



Mission Statement

Our vision is for all adoptable animals at the Jackson Country Animal Shelter to find a loving home.

Our mission is to recruit and train volunteers who will save lives by increasing pet adoptions at the Jackson Country Animal Shelter, improve the quality of life for the Shelter's animals, promote spay and neuter, and facilitate outreach and educational activities about the humane treatment of companion animals throughout Jackson County.

Our values are: Service, Compassion and Generosity

www.fotas.org

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Top: Pit Crew members receive a gift of appreciation. Middle right: Eliza Kauder, FOTAS treasurer, presents the gift on behalf of the Board. Middle left: Jim Ormand, FOTAS executive director, recognizes Brandy Carson for her 25 years as a FOTAS volunteer. **Bottom:** FOTAS volunteers enjoying our annual Volunteer Appreciation Social.

The annual FOTAS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held in February at the

Community Center in Talent.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Peggy Moore FOTAS is very busy! With the guidance from our executive director, Jim Ormand, the Board developed strategic initiatives to enable growth, created a new and improved vision for FOTAS and further refined its mission and values. In 2014, the Board added three new members: Sherrie Bolin, Christine Fernlund, and JW Lyon. With their participation and talents, the Board continues to advance its skills to support and create programs and projects to support the Shelter.

We are inviting more members of the community who support what we do into leadership roles within FOTAS, and taking advantage of our pool of amazing volunteers to help us grow.

We are inviting more members of the community who support what we do into leadership roles within FOTAS, and taking advantage of our pool of amazing volunteers to help us grow. One of the important elements of growth within FOTAS was to create a committee structure, including the addition of two standing committees: Development (fundraising) and Program Services. These committees include one or two Board members, volunteers and some members of the community at large.

One of our new efforts to reduce unwanted litters is **Project Street Dog/Cat,** which provides free spay/ neuter for animals of the homeless (see the article on page 6). Many of these animals, and their offspring, are prime candidates for admission to the Shelter. FOTAS

believes in supporting preventive programs which will reduce the number of animals entering the Shelter.

To expand our fundraising efforts, FOTAS has invested funds with the Oregon Community Foundation, to encourage people locally and outside Jackson County to donate to us through a permanent endowment.

Of course, we will continue our two highly successful fundraising events, which are the **Paws to Celebrate** Dinner and Auction (Friday, June 19th) and the 24th Puss 'n Boots Costume Ball & Auction (Saturday, October 24th). We will also hold additional, smaller fundraisers in 2015. The Development Committee is brainstorming other events that will be both fun and profitable. If you have any ideas, please let us know!

2014 was a banner year for FOTAS, both financially and in the growth our volunteer base. We plan to continue that momentum in 2015. Please join us in donating, volunteering, fostering, and of course, adopting.

WE LOVE **OUR KITTIES!**

By MARILYN EDWARDS FOTAS volunteers who care for, and about, the animals at the Shelter, count it among their greatest joys when an animal they have grown to love is adopted by a person or family that thinks they just won the lottery. Adopting an animal into a good home is a wonderful and heartwarming experience. Hearing back from their "new people" about how well their new family member has adjusted, and how in love they are, is icing on the cake.

Having volunteered in the cat rooms for almost nine years, I have seen literally hundreds of kitties adopted into new homes. Like so many other cat room volunteers, I receive stories from adopters, often including photos and videos, who express gratitude that these furry friends have joined their families.

In some cases, the updates make us giggle. For instance, we laughed when we saw a video of an adopted kitten, Domino, and his new big kitty sister (previouslysophisticated, Caddy), running in and out of boxes, chasing each other up and down cat trees, and being the perfect companions for each other that their parents had hoped they would be.

Other adoption stories are poignant and bring happy tears. There's the story of an

Continued on next page...

