

Wine 4 Paws

By Lisa J. Pretty

Wine people and dog people seem to go hand in hand. It is rare to find a winery that does not have at least one dog and many wine country visitors remember the name of the dog over the name of the winery owner. My dog is a standard poodle named Kokopelli and I love him unconditionally – even when he eats the platter of cheese I had bought for the tasting room. If he isn't overlooking the parking lot greeting guests, I am asked all day long where he is – funny to hear that people miss the barking.

As an animal lover, I was very happy to hear about a new fund raiser in San Luis Obispo County to support the Woods Humane Society. On April 25 more than 25 wineries throughout the county will participate in Wine4Paws by contributing a portion of their sales that day.

Wine4Paws is the initiative of Sarah Tomasetti, who along with her husband, has volunteered her time to the Woods Humane Society for the past three years. Sarah has found it difficult to get there as often as she would like. In an effort to find a way to provide greater assistance, she decided to reach out to the wine community in the Paso Robles area for support, and Wine4Paws was launched. She picked a date in April since April is Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Month. Her friends have donated website development, graphic design work and assistance with winery contacts. The initiative and Woods Humane Society operate through volunteers and charity donations.

As expected, the wineries have a great sense of community support and have stepped up to the plate. Each participating winery is donating to the Woods Humane Society based on sales on April 25. Some wineries are donating all of the tasting



Sarah Tomasetti



room fees, some are donating \$1 to \$2 per bottle sold and others a percentage of sales. For example, at Pretty-Smith Vineyards & Winery, I am donating 25 percent of all wine sales for the day. A friend of mine who has Ranch Tuff memory foam dog beds for sale in my tasting room has also agreed to contribute 25 percent of the dog bed sales for the day. Other wineries in San Miguel have similar initiatives. Some wineries such as Carmody McKnight, Chumeia Vineyards and Arroyo Robles are continuing to contribute based on special wines or club memberships for the entire month of April or even longer.

So be sure to visit at least one of the participating wineries on April 25 and contribute by simply tasting wine, purchasing wine or making a donation. Participating wineries are listed on the www.wine4paws.com website or you can call the Woods Humane Society at (805) 543-9316 ext 19. for more information. Visit www.woodshumanesociety.org to see pho-

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