

News Release

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New board of directors, executive director named at Nevada SPCA

The Nevada SPCA is pleased to announce the selection of a new board of directors and the hiring of a new executive director. The new board members were selected from more than 35 applicants. They bring a mix of skills needed to provide vision and guidance to the Las Vegas-based nonprofit shelter including financial, government, real estate, communications, and fundraising expertise. Its members are:

- Emily Campbell – principal and head of SKDKPolitical at SKDKnickerbocker, a strategic communications and advertising firm that serves political committees and candidates, nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, labor unions, and Fortune 500 companies.
- Kelly Venci Gonzalez – attorney and team chief at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada advocating for children with disabilities.
- Hilarie Grey – managing director of corporate communications for Allegiant Travel Co. with expertise in reputation management, crisis communications, corporate giving and special events.
- Mary Jennifer Huffman – certified public accountant and certified fraud examiner at Tompkins & Peters CPAs in Las Vegas.
- Lisa C. Levine – government relations in gaming and more than a decade of experience in public policy and political campaigns, including as senior advisor to a U.S. representative.
- Cynthia Mason – support account manager at McAfee, focused on critical issue resolution and customer success for Enterprise customers, and volunteer/foster caregiver for Nevada SPCA.
- Thomas E. Moran – executive officer and legal counsel at Southwest Gas Corporation with an expertise in board governance, as well as a former board member at the Houston SPCA and other animal shelters.
- Craig Murrin – senior financial advisor at GWM US and a Business Network International (BNI) chapter president.
- Annoula Wylderich – real estate redeveloper and global animal welfare advocate.

The board members have elected officers, they are Thomas E. Moran, president; Craig Murrin, vice president; Kelly Venci Gonzalez, secretary; Mary Jennifer Huffman, treasurer.

New executive director

The board members were involved in the interview process to hire a new executive director to oversee the Nevada SPCA. Lori Heeren was selected from a highly competitive field of more than 50 applicants. Lori will start in early September. She was most recently general manager of Alpha Media Silicon Valley in San Jose, California overseeing radio marketing and advertising teams. A long-time Nevada resident, she was producer of Las Vegas' Pet-a-Palooza event for 15 years.

The new board of directors and executive director will undertake strategic planning for NSPCA in the near future, guided by Humane Network.

The Nevada-based Humane Network was selected by the Nevada SPCA's former board to become trustee of the organization in April, after allegations of financial wrongdoing and other issues were brought to light. Humane Network conducted a rigorous and lengthy interview process to select the best leaders to bring the much-loved Las Vegas shelter into a new phase of its history.

Humane Network will hand over the control of Nevada SPCA on Sept. 9, but Bonney Brown, Diane Blankenburg and Mark Robison of Humane Network will continue to provide consulting support and guidance to Nevada SPCA for at least the next six months.

During its tenure as trustee, Humane Network oversaw a reorganization of the shelter, began putting best practices in place, provided training and consulting support for the organization and staff, and opened a forensic audit dating back to January 2016, which is still underway by Rubin Brown, and has cooperated fully with the Nevada Attorney General's investigation into past issues. Additionally, a new logo and website have been created to represent the new Nevada SPCA.

Nevada SPCA plays a vital role in Las Vegas, taking in more than 2,500 pets each year and finding them loving homes. In the past two months, Nevada SPCA has adopted out more than 300 dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs. Learn how you can join our lifesaving efforts at www.nevadaspca.org.