

Friends of the Animal Shelter

the



# Scoop

Fall • 2013

Save the Date!

PUSS 'n BOOTS  
COSTUME BALL  
AND AUCTION  
Saturday, October 26  
Historic Ashland  
Armory



Photos by Brooke Turner



**fotas**  
friends of the animal shelter

### Mission Statement

Friends of the Animal Shelter is a nonprofit organization that supports the programs of the Jackson County Animal Shelter. Our mission is to increase pet adoption, to improve the quality of life for the Shelter's animals, to promote spay/neuter and participate in outreach and educational activities regarding responsible pet guardianship and animal welfare.



PUSS 'N BOOTS



## Join us!

Get your costumes ready, prepare for a great time, and, most of all, support the Jackson County Animal Shelter. More on page 3.

9 LIVES CAMPAIGN SAVES MANY CAT AND KITTEN LIVES

**By MARILYN EDWARDS** In July, the Jackson County Animal Shelter was home to an overflowing population of adult cats, many of whom had been there for two or three months. These were wonderful, friendly, affectionate kitties who, through no fault of their own, had either ended up lost, abandoned and on the streets, or surrendered by their owners. Space was tight in the cat rooms since many other spaces were occupied by an equally overflowing number of kittens.

Summer months bring in "kitten season," a time when the Shelter and other animal rescue organizations experience overwhelming numbers of kittens born in the Rogue Valley. Having so many adoptable adult cats at the Shelter in the middle of kitten season posed a number of problems. Many of the older cats were often overlooked due to the "kitten-cuteness" factor and were also becoming depressed because they'd been there so long. Staff and volunteers, dedicated as always to saving lives and finding loving homes for these fabulous cats, were running out of room to house them.

Enter Rabbitt (Jane) Babbitt, a cat room volunteer and FOTAS Board member who read about an adult



Photo by Brooke Turner

**Long-timer Tompson convinced his potential owner he was the one by lying on her purse. His effort paid off. He now lives a rich life with an older cat and dog in the household.**

cat adoption promotion called 9 LIVES that was successfully implemented by Best Friends Animal Shelter in Utah. Rabbitt suggested to the Board that we do something similar at our own Shelter and it was decided that all cats 9 months or older could be adopted for only \$9 beginning July 9 and continuing for 9 days. Advertising the 9 LIVES promotion began on the 4th of July when colorful flyers created by Ed and Sheryl Fierro showing pictures of several older Shelter kitties announcing they'd like to celebrate their independence too, were distributed around the community. And then the fun began.

On July 9, seven adult cats were adopted as well as seven kittens. TOMPSON, a handsome tabby who had been at the Shelter for

almost four months, was one of the first to find a new home. When his soon-to-be-mom, Joycelyn, entered Kitty Korner, six year-old Tompson walked right over to her and lay down by her feet on top of her purse. Joycelyn, who had recently lost a beloved older kitty, wasn't sure she was ready to bring another cat into her home. Tompson assured her that she was, and he was right! Now part of a family which includes another older kitty and an Australian Shepherd, Tompson is his mom's shadow. He sleeps with her and follows her around the house letting her know he's there for her, helping daily to ease the ache in her heart from losing her kitty Nimbu.

During the 9 LIVES event, FOTAS volunteers and staff heard many such touching stories.

On day two, longtime kitty residents CHINO and BARBIE were adopted to Marianne, a woman who has been involved in cat rescue work for many years. Both of these cats were in need of "personal space," and their new mom had the patience and know-how to let them adjust in their own way to their new environment. Marianne returned the following week and adopted FLANNIGAN, a favorite Tuxedo who had been at the Shelter for over three months and was beginning to languish. Now all three kitties are living in a big house in the country where

*Continued on Page 6*

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**Submit Materials**

Submit newsletter articles and ads for the Winter/Spring 2014 newsletter edition by January 10, 2014 to Leslie Huntington, The Scoop editor, via email at brunonamus@aol.com or PO Box 92, Ashland, OR 97520.

**Jackson Co. Animal Shelter**

**Shelter Manager**  
Barbara Talbert

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(located between Talent and Phoenix)  
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CONTINUING 22 YEARS OF FROLICKING AND FUN

**Please join the fun while supporting FOTAS' biggest fundraiser of the year—The Puss 'n Boots Ball.**

The 22nd Annual Puss 'n Boots Costume Ball and Auction will take place on Saturday, October 26, from 6:00 pm to 10:30 pm at the Historic Ashland Armory on the corner of Oak and B Streets in Ashland. Tickets are \$40 per person.