Friends of the Animal Shelter

Board of Directors Peggy Moore, President Christine Fernlund Vice President

Eliza Kauder Treasurer Leslie Huntington, Secretary Rabbitt Babbitt Sherrie Bolin Jeane Lind JW Lyon

Jim Ormand, Executive Director Susan Meyerott Diane Novak Alex Spindler

Contact FOTAS

PO Box 92 Ashland, OR 97520 541-944-2021 fotasjc@gmail.com www.fotas.org facebook.com/fotas facebook.com/fotaspitcrew

The Scoop Newsletter

Issue 2-15

Friends of the Animal Shelter's newsletter is published three times a year

Editor

Leslie Huntinaton

Graphic Design

LiveWire Design: Pete Livers and Karen Finnegan

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FOTAS Photographers

Brooke Bell-Turner Nancy Uravich-Freeland Richard Jacqout

Advertising

Jim Ormand, fotased@charter.net Business-card size ads are \$40.

Submit Materials

Submit newsletter articles and ads for the Summer, 2015, newsletter edition by April 20, 2015 to Jim Ormand. fotased@charter.net PO Box 92 Ashland OR 97520.

Jackson Co. Animal Shelter

Shelter Manager Barbara Talbert

5595 South Pacific Highway Phoenix OR 97535 (between Talent and Phoenix) 541-774-6654

Visiting and Adoption Hours Monday-Friday 11:00 am-4:00 pm Saturday and Sunday Noon-4:00 pm



2014: A RECORD YEAR FOR ADOPTIONS AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

By Barbara Talbert FOTAS volunteers and Shelter staff combined their efforts to place a record number of dogs (622) and cats (682) into new homes during 2014. FOTAS specifically contributed to these efforts with expanded promotional activities, numerous Facebook postings, friendly Adoption Ambassadors, more outreach events, adoptions taking place at PetSmart, Pit Crew efforts, improved spaces for potential adopters to meet the animals, and the daily activity of dog handlers and cat room volunteers who kept the animals healthy and enriched their lives until they left the Shelter.

Also, thanks to FOTAS investments, the Shelter now has a free-roaming cat room named Whiskerville (formerly Cat Room C), where up to 15 cats hang out on shelves, sleep in comfy beds, and interact with each other and public visitors with no kennels in sight. Cats remain healthier in this less stressful environment. In addition, near the dog kennels, FOTAS volunteers created a small enclosed area off the public parking lot where potential adopters can meet dogs.

During the summer, Animal Control staff moved to the Sheriff's office to be more centrally located in the county. This has provided our officers better access to the northern part of the County, which has improved response times to people asking for help with dogs running at large, dangerous dogs, and deceased animal pick-ups. Our officers are also more frequently assisting Sheriff's deputies with animal-related cases and they now have better access to the technology to communicate with each other in the field, which keeps them safer in areas with poor cell phone reception. The added benefit to this move was the opening of much needed space at the Shelter to provide a comfortable meet/ greet room near the Shelter's lobby. This room allows potential adopters to spend quiet time with cats. It was furnished by FOTAS staff and volunteers.

And thanks to efforts by local veterinarian offices, the Shelter has sold 3,000 more licenses than 2013, bringing in more funds to help our animals get adopted.

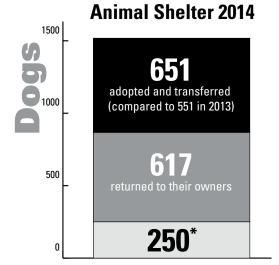
Kitties Continued from previous page...

adopted kitty that has become a "therapy cat," best friend and constant companion to a beautiful young woman who struggles with depression and anxiety. The pictures of these two snuggled together is heartwarming, but even more so when we learned that the young woman no longer has any need for her anti-depression meds.

We especially love to hear about shy or black or special needs kitties that, for weeks or months, went unnoticed at the Shelter. Hearing how happy and healthy they are in their new homes makes our hearts sing.

