



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2017

### Unusual bird available for adoption at Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

**BURLINGAME, CA.** – On March 7, 2017 the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) received a call about an unusual looking bird standing alone on the side of a hiking trail on Skyline Boulevard in San Mateo. Lethargic and emaciated, the bird made no attempt to flee the area and was very easy to handle.

A PHS/SPCA Animal Rescue and Control officer retrieved the bird and took him back to PHS/SPCA for treatment. Turns out the unusual bird was a chukar, an elusive and often prized game bird not found in the San Francisco Bay Area.

When the chukar arrived at PHS/SPCA he was severely underweight and dehydrated. PHS/SPCA staff put him on a treatment plan which included a monitored diet, fluid therapy, antibiotics to clear up any possible infection and a thorough health checkup.

PHS/SPCA staff quickly realized the bird was highly accustomed to humans and would likely make a good pet once his recovery was complete. Given the moniker Springer by PHS/SPCA staff, he responded to the care and treatment, was deemed healthy and is now up for adoption for a fee of \$10.00.

Because of Springer's friendliness towards humans, it is very possible he was bred as a pet and was dependent on humans for food. This means Springer would not be able to fend for himself in the wild, the reason why PHS/SPCA determined he would be a good candidate for adoption as someone's pet.

Springer's life before he came to PHS/SPCA is indeed a mystery and it's a miracle he even survived in the wild since chukars really only take flight for short distances and would have been easy prey for many Bay Area predators.

Chukars are in the partridge family and normally live in semi-arid high elevation areas. A popular game bird to hunt, chukars are found throughout the western states and in northern California. They are also bred for pets. Chukars are not native to the Bay Area and rarely found in the Bay Area making Springer's appearance on a trail in San Mateo very surprising. Chukars are actually native to Asia, Israel, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and India. They are the national bird of Iraq and Pakistan.

Chukars may not be a cuddly dog or cat, but they can make good pets for the right person. Springer's demeanor is more like a chicken and slightly aloof. He will come right over to investigate a person's hand for food, but doesn't want to be handled.

Chukars can be compatible with other small or gentle birds like quails or bantam chickens but Springer will need to be closely monitored with other birds to see if the flock accepts him. An ideal adopter would already have a flock of pet chukars, or birds of similar size to Springer such as pheasants, quails or bantam chickens.

Chukars typically eat seeds, greens and insects and need plenty of fresh and clean water. Springer seems to really enjoy freeze-dried mealworms and doesn't want anything to do with live mealworms and commercial gamebird pellets.

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Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

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It will be important to provide Springer with fresh water every day. Chukars usually drink water several times a day. As for a chukar house, it's best to provide about four square feet per bird and they will need shelter from poor weather, sun and protection from predators.

For more information about adopting Springer, call 650-340-7022.

#### **About Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA**

Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is a private, open-door, not-for-profit animal welfare organization. Primary programs include animal adoptions; animal rescue and sheltering, including specialty care for domestic animals with medical and/or behavioral challenges; wildlife rehabilitation; animal cruelty investigation; community outreach and education; low-cost spay/neuter; and obedience classes. This vital work is made possible by volunteers and donations. PHS/SPCA receives no funding from national animal welfare organizations. Visit [www.phs-sPCA.org](http://www.phs-sPCA.org) to learn about all PHS/SPCA's programs and services, ways to help the animals and special events.

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