The evening includes a delicious buffet dinner catered by Quality Catering from Café Dejeuner, exciting silent and live auctions, a "Fund a Need" auction, a costume contest with multiple prize categories and dancing to music by The Lincoln Project, a group of five local artists who offer a bit of everything with a mix that inspires you to dance. A no-host beer and wine bar will be provided by SNYP (Spay/Neuter Your Pet) with all profits going to support spay/neuter programs in the Rogue Valley.

This year we have added a WINE RAFFLE and the winning 5 tickets will be drawn at 8 pm at the Ball. Tickets for the Wine Raffle go on sale September 1.

Your LAST CHANCE to purchase a \$10 ticket will be at the Ball before 8 pm to win one of 5 cases of wines valued from \$240 to \$600. All proceeds go to the Friends of the Animal Shelter.

Your support of this major fundraiser is critical since your generosity makes it possible for FOTAS to continue the mission of increasing pet adoption, improving the quality of life for the Jackson County Shelter's animals, promoting spay/neuter and educating our community about the humane treatment

of companion animals. Please plan to attend and invite all your friends to this very festive Halloween tradition.

We sell out every year so get your tickets early and join us at one of the most popular events in the Rogue Valley!

LIVE AUCTION items always bring on some entertaining, high-energy, bidding wars. Here's a peek at some of the Live Auction items:

- Vacation Getaway to the Pistol River in Arcadia
- Scenic River Rafting Day Trip and Lunch for 5
- Hand-quilted animal motif quilt—one of a kind

***Ticket orders may be mailed in with the form below. Buy your tickets on-line today at [www.fotas.org](http://www.fotas.org). Tickets may also be purchased at Paddington Station in Ashland starting September 26.***



Photos by Brooke Turner

**PUSS 'N BOOTS TICKET ORDER FORM**

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<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me _____ tickets to the Ball. (\$40 each)		\$	\$
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<b>Please mail this form and your check (made out to FOTAS) to:</b> FOTAS Puss 'n Boots Ball, PO Box 92, Ashland, OR 97520		TOTAL	\$



# First Ever Friends of the Animal Shelter Wine Raffle

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- "Mutts" ..... Case of Blends and Assorted Wine • \$20/bottle ..... \$240+ value

## Purchase Tickets for \$10 each at:

The Music Coop • 268 East Main St, Ashland

Ashland Wine Cellar • 38 Lithia Way, Ashland

On line at [www.fotas.org](http://www.fotas.org) or from a FOTAS Volunteer



Drawing will be October 26 at 8:00 PM at the Puss 'n Boots Costume Ball & Auction

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## HOT DAYS OF SUMMER

**By PEGGY MOORE** FOTAS has events throughout the year but summer finds our volunteers involved in many activities to raise money for our Shelter animals. We kicked off the summer on May 31 with the dedication of the Tile Project created by Debi Blair's third grade class from Ashland. These talented young artists created tiles about animals that could be hung in the Shelter's Dog Kennels as people entered. It provided a bright welcome with the colorful tiles and a fantastic picture of each child holding her/his tile. FOTAS volunteers Ed Fierro and Art Lipski created a beautiful background and mounted the tiles. The students came to the Shelter to receive a tour, our thanks and a small gift for their generosity to the Shelter. Kids and animals are the best combination!

FOTAS held its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Dog Wash in Ashland and dirty dogs went home clean, refreshed and with nicely clipped nails. We had two washes at Pet Country in Medford—one in July and one in September. Volunteers washed dogs at all of the events. Didi and Andrew Tomlinson once again donated their time and talent to clip nails at all three washes. They donated the entire amount to FOTAS. Land of Paws, the Tomlinson's grooming business in Ashland, continues to be a major partner with FOTAS and the Shelter.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July fulfilled its promise of being an extremely HOT day! Despite that, thanks to Board Member Rabbitt Babbitt and volunteer Linda Stickle for leading the FOTAS parade entry, complete with Catmobile, banner, and adoptable dogs, marched down Main Street to applause and whistles. FOTAS volunteers tossed "goodies" into the crowd and several "lucky dogs" (former Shelter residents) marched with those still waiting for homes in the festivities. Board Member and volunteer Marnie Norvell once again took the lead at our 4<sup>th</sup> of July booth and much information was handed out to the public. Thanks to the volunteers who staffed the booth!

