**What’s New in Castro Valley? – Melanie Sadek, Valley Humane Society**

Melanie Sadek from the Valley Humane Society (VHS) in Pleasanton kicked off the year with the first *What’s New in Castro Valley?* presentation. The Valley Humane Society has served the community for over 30 years and now operation out of 5000ft2 serving supporters of dogs and cats.

In her brief presentation, Melanie focused on

* VHS focuses on animal welfare and bonding.
* VHS works on pulling animals from the pounds in the area.
* VHS has over 500 volunteers working in its facilities and over 50 foster homes.
* VHS handles around 600 adoptions/year – dogs at $150 and cats at $100.
* VHS provides educational programs for children that teach the children about compassion and VHS support many other educational programs in the schools and community.
* VHS handles 120,000 animal meals/year but can’t use all the meals, so it donates some to low income families so that they can feed their pets and not use valuable financial resources and Meals on Wheels in the Tri-Valley so that seniors can keep their pets who are true companions.
* The Canine Comfort Pet Therapy program brings animals where other pets can’t go. VHS provided three dogs to the victims and first responders during the Ghost Ship Fire in Oakland.
* VHS works with individuals and families when they need to give up a pet so that the pet is place in an appropriate sending.

More detailed information regarding the Valley Human Society is available at <https://valleyhumane.org/>