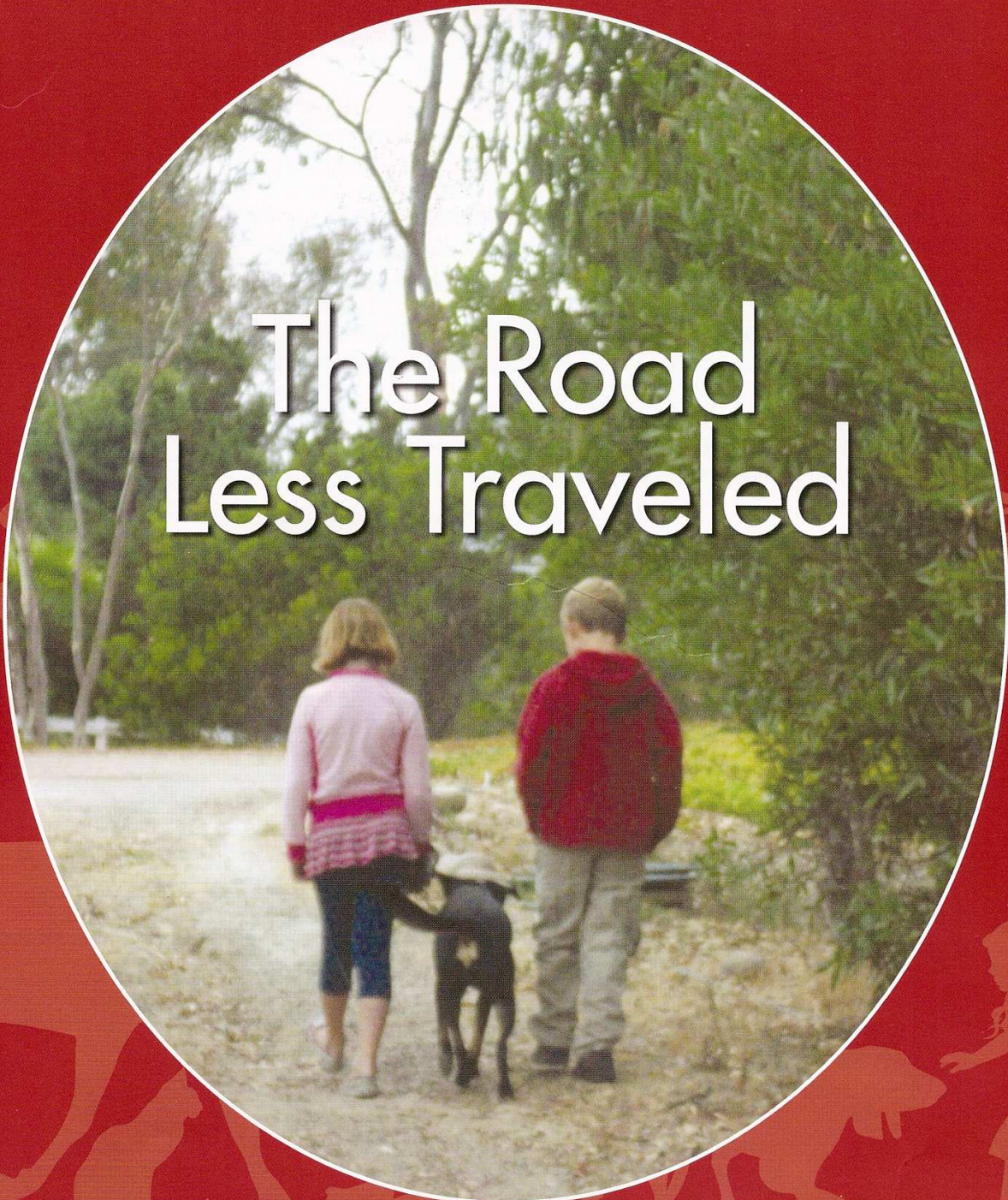


SUMMER 2009

HELEN WOODWARD
ANIMAL CENTER

THE **COMPANION**

The Road
Less Traveled



Out of the Wheelchair and Into the Saddle!

Wheelchairs, leg braces, and loving arms carried the riders into the arena when Therapeutic Riding students performed in Helen Woodward Animal Center's annual horse show, "Derby Day," on Saturday, May 2.

The 41 riders with varying degrees of physical and mental challenges showed off their abilities and they performed in three separate skill sets; Equitation, Dressage, and Jumping. Proving that every participant is a winner, HWAC spokesman John Van Zante presented each rider with a blue ribbon.

Therapeutic Riding Manager Alicia Roe says,

"Many of these kids spend their weekends watching their brothers or sisters play baseball or soccer. During this show their siblings watch them be the stars." Roe says the event gives the riders an opportunity to show their families the progress they have made. She points out that HWAC's Therapeutic Riding program was the first NARHA (North American Riding for Handicapped Association) Accredited program in San Diego County.

While the show is a very happy event, there are always a few tears shed as proud parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, and friends gather to support the riders.

Our special thanks to the Swinerton Foundation and to Norma Goodnight for sponsoring this year's Therapeutic Riding show. And thanks to our gracious hostess, Jacqui Grande, owner of Oakridge Farm, for hosting the event, providing a home for the Therapeutic Riding program, and for a special Kentucky Derby fundraising party following the show. 🐾

Special thanks to these top sponsors of our Therapeutic Riding program:

- Harriet E. Pflieger Foundation
- Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation
- The Dickinson Foundation
- The Toby Wells Foundation
- Michael and Shannon Dempsey
(In memory of our good friend Michael, a true animal lover)

