



SOUTHPAW RESCUE
Because every dog deserves a fighting chance

Coming Into Focus

September 2026

President's Message



With the change of season, comes a change in energy. Fall is my favorite season. Always has been. I feel the energy change in the weather, and with Southpaw Rescue.

There is a shift happening. Summer is winding down, the days are getting a little shorter, and fall is beginning to settle into the mountains.

I feel a similar shift with Southpaw.

We have spent the past few months moving, planning, and responding. Some days have felt overwhelming. But through all of it, Southpaw continues to move forward.

This newsletter has a little bit of everything. A cat who needed a second chance, a puppy who was still out there, information every mountain family with animals should have in an emergency, and friends coming together to support each other in this weekends' fundraiser.

Fall is when things begin to slow down in the mountains, and I like the timing. We have spent a lot of time planting seeds over the past year. Now we are beginning to see some of them bloom. The work doesn't stop, but there is something special about finally seeing pieces of a plan become real.

I think this is going to be a good season for Southpaw. I hope you are a part of it.

Veronica

President, Southpaw Rescue

Gigi: Ready for Her Next Chapter



About a month ago, a rescue specializing in trapping rescued a group of abandoned puppies from the wilderness near Morton's Peak in the San Bernardino National Forest. There were so many of them, but we thought we had finally gotten them all.

Then there was another.

We thought we had them all again. A week after the puppies were rescued, someone saw another puppy but didn't tell anyone. A month later, he came forward and told us about the puppy he had seen. That puppy we believe is Gigi.

She had been on her own for about a month, after already spending roughly a month in the wilderness with the rest of the abandoned litter. Somehow, she made her way down the mountain to Mountain Home Village.

We don't know exactly how she got there. Maybe she followed the same trail where she had watched her littermates leave in cars when they were rescued. Whatever brought her down the mountain, it turned out to be a very good thing.

Residents in Mountain Home Village saw her, fed her, gave her water, and looked out for her. This is when Southpaw learned about her and set out to trap her.

There was never much doubt that she belonged to the litter. She looks just like them, petite and with unique features.

Now Gigi is settling into a foster home, where she is slowly coming out of her shell. She's still shy, but she's discovering what it feels like to be safe. And she absolutely adores the two little boys in her foster home.

This week, Gigi was spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped.

The puppy who was still out there is finally ready for the next part of her story.

Gigi is ready for adoption.

Salem's Next Chapter



A month ago, Salem's future looked very different. A stray cat brutally attacked in the forest, Salem survived the attack, but his infected injuries left him vulnerable to another attack or a slow, painful death.

Southpaw trapped him, got him treated, and placed him with a foster who helped him through his recovery. With time and care, Salem healed beautifully. Today, you can barely tell what he survived.

Now, he has taken another important step forward.

Recently, Salem was transferred to a rescue who specializes in cats. This is exactly the kind of transition we hope for when any animal comes into our care: collaboration with individuals and organizations to get animals the help they need before ultimately finding them their forever home.

Salem is safe. He is healed. He is with people who understand cats and who can help him find the right forever home.

We are incredibly grateful to his fosters for helping him get to this point, and to the rescue who stepped up to give Salem his next chapter.

Southpaw attended the Forest Falls Safety Fair



This past weekend, Southpaw Rescue attended the Safety Fair at the Forest Falls Community Center, where we shared information about our Mountain Community Animal Protection Program and how to prepare for emergencies and evacuation with family pets.

We handed out a pamphlet with information about evacuation animals during an emergency, with an emphasis on leaving early. Evacuation before an emergency becomes critical can greatly reduce the stress on your animals and make the process safer and easier for everyone.

One of the most important things you can do is know ahead of time which hotels will accept the animal species or dog breeds you own. When an evacuation is ordered, those pet-friendly rooms can fill quickly. Having a plan and leaving early can help make sure you have somewhere to go before those options are gone.

When it comes to emergencies, waiting until you have no choice can make an already stressful situation much harder. Knowing your plan before you need it gives you your animals a much better chance of getting out safely.

If you would like a pamphlet and didn't get one, please email info@southpawrescue.com and we will make sure you get one.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Southpaw table and took the time to talk to us at the Safety Fair.

The 23 Mile Yard Sale



Southpaw Rescue is partnering with Wild Presencia for this year's community 23 Mile Yard Sale.

Both organizations care deeply about our mountain community, and the children and animals who call this forest home. Our fundraiser brings two groups together to raise money so we both can continue our missions to help children building a connection to the forest, while also protecting abandoned animals.

There will be a collection of gently used treasures for sale throughout the weekend. If you're heading out to the yard sale, stop by and take a look. You might just find something you love.

Friday & Saturday

7:00am to 4:00pm

41384 Valley of the Falls Dr.

Forest Falls, CA 92339

Back of Dee's House

Come by, Shop, and say hello. We'd love to see you there.