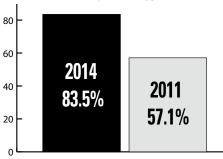
In some cases, the kitties end up playing a role no one would have expected. Take handsome Mickey, who patiently and lovingly sits by his bedridden dad's side, helping him navigate the rocky terrain of Alzheimer's and heart disease. Or Tally, who has filled a special place in the hearts of two people who were grieving the loss of another kitty, and is living a life most cats only dream of. And then there's Angel, now Lovey,

Continued on page 6

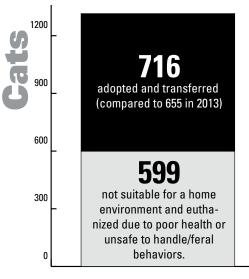


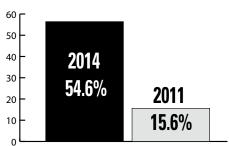
*Not adoptable due to poor health, injuries or aggression.

Jackson County



Live Release Rate for Dogs





Live Release Rate for Cats

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

By Jim Ormand Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for helping make 2014 a banner year ... for adoptions, financial contributions, and volunteering!

I am so pleased to share that more than 130 new volunteers joined the ranks at FOTAS in 2014. Now we have more cat cuddlers, dog walkers, adoption ambassadors, parade marchers, envelope stuffers, pet taxi



Jim Ormand, FOTAS executive director, and his dog Apollo, who was adopted from the Jackson County Animal Shelter.

transporters, enrichment supporters, R&R guides, Pit Crew handlers, office support, outreach coordinators, special event leaders and helpers, letter writers, and Board and committee members.

And our stellar adoption program continues to grow and diversify. We always need more foster families to provide short term "homes between homes" for kittens, cats, puppies and dogs, and maybe even a rabbit or bird! If you have room in your home and heart, and would like to know more about the foster program, please contact Diane, FOTAS foster coordinator, at di.spedhead@gmail.com.

I also want to thank the FOTAS support staff for helping us keep our ducks, cats and dogs in a row. We are very fortunate to have, and have had, a great team to support our volunteers'

efforts in supporting the Shelter and our furry friends: Susan Meyerott, our Volunteer Services Manager, and a new addition, Alex Spindler, our Support Services Associate, who succeeded Sally Rosenthal (still an active volunteer with FOTAS).

The Friends of the Animal Shelter's vision is for all adoptable animals at the Jackson County Animal Shelter to find a loving home. Please stop by today to Find Love at the Shelter, or contact me at fotased@charter.net, to find out how you can become a sponsor and supporter.

We are so appreciative and proud of our wonderful volunteers! And, of course, there's always room for more! For more information about volunteering opportunities, please contact Susan at (541) 944-2021 or fotasjc@gmail.com.

Volunteer Stats 2014

- Monthly Average Number of Active Volunteers = 200
- In-Shelter Volunteer Hours = 15,200 hours
- Total Volunteer Hours (excluding Fostering) = 24,300 hours
- Total Enrolled Foster Families = 70
- Animals Fostered = 327
- Total Foster Hours = 22,600 hours
- Total All Volunteer Hours = 46,900 hours WOW!

EAGLE ROCK ELEMENTARY ROCKS!

Throughout November, Cathy Ullrich's second grade class at Eagle Rock Elementary School in Eagle Point spearheaded a school-wide fundraising drive to support Friends of the Animal Shelter and Jackson County Animal Services.

On December 12, Chandler Venables, a FOTAS volunteer, attended an Eagle Rock Assembly to thank everyone and to receive the donated supplies. What Chandler found was a very pleasant surprise.

The students and staff had donated so many items that she was not sure if it would fit in her car. With a little effort (and stuffing), the food, bedding, towels, blankets, toys, and grooming equipment squeezed in. Once unloaded, it almost filled the new kitty Meet 'n Greet room!

We greatly appreciate Cathy's class and the student body and their families at Eagle Rock Elementary School for their generous donations. The cats and dogs are enjoying it all.