This year FOTAS was invited to have a booth at the Southern Oregon Inter Car Club (SOICC) Swap Meet, held in White City every year. FOTAS and another organization were selected to receive the profits from the Swap Meet. We were delighted when the SOICC folks presented us with a check for \$1,500 from the event. We had the pleasure of providing a short tour of the Shelter and an opportunity for these generous folks to see where their money was going. This is yet another wonderful example of partnering with other community groups.

The numerous outreach events throughout the community on a regular basis, presentations at service clubs, and the nuts-and-bolts work at the Shelter with several programs such as the Pit Crew, Train to Adopt, Good Manners Training, dog and cat fosters and cuddlers, and the work of the Adoption Ambassadors continue to help our animals find permanent homes. Thanks to the countless volunteers for making all these events happen.

But there is more to come—the Puss 'n Boots Ball on October 26<sup>th</sup>, and the annual Customer Appreciation Day and Fashion Show at Pet Country on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars and join us! 🐾



Photo by Brooke Turner

**Third-grade students from Walker Elementary School created colorful tiles of dogs to display in the kennels.**



Photo by Leslie Huntington

**The suds and water flowed at the Ashland Dog Wash in August where over 120 dogs received "spaw" treatment.**



Photo by Randi Coleman

**FOTAS president Peggy Moore receives a check from SOICC Janeen Manney, Jason Manney, and President Bruce Sylvia.**

**9 LIVES**

*Continued from Page 2*

they have adjusted to their new life with plenty of room to explore and revel in their newly acquired independence.

Photo by Brooke Turner



**Noche enjoys the good life with his housemate, Bella, a pug and former Shelter alumnus.**

In the cat rooms, the kitties seemed to sense the excitement, and cats who had been overlooked for weeks, sometimes months,

reached through kennel doors to put their paws on the arms of passing humans who of course stopped to see who had "chosen them." On day three, six year-old tortie, PRECIOUS, was so thrilled with her new mom, Catherine, that she jumped into the kitty carrier herself (this NEVER happens) and waited patiently for the adoption paperwork to be completed so that she and her new mom could go home together.

As the 9 LIVES campaign continued, excited phone calls and emails circulated among FOTAS volunteers to share the news of yet another adoption of a favorite kitty, and the community at large could join in on the celebration with the photos and details of each adoption on the FOTAS Facebook page.

When all was said and done, the 9 LIVES campaign culminated in the adoptions of 35 adult cats as well as an additional 25 kittens! Many folks who had never visited the Shelter before returned home with a good feeling about the work at the Jackson County Animal Shelter.

One of the most touching stories from the 9 LIVES event came in a couple of weeks later. It was in the form of an email from Vincent, who on day five adopted beautiful black MONTY, a two year-old kitty who was much adored by volunteers for his affectionate personality, his easygoing nature and the joy he showed every time he came out of his kennel to play. Very few members of the public had even looked at this sweet cat, but



Photo by Brooke Turner

**Precious wasted no time to get ready for her adoption. She jumped into the carrier before the paperwork was finalized!**

Vincent, who had also adopted a dog from the shelter a few months ago, knew that Monty (who he renamed Noche) was the kitty for him. The email included wonderful photos of Noche and pup Bella and a heartwarming description of the life the three of them now share. It closed with these words: " Please thank the Jackson County Animal Shelter for keeping Noche alive and well until he got successfully adopted by someone who loves and cares for him."

Thank you, Vincent, and everyone who helped make the 9 LIVES campaign such a success. It is your dedication to saving shelter animal's lives that makes the work of FOTAS volunteers so rewarding. 🐾

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## BEYOND SHELTER LIFE Post-Adoption Stories

Five month-old **Lucas** had a rough start in life. He arrived at the Shelter in January with a broken leg, and when he was examined by the veterinarian at Best Friends Animal Hospital, his other leg was found with a pin in place from a previous fracture. Lucas spent time in foster care with Liisa and Shanti Shunn to heal from his injury and was adopted by Suzie two months later.

Suzie writes, "He has been part of our family here at The Lazy Q Ranch... and we can't imagine life without him. Within a few days of his arrival, after hours spent every day chasing his big sister Ginny and his big brother Coop, the limping and discomfort in his back legs disappeared. He is now my big, goofy, lumbering boy, who sits on (not at) my feet every chance he gets, and who has completely stolen my heart. So thank you, thank you, thank you for giving my boy another chance!"

**Sally/Annie**, a daschund mix, was adopted in February and renamed Annie. Her owner details Annie's new life: "We are having so much fun and she makes us laugh every day. Although she is somewhat cautious around men, she is doing better and I have taken her to work so she gets more socialized. She is definitely a water baby and loves playing in the sprinkler and chasing a hose around the yard. From the attached photo she obviously gets along with Boo the cat and she leaps on him and they roll around the yard frequently. Thank you for my Annie." —Sharon

**Whiskey** (now named **Lucky**) was adopted in October, 2012. Jen, his new owner, gave an update on his new life. "We took obedience [training] through the winter and learned so much! He goes everywhere with me and I frequently get compliments on how sweet, well behaved and easy going he is. He recently learned to swim, went on his first camping trip and played at the beach! We go for runs together and hikes and he fits my life absolutely perfectly! He has really come out of his shell, from being the depressed little shy dog he was. He makes me laugh daily and my parents always say he looks at me with pure love in his eyes! I am convinced my name should be Lucky, because that's what I am to have him!"

**Sequoia/Mila**, a Siberian Husky, found her new home in January with a couple who had previously owned "four rambunctious Siberians." Sequoia's good manners, stemming from the work of the FOTAS volunteers and the "Train to Adopt" program at the Shelter, surprised and delighted them. Lynn, Sequoia's new owner wrote, "When we came to view Sequoia, we were expecting to find a husky bouncing off the walls. Imagine our surprise to find this demure little husky, who sat quietly for a treat!"

Sequoia is now named Mila, which means "loved by everybody." Her new owner says she lives up to her new name very well. "We are campground hosts and security, and she 'works' right along with us—on leash, of course! She loves every person, dog, cat, jack rabbit, deer, geese, etc. She is truly a joyous ambassador of goodwill—and gets a hug from everyone! Please pass along our heartfelt thanks to everyone at your wonderful Shelter—for helping save this very special little girl. She is definitely a 'forever pet' and the love of our lives!"



Photo by Shanti Shunn

**Lucas**



Photo by Sharon Neuschwander

**Sally (now named Annie)**



Photo by June Symens

**Whiskey (now named Lucky)**



Photo by Lynn Bevan

**Sequoia (now named Mila)**

**CHARLIE — FROM  
UNDERNOURISHED  
TO FULL WITH LOVE**

**By Tracy Gault with Jess Dunn**

The first time I saw Charlie, he was sitting in the office of Shelter Manager Barbara Talbert. His head looked huge in comparison to his very skinny and underweight body. He looked at me with calm and sweet eyes, and I had to go into her office to pet him. He ap-



Photo by Nick and Erin Ellis

**Charlie enjoys many outings with his owners. In this photo, Charlie takes a break from running in the river and digging to his heart's content in the sand.**

proached me with no hesitation and soon I had his big black pit bull/lab head in my lap, and I was petting his bony body. I felt an instant connection with this wonderful boy and closely followed his progress through his two months in Shelter care.

Sometimes, I don't want to know the background story of the dogs I see at the Shelter, as the pain of it makes me so sad for them. But often, you can't help but look at the dog and see a least a part of their history. In Charlie's case, his emaciation and fear said some-

thing about his past, and it likely wasn't good.

He arrived at the Jackson County Animal Shelter on March 13. The woman who brought him in had responded to an ad on Craigslist from another woman looking for a play date for Charlie. Charlie was dropped off for what was supposed to be a couple of hours, but the woman never returned and couldn't be reached by phone. After a week of waiting, he was brought to the Shelter.

Charlie didn't do well in the Shelter environment, and though he was very skinny when he arrived, he lost even more weight while there, as he was too stressed to eat. He growled at the workers while he was in holding, which made his adoption potential, questionable.

Barbara decided to help Charlie. "Maybe it was my soft spot for black labs," she said, "or that his growl seemed more like a sheepish smile to me, but there was something that made me think he wasn't really aggressive and that his growling behavior was more out of fear in the kennel environment. So I brought him into my office one afternoon to get a better feel for him and was convinced he was just scared and needed some confidence building. I took him home in the evenings for about a week, where he got some exercise, did fine with Chaco (her dog), and fit right in. That's when I saw his silly grin really emerge."

The determination to heal his spirit and body continued with another

experienced foster parent, Jess Dunn. She took Charlie in when work travels called Barbara out of town. Jess stated, "He loved my dogs right from the start. My husband was out of town for work the first week I had him so he became my shadow really quickly. He was really a big love with a lot of potential." Jess fostered him for several weeks, giving him an extended respite from the kennels. "He was very thin with his ribs and hip bones showing," Jess noted. "My goals were to put weight on him and to socialize him." Jess fed him high quality food with tasty additions of yogurt and cottage cheese. In no time he was putting on some much needed weight. He also proved to be much more calm and social in her home. "He needed work on meeting new people but once he felt safe in a home environment he started greeting people very nicely." Jess also spent time with Charlie on crate training and learning good leash manners.

As a healthy and strong boy, Charlie returned to the kennels at the Shelter. We all hoped that he'd get adopted soon. I followed his progress for the next two weeks he was there, but my attention was focused on my dog, Carmen, who was in her last weeks of life. Her passing was hard on me and my dogs, but the best gift I could give in Carmen's memory was to help some other homeless dog. It was suggested I foster Charlie and I was more than happy to bring him home to my remaining pack.

*Continued next page*

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## CHARLIE

*Continued from previous page*

I had Charlie in my home for just two days before potential adopter Nick called. Nick and his wife Erin's beloved pit bull mix had recently passed, and they were specifically looking for another pit bull to represent the breed in a positive light. After meeting Charlie, they both knew that he was the dog for them! They own the Apocalypse Brewing Company in Medford, and planned to have Charlie be the mascot. About a week after the adoption, new mom Erin sent me an email update.

*Hi Tracy! I'm sorry it took so long to get you an update on Charlie, but we've been too busy spoiling him! He's absolutely perfect—we love him!*

*After we picked Charlie up at the Shelter we took him straight to the brewery and he immediately fit right in—we're teaching him that new people bring treats and love, so he's completely welcoming of our patrons entering the brewery. He goes there every day with Nick and I think he loves it!*

*We've taken him to the dog park and he's great there too— it's such a treat to watch our boy romp with the other dogs. Last night we took him with us to the river for a BBQ—*



Photo by Nick and Erin Ellis

**Charlie spends his days as the mascot of his owners' business, Apocalypse Brewing Company. Charlie is a wonderful host!**

*he had a blast running and digging in the sand. And this evening we went golfing with us—he loves to run alongside the golf cart and lay in the cool grass at each hole!*

*Finally, the reason we believe we hit the dog lotto—he has been an absolute angel with the cats! Hunter (our bravest) cat came right up to him from day one...and all Charlie did was sniff him and back off! He hasn't shown the least interest in chasing (even with Abe our skittish cat, who will run back upstairs when Charlie makes too much movement).*

*We have NO complaints with this sweet boy—we love him so much and thank you and all your colleagues involved in saving and fostering him! He's filled the void Ramsey left with his passing and we look forward to many happy years with Charlie.*

Several weeks after Charlie's adoption, foster mom Jess Dunn went to visit him at the brewery. "He was so content at his workplace that he slept the entire time in a patch of sunlight at the feet of patrons visiting the bar. It was the best evidence I could've witnessed that Charlie had found his forever home and the place he belonged. This story is one of many great examples of a team effort to help our furry friends at the Shelter."

P.S. Charlie loves meeting new friends, so stop by the brewery sometime and say "Hi." And, thank Erin and Nick for adopting a pit bull from the Jackson County Animal Shelter! 🐾



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### COINS FOR KITTIES CAMPAIGN SUPPORTS 2-FUR-1 ADOPTIONS

Gato and Pierre were recently adopted from the Jackson County Animal Shelter. Thanks to the 2-Fur-1 program, they were adopted as a pair and will enjoy growing up together in their new home.

When 2-Fur-1 adoptions occur, the Shelter receives the full fee for both animals, with the adopter paying one and FOTAS paying the other. The 