

Lauren Malfatti

Lauren started in the field of animal welfare at 14 years old after a family member suggested she volunteer at a city shelter to acclimate after moving to a new city. That began a passionate trajectory for all facets of animal welfare and the human animal bond that connects us. After working 8 years at shelters as well as various veterinary clinics, Lauren obtained her Bachelors of Science at San Francisco State University, majoring in Interior Design. The pull to animal welfare was strong though and soon she accepted a position at the San Diego Humane Society, packing up everything she owned and moving to the new city sight unseen. Lauren spent 4 years in the Admissions department doing intakes, evaluations, and processing for both domestics and exotics. After merging with another high-volume city shelter, she spent another 4 years at a different campus location overseeing and building an Admissions and Foster team from the ground up to process the multitude of domestic, wild, and farm animals that entered daily. For the last 4 years she has help lead the newly created Learning and Development team, training 600 staff with live classes, e-learnings and webinars as well as creating curriculum and onboarding for new staff. She has participated in multiple emergency deployments to respond to natural and man-made disasters both with San Diego Humane Society as well as the ASPCA. At home Lauren enjoys lap swimming, playing board games, and making room for a new neighborhood cat who has politely moved in and made himself at home.