If your class would like to help the animals at the Shelter, please let us know ... we'd love to help you get organized! *



FOTAS 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS IT WAS A GREAT YEAR!

- We raised \$50,796 from our inaugural Paws to Celebrate fundraiser with a net of \$41,135.
- We raised \$42,670 at our 23rd Puss 'n Boots Ball; and netted \$35,173.
- FOTAS donated \$8,000, plus the proceeds from the bar at Puss 'n Boots, to SNYP for their three Spay/Neuter campaigns. In 2015, we are increasing our support to \$11,000 plus the income from the bar at the 2015 Puss 'n Boots Ball.
- As part of our restructuring to help FOTAS grow and provide more support to the Shelter, the Board established standing committees that advise the Board on programs, development (fundraising), and plotting new directions. Committee members include interested and supportive members of our community.
- FOTAS and the Shelter are partnering with local veterinarians and SNYP to hold two "Fix-a-thons" to spay and neuter feral cats and return them to their colonies. These efforts decrease the number of unwanted litters and the number of kittens brought to the Shelter during "kitten season."
- Foster families cared for 100 dogs/pups and 225 cats/kits.
- The FOTAS Publicity team "borrowed" an idea from a Best Friends Animal Society conference to develop a new look for advertising our hard-to-adopt dogs called "I Am an Individual." Striking and colorful posters provide more information about the animals, focusing on their individual characteristics.
- FOTAS and the Shelter increased partnerships with other animal welfare organizations, including SoHumane, Oregon Humane Society, Sanctuary One and smaller breed-specific rescues, increasing the number of animals that were saved.



ANNUAL MEETING

You are cordially invited to the annual meeting for Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS).

Thursday, March 19 6:00 PM

Location

Jackson County Fire District #5 Conference Room 5582 S Pacific Hwy

Phoenix (just south of the Shelter) Public comment is invited.

Monthly Donors Save Lives! credit card or bank bill-pay



More than 250 animals a month journey through the Jackson County Animal Shelter and are lovingly cared for by FOTAS volunteers & Shelter staff.

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PROJECT STREET DOGS/CATS

The project offers

free spay/neuter

services to pets of

the homeless, which

includes scheduling

appointments,

transportation to

the vet, pick-up after

surgery...

By Jim Ormand All of us have seen homeless people on the streets with their deeply loved dogs (and occasionally, cats). In nearly every case, the animal is not spayed or neutered, and will probably produce many litters. This adds to the number of animals coming into the Shelter for adoption.

Two FOTAS volunteers saw the need to offer free spay and neuter for pets of the homeless, and did something about it! Nancy and JW Lyon began this project in August 2013 by directing their personal

resources and energies to help the pets of the homeless. This was a direct result of seeing unaltered dogs (and a few cats) of the homeless at the First United Methodist Church in Ashland during the Uncle Foods community meal. In mid-2013, Nancy and JW approached the FOTAS Board to ask if we wanted to embrace this wonderful program, and we did!

Project Street Dogs/Cats is now a coordinated effort of Friends of the Animal Shelter, Spay and Neuter Your Pet (SNYP), Nature's Pet in Ashland and Medford, Animal Medical Hospital in Ashland and local volunteers. The project offers free spay/neuter services to pets of the homeless, which includes scheduling appointments, transportation to the vet, pick-up after surgery and providing pet food packets for the animal's recovery. The

project also provides collars and leashes to help keep the animals safe and under the control of their owners. You can help by donating food, collars and leashes — bring them to the Shelter and let the front desk know your contribution is for **Project Street Dogs/Cats**. We also need more people to work with the homeless to encourage them to take advantage of this offer, as well as more people to transport the animals. If you'd like to participate, please contact Susan Meyerott, Volunteer Services Manager at (541) 944-2021 or fotasjc@gmail.com.

Kitties

Continued from page 3

who barely came out of hiding at the Shelter. She now lives with a family where she has become both the best friend to the young boy, and also a close companion to another kitty in the family that has serious health issues.

The stories, far too many to relate here, keep coming, and with each one, FOTAS volunteers are reminded of why they are involved in this work. There are so many sad animal stories on the news—worldwide, and in our own community. But hearing back from people who have adopted formerly homeless cats and dogs, thereby making an extraordinary difference in the animals' lives as well as in their own, gives us hope, and keeps us keeping on. I think you'd call this win-win-win.

We invite you to consider volunteering at the Shelter – we'd love to share the joy with you! *



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A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND ADOPTIONS

Finding homes for our wonderful animals takes more than the work of our amazing volunteer adoption ambassadors and Shelter staff. We need to attract potential adopters in the first place, and an essential element of this is to show off the Shelter's great critters and making them *shine* online. FOTAS is blessed with three very passionate and talented volunteer photographers who bring out the best of the Shelter animals in pictures.

Brooke Bell-Turner, Nancy Freeland and Richard Jacquot spend many hours at the Shelter each week capturing the individuality and beauty of each dog and cat, and even an occasional rabbit, bird and ferret.



Brooke Bell-Turner is a professional photographer who volunteers with FOTAS. Her professional work specializes in families, pets, portraits and events, both in color and black and white.

Brooke tells us, "I spend time at the Shelter because it's a great place to find unconditional love and acceptance in all forms! FOTAS is a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers and it is always a gift to interact with the animals. When I meet an animal in adoption. I feel a one-on-one connection, can see that they are special, and I know that there is a companion out there for every animal. Whether they're deemed a "bully breed," older, or "challenged" in some way, I try to capture their uniqueness and personalities in a photo. Sometimes it's difficult, especially for the animals who have been with us for far too long ... but then they get adopted, and it gives me the motivation to keep going!"

See more of her amazing pictures at www.ButterB.com.





Nancy Freeland is a photography "hobbyist" and loves to take pictures of flower, birds, critters, people, and landscapes. Nancy also works in the reception area as a Shelter staff member.

Nancy shares, "I take photos of the Shelter animals because it is one way of helping them to get adopted. If one of my photos speaks to somebody and gets them to come down to the Shelter and maybe adopt an animal or two, then I am happy! Without publicity for the animals, not as many people would see their faces. We are getting their images out there to be seen by potential adopters. Since I can operate a camera, and people seem to like my photos, I guess this is my way of helping."





Richard Jacquot finds photographing our wonderful critters "a technical challenge, because each of them have personality and history. This is my way of helping the animals in our care." He adds, "I discovered that I love taking pictures of people in the street or participating in events like the Puss 'n Boots." Richard was our photographer at the Paws to Celebrate inaugural event in 2014, taking pictures of guests and Picasso, the Lyons' dog staring in OSF's "Two Gentleman of Verona."



"I think having an animal in your life makes you a better human."

— Rachel Ray

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SPECIAL TRIBUTES

Anonymous, to help adopt kitties

Anonymous, in memory of Janet Yamada

Sandra Claypool, Brian Conrad and Alison Claypool-Conrad, in memory of Athena, our 11-year-old Dane/Ridgeback mix

Marla and Stephen Cook, with greetings to Lorna Bolton

Barbara and Paul Dallas, in honor of Paul Dallas

Kimberly Koester, in honor of Sassy

Sherri Morgan, in memory of Maggie

Karen Scott, proceeds from the sale of her book, "Sweet Pea"

Susan Scully, in memory of Huckleberry

Celeste Stevens, in memory of Opie, the love of my life

Sue and Pete Thompson, in memory of our wonderful dog, Sami

Carol Walker, in memory of Emma

Diane and Rich Werich, to purchase Weiss Walkers

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OUR THANKS TO BE WELL MASSAGE

In October, Lanelle Piotrowski, owner of Be Well Massage in Medford, contacted Friends of the Animal Shelter and offered to make us the recipient of their annual community fundraiser.

Each year Lanelle encourages the customers and staff of Be Well Massage to support a local designated charity. So throughout the month of November,

Lanelle and staff invited their customers to donate collars, leashes, and/or money, to Friends of the Animal Shelter and Jackson County Animal Services.

In mid-December, Lanelle brought a large bag of collars and leashes to the Shelter and a \$450 check!

Thank you, Lanelle!



Be Well Massage provides therapeutic, deep tissue, injury rehabilitation, cranial-sacral, Swedish, prenatal, myofascial release, and stress relieving/relaxation massage. They are located at 1100 E Main Street, Medford and can be reached at (541) 776-4708 or www.bewellmassage.org.

If your business would like to help raise funds for Friends of the Animal Shelter, please contact us! It could be a coin box all year round, or a specific fundraiser. We'd love to add you to our list of Community Partners. Contact Jim Ormand, FOTAS Executive Director, at fotased@charter.net.

THE BAYER BOX

By Jim Ormand Several times a year a special box of soft surprises addressed to the kitties will arrive at the Shelter from Rochester, New York. The kitties pounce at the opportunity to play with the brightly-colored fabric toys! And what lucky kitties they are, since the Shelter is one of only 20 animal shelters in the Country to

receive them through the Labor of Love project.

Lorraine and Leonard Bayer, residents of Rochester, are the masterminds of the venture, which fashions and ships more than 19,000 of these toys (complete with catnip). Lorraine and Leonard do all of



You may wonder, "How in the world did the Bayers, living on the east coast, learn about our Shelter?" You can thank some wonderful people from Southern Oregon who adopted from our Shelter.

In 2012, the Bayers were on a Scandinavian cruise when they met these adopters. During their conversation, the Bayers got to talking about their pets and their "cat toy" business. Interestingly, the chat shifted to Friends of the Animal Shelter and Jackson County Animal Services and how happy the adopters were with a recent adoption from the Shelter. The rest is history, and we are lucky and happy to be a part of the Bayers' network of generosity!

Thank you, Lorraine and Leonard, for the purrfect gift!

MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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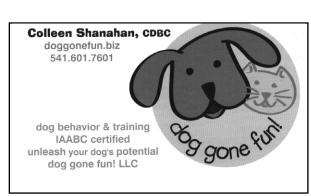
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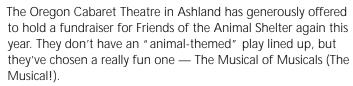




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FOTAS Fundraiser at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre!



SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 8 PM

Tickets are \$45 each. This is \$10 more than usual, and the Theatre is matching that donation, so that FOTAS will get \$20 per ticket! Bring your friends and fill the house — FOTAS will get \$2,200! And you'll have a great evening of entertainment. It's a win-win!

Please call the Box Office at 541-488-2902 and tell them you are supporting FOTAS. Please do not make your reservations online. You can also save the \$5 processing fee by going to the box office in person.

And remember, you can also eat a delicious meal at the Cabaret prior to the show at 6:30 PM.

In this hilarious satire of musical theatre, one story is turned into five mini musicals, each written in the distinctive style of a different master of the form: Rodgers & Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Jerry Herman, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Kander & Ebb.

Meet June. She can't pay her rent and must face her evil landlord. Can her handsome leading man save her? How would Rodgers and Hammerstein envision the story? Perhaps in Kansas in August, with a Dream Ballet! Would Stephen Sondheim present the landlord as a tortured, artistic genius who slashes tenants' throats in revenge because they don't appreciate Art? Jerry Herman's version may be a splashy star vehicle, Andrew Lloyd Webber's a rock musical and Kander and Ebb's, set in a seedy Cabaret in Chicago. It's hard to imagine a musical tribute as complete—or as funny as—The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!).

