CTTC Valley Chapter held its annual educational and fundraising show on May 18, 2019. With many thanks to our first responders for all their dangerous and grueling work during the Woolsey Fire last November, the Chapter extended free admission to the show. Our two primary desert tortoise foster locations are located in areas which were under mandatory evacuation orders. The adoption team leader evacuated a total of 33 tortoises to a house in the Valley, where they had to remain for almost 3 days until the evacuation order was lifted. Fortunately, they were able to return to undamaged properties; those that could, resumed brumation (reptile hibernation), and the medical patients remained up and active. In addition to fulfilling the educational mission of CTTC, the show also benefits the “sick and injured” fund that helps those turtles and tortoises with serious medical issues, or may need long term rehabilitation. A recent surge in vet costs inspired one of our members to create a campaign to get our fundraising underway. You can see her remarkable efforts at: https://www.gofundme.com/sick-amp-injured-tortoise-fund as well as at: https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1627845

This is an ongoing effort, as we currently have several desert tortoises that were left at shelters and require major surgery or other procedures.

Show attendance was very good, many tickets were purchased for another phenomenal raffle, and the Tortuga Gift Shop offered items ranging from jewelry to books, handmade crafts, figurines, and ever-popular succulents and other plants. New members joined the chapter, and interested parties submitted adoption applications.

Dr. Kenneth Coscarelli, Newbury Park Veterinary Clinic, who also treats many of our sick or injured tortoises, staffed the “Ask the Vet” booth, sharing his many years of experience and expertise to answer questions on health and veterinary care. https://newburyparkvet.com/

But you can’t have a “turtle and tortoise show” without the stars. “Bubba”, an adult male Sulcata and Valley’s “official greeter”, roamed the live exhibit area with his chaperones, showing everyone that the world’s third largest tortoise can be a wonderful and friendly pet. Our members exhibited not only desert tortoises, but Texas tortoises, Russians, Leopards, Greeks, Red Foots, Wood Turtle, Red-Eared Sliders, and more exotic tortoises, such as Radiated and Star tortoises. As always, the hatchling and juvenile desert tortoise exhibit was a popular stop for our guests.

Visitors were very surprised to see representatives of the two largest tortoises in the world. “GG”, a young Galápagos tortoise, and “Pandora”, an Aldabra tortoise, both large, but not fully grown, came with members of the Santa Clarita Chapter, along with a young desert tortoise “Punkin”, a juvenile Galápagos tortoise named “Geronimo”, and a Mud Turtle, which lives around water, but does not swim well. www.tortoise.org/santaclarita

In addition to CTTC members, the following organizations joined us for the fun, and not only helped make the show a success, but were able to “get the word out” about other animals that need the support of the public.
- American Tortoise Rescue – Susan Tellem and Marshall Thompson, our wonderful longtime friends and creators of “World Turtle Day”, celebrated in May each year, lost everything in the Woolsey fire. Currently staying in a rented house, and working to get their home rebuilt, they have also been raising money to rebuild their turtle and tortoise sanctuary and to continue their mission of education about the plight of turtles and tortoises worldwide. [www.tortoise.com](http://www.tortoise.com)

- Friends of California Condors Wild and Free, affiliated with US Fish & Wildlife, teaches people about the preservation of these magnificent birds, and assists in efforts to increase their numbers in the wild. [www.friendsofcondors.org](http://www.friendsofcondors.org)

- Southwestern Herpetologists Society is an organization dedicated to education regarding reptiles and amphibians, their preservation and rescue, and brought an assortment of snakes, lizards, and amphibians for all to see. [http://www.swhs.org/](http://www.swhs.org/)

- Ghost Cat Publications raises awareness of coexistence with wildlife, and raises money through the sale of books about the local mountain lions, which, along with other animals, will benefit from the proposed wild animal crossing over the 101 freeway in the Calabasas/Agoura area. [https://www.facebook.com/GhostCatPublications/](https://www.facebook.com/GhostCatPublications/)

- Vickie Anderholdt, a local bunny rescuer, brought a number of rabbits available for adoption, including an unusual Angora rabbit, and emphasized the need for more “forever homes” for bunnies. [www.adoptabunnyrabbit.org](http://www.adoptabunnyrabbit.org)

A big thank you to these wonderful organizations, and we hope they will join us again next year.

Putting together our annual show requires a lot of planning. Both veteran and newer members took part in the before, during, and after, working very hard together to make the show and our “Thank You” to first responders a big success. Many thanks to all of them!!

See pages 10-11 for more photos of the staff and exhibitors who helped make the 2019 event so successful.
Jodi Inzerella and Howard Suer greeted visitors at the front gate.

Captions by Karen Berry; photos by Cristina Perovich and Karen Berry, Valley Chapter

Brent Haffey, aka “The Yard Check King”, provided adoption information and recruited many prospective adopters.

Local veterinarians, businesses, and chapter members donated great prizes for our raffle.

Barbara Devries from the raffle team, sold tickets for another high-earning raffle.

Kirk Weber taught visitors about exotic tortoises.

Bob Hazard, aka “Bob the Builder”, discussed various kinds of turtle and tortoise housing with visitors.

Sioux Ratkovic’s display of baby desert tortoises is one of the most popular booths at the show.
Handmade items, books, and plants were popular sales items in the Tortuga Gift Shop.

“Geronimo”, a juvenile Galápagos tortoise visiting from Santa Clarita chapter.

Jeannine Porter displayed both Texas tortoises and red-eared sliders.

Elaine Miller, keeper of Gimpy the desert tortoise.

Ruth Dewar and Maggie Elliot displayed a wood turtle and Russian tortoises.

From the left, Maggie Elliot, Cristina Perovich, and Maria Kennedy. “The Russians are Coming!”

“Geronimo”, a juvenile Galápagos tortoise visiting from Santa Clarita chapter.

Members of Santa Clarita Chapter displayed “Punkin”, a juvenile desert tortoise.

Elaine Miller and Gimpy teach an important lesson on kids and proper behavior toward tortoises.