UC DAVIS
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Happy and healthy—and off to his forever home.

Dear [informal salutation],

When an orphaned puppy dubbed "Cowboy" arrived at the Helen Woodward Animal Center in Rancho Santa Fe, his heartbeat was so irregular that vet techs could feel a rumble simply by placing their hands on his tiny chest.

The terrier blend was diagnosed with a rare, high grade heart murmur caused by an improperly formed heart valve. With his condition life-threatening, Cowboy was taken to the UC Veterinary Medical Center-San Diego (UCVMC-SD).

Innovative surgery saved Cowboy's life.

There Cowboy underwent a state-of-the-art surgery in which a balloon specifically made for a dog of his size was inserted into the heart valve and then inflated to open up the valve and ease the blood flow.

"Cowboy's valve was thicker and harder than expected, causing a few challenges," said cardiologist Dr. Joao Orvalho. "But overall the surgery went very well and Cowboy's heart valve is expanding nicely."

Cowboy is expected to live a long and healthy life, though he will remain on heart and blood pressure medication. Best of all, Cowboy has found a loving forever home. "He was adopted and lives in a beautiful house with tons of property to run and play on," said Jessica Gercke of the Helen Woodward Animal Center.

Cowboy's life-saving procedure was made possible by generous donors. Your support allows UCVMC-SD to save and improve the lives of our beloved companion and service animals. In particular, your gifts will help the center purchase equipment needed for its growing, state-of-the-art cardiology service.

Help us achieve our mission to provide groundbreaking procedures and life-saving care to the animals you love by supporting UCVMC-SD today. Join us!

Sincerely,

Larry D Cowgill

Larry D. Cowgill, DVM, PhD, DACVIM
Director, UCVMC-SD

P.S. Please support our wonderful San Diego satellite office by giving today at **give.ucdavis.edu/Go/SanDiegoClinic.** If you are considering a legacy gift to help animals in need, please call (530) 752-7024.

UC VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER, SAN DIEGO
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE | DAVIS, CA 95616
(530 752-7024) | **www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ucvmc_sd**

Leading Veterinary Medicine, Addressing Societal Needs