



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA Takes Up Beekeeping to Help Educate the Public about Importance of Bees

BURLINGAME, CA. — Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) is keeping a honey bee colony at their Tom and Annette Lantos Center for Compassion in Burlingame as a way to help educate the public about the necessity of bees.

“For the last three years we’ve kept a honey bee colony at our shelter to illustrate the need for bees and the uphill plight they face attempting to thrive in an environment riddled with pesticides and loss of food sources,” said PHS/SPCA Communications Manager Buffy Martin Tarbox. “Unlike most Humane Society’s, we include all animals in our charitable mission and our educational beehive is a logical extension of our commitment to native wild animals.”

The beehive is kept on the second floor of the Burlingame shelter and is cared for by volunteer beekeeper Steve Nori. The hive box was built by Nori of pine and is constructed with a plastic tube secured to the side of the box that connects to outside of the PHS/SPCA building which serves as a tunnel for the bees to venture outside to gather nectar and pollen to bring back into the hive box.

“Our honey bee colony is just one small hive, but we are hoping through education, people will come to see bees not as a nuisance, but necessary partners in our eco-system and food supply,” according to Tarbox.

Honeybee colonies are 90 percent female and consist of a queen, female workers, male drones and developing young bees. The workers have a variety of jobs including tending to the queen, housekeeping, building the honeycomb, guarding the hive and foraging for nectar and pollen.

Bees also have extremely important roles in food supply. More than \$15 billion a year in U.S. crops are pollinated by bees. These tiny workers help produce many crops including apples, oranges, lemons, onions, carrots, almonds, cucumbers, avocados, blueberries, and cherries, just to name a few.

“Unfortunately bee colonies are struggling and they need our help. Increased use of pesticides and habitat loss brought about by development are causing grave harm to bees,” said Tarbox. “Planting native flowers and plants and using organic methods of pest control can help bee colonies survive and thrive.”

The PHS/SPCA bee colony can be visited seven days a week during shelter open hours at 1450 Rollins Road in Burlingame.

Photos attached are of the PHS/SPCA beehive and a honey bee collecting pollen. Photo credit Buffy Martin Tarbox.

About Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is a private, open-door, not-for-profit animal welfare organization. Primary programs include animal adoptions; animal rescue and sheltering, including specialty care for domestic animals with medical and/or behavioral challenges; wildlife rehabilitation; animal cruelty investigation; community outreach and education; low-cost spay/neuter; and obedience classes. This vital work is made possible by volunteers and donations. PHS/SPCA receives no funding from national animal welfare organizations. Visit www.phs-sPCA.org to learn about all PHS/SPCA’s programs and services, ways to help the animals and special events.

To our visitors: While a bee hive has a long life, the lifespan of individual worker bees is extremely brief. Bees die every day, and every day the workers left behind slowly die and are removed from the hive completely. In colder winter months, the deceased are often left in this little entry way for hours until the day finally warms enough for them to be further removed.



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