



Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

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Melanie Sobel
General Manager

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Planning Ahead for Your Pet, Exploring End-of-Life Decisions

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS) will host a workshop to engage pet owners in planning ahead for their pet's end-of-life care on March 26, 2017 from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at SCCAS, 2200 7th Ave. (main entrance is 1001 Rodriguez St.) in Santa Cruz.

Veterinarian Dr. Gabby Ravina will lead a discussion about pet end-of-life care, hospice, and euthanasia decisions. This meaningful but often very difficult stage of pet ownership is the focus of her practice, Peaceful Paws Veterinary Hospice.

RSVP required to erin.conway@santacruzcounty.us as space is limited. A donation for the Shelter is requested.

As Dr. Ravina says: "Death is inevitable, yet it remains one of the most difficult things to talk about. As tough as it may be, thinking about what we want for our loved ones ahead of time, allows us time to make important decisions before we are faced with a crisis. It can also help us provide a better quality of life for our pets in their sunset years, as we continue to create beautiful memories together."

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About Gabrielle Ravina

Dr. Gabrielle Ravina, a native New Yorker, developed her love of animals at an early age. It was no surprise to her family that by the age of twelve, she already knew she wanted to become a veterinarian. She achieved this goal in 1997, graduating from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. From there she went on to a rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the University of Georgia. After that she packed up and headed West, landing quite by chance in Santa Cruz, where she began her career. She has been a companion animal veterinarian in Santa Cruz and

Los Gatos for seventeen years, including more than six years in the field of an emergency and critical care.

Dr. Ravina has a deep love for the human-animal bond. As a veterinarian, she finds one of the most important ways we can honor that bond is through compassionate end-of-life care for pets and their families. She understands first-hand how difficult it is to say goodbye to a member of our pet family. When her own cat, Finn, became terminally ill, she chose to help her make this transition at home, where she was most comfortable and least stressed. She has also provided in-home services for friends, neighbors, and clients to help them through this difficult time. Dr. Ravina established Peaceful Paws Veterinary Hospice in order to provide as many families as possible with the option of in-home end-of-life care for their pets.

Dr. Ravina is a member of the California Veterinary Medical Association, the International Association of Animal Hospice and Palliative care, the Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians, the Association of Pet Loss and Bereavement, and the Santa Clara Veterinary Medical Association. She shares her home with her partner, Hayden, their two children Dylan and Scarlett, and their two polydactyl cats, Rascal and Roo.

www.peacefulpawsvet.net

About Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS)

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter is an open admission shelter which welcomes EVERY animal in need. Our goal is to be a humane resource for the community by providing a safety net and second chance for local animals. There are two locations where owners can find and recover lost pets, adopt new animal companions, or sign up for PLANNED PetHood, our low cost spay/neuter program available for all resident pets. Our success is achieved through a variety of life-saving services and programs which are described in detail on our website, www.scanimalshelter.org. The support of our community is crucial to sustaining and expanding these services.