adrienne discovered more than just a path to sobriety; she found her true calling.

Her love for animals, deeply rooted since her childhood, where she grew up with horses, cows, and donkeys, became her healing sanctuary. At Joybound Grooming Academy, she didn't just learn to groom dogs, she learned to nurture herself. Each gentle touch, each careful stroke of the brush became a metaphor for her own transformation.

"Joybound has absolutely changed my life," Adrienne explains with joyful tears. "When I came into it, it was for my love of animals, and I got a zillion times more because of the people."

With determination and compassion, Adrienne scored over 90% on her tests, proving that setbacks

don't define you - your response to them does. She wasn't just training to be a groomer, she was rebuilding her life, one dog at a time.

Her story is a testament to the power of passion, resilience, and believing in second chances. From a place of darkness, Adrienne emerged as a beacon of hope, ready to help both animals and humans heal, one loving moment at a time.

It's not about money, it's about helping people and helping animals.

Her message is simple yet profound: Love, patience, and believing in yourself can transform any life. 🐾



**Polly and Barbara
enjoying their backyard**

Polly's Purpose

A Shelter Dog Turned Hero

Some heroes wear capes. Polly wears fur. Once a stray on the streets of Madera, California, Polly (formerly Molly) had already beaten the odds by finding her way to Joybound People & Pets in 2014. Quiet, observant, and wise beyond her years, she found a loving home with Judy, where the two shared nearly a decade of adventures and unwavering companionship.

But Polly wasn't just a loyal pet, she became a lifesaver. In 2023, during a simple afternoon walk, Polly suddenly ran up to their neighbor's door and began barking and wouldn't stop. Something Judy had never seen before. It was clear Polly was trying to tell her something was terribly wrong. Inside, they found an elderly neighbor who had fallen and been stranded on the floor for nearly 10 hours. Polly's loyal heart and sharp instincts came together when it mattered most.

After Judy's passing in 2024, Polly, now a senior dog, returned to Joybound again. That's when she met Barbara and Joe, a retired married couple hoping to share their peaceful home with a dog in need. During their first meeting, Polly leaned into Barbara's calm presence and quietly followed her every step. It didn't take long to realize this was a perfect match.

Polly settled into her new life quickly. In their quiet home, she found comfort in gentle routines; perfectly timed meals, relaxing on the red couch with her favorite pillow, and soft hand signals to guide her through her day after they discovered she was mostly deaf. The bond between them grew quietly, but deeply.

Then, the unthinkable happened again.

One summer night, Polly barked with that same urgency. Alarmed, Barbara hurried into the family room and found Polly standing rigid at the sliding glass door, her body tense, eyes locked on something outside. She wouldn't stop barking, and it was clear she was trying to sound an alarm.

**Polly wasn't just a loyal pet.
She became a lifesaver.**

Barbara looked out and saw Joe, collapsed beneath the magnolia tree. He had tripped over a root and hit his head. Thanks to Polly's alert, the EMTs arrived in time. Joe was shaken and needed stitches, but he was going to be okay.

Months later, as Barbara flipped through an issue of JOY Magazine, a familiar face caught her eye. The story featured Joybound's 37,000th adoption, a senior dog named Molly, now known as Polly, who had once saved a neighbor's life with the same fierce determination. As she read, it all clicked. Her dog, the quiet, loving companion who had just saved her husband, was the very same hero from the article.

It hadn't been a coincidence; Polly had done it again!

Sometimes the ones we rescue end up rescuing us. Twice. 🐾



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Polly relaxing in her backyard

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Mark Your Calendars!

Bring your friends and family, and be part of one of our upcoming events. There's something for everyone to enjoy, from exciting activities and entertainment to opportunities to connect and make memories. Don't miss out!

June



Camp Joybound:

Monday - Friday 9 am - 2 pm
June 23-27 | July 7-11 | July 21-25 | Aug 4 - 8

July



Community Game Night:

Wednesday, July 2 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm

August



Back to School Pet Photoshoot:

Saturday, August 23 | 12:30 - 2:30 pm

September



Joybound Around Town on Broadway:

Sunday, September 14 | 10 am - 3 pm

Year-Round Events

Birthday Parties

Saturdays year-round | 10 am - 2 pm

Mobile Adoptions

Diablo Valley Farmers' Market

Saturday June 21 | 9:00 -11:00 am

Pacific Service Credit Union (Concord)

Friday June 27 | 11:00 -2:00 pm

Oakley Summer Fest

Saturday June 28 | 10:00 -1:00 pm



To fetch the
latest happenings,
visit

joybound.org/events



Paws Up for Our 2025 Board of Fur-rectors!

We're thrilled to announce the winners of Joybound's 2025 Board of Fur-rectors Photo Contest! **Mr. Blue Eyes Rocco** has officially claimed the cat seat, dazzling voters with those striking eyes and a regal presence. **Meeka** won hearts (and votes) with charm, fluff, and a tail-wagging campaign that made her top dog!

Together, they'll be featured in custom portraits displayed at Joybound for the next year. They'll also be listed proudly on our website alongside our human board members.

Thanks to your incredible support, we raised nearly \$30,000, which will help fuel programs like adoptions, training, vet care, and more.

To everyone who submitted, voted, and cheered from the sidelines—thank you for helping pets and people thrive through the power of the human-animal bond!

To read more about the winners and all the candidates, visit joybound.org/winners.





2890 Mitchell Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

SUMMER BREAK AT **Camp Joybound**



Inspiring the Next Generation of Animal Lovers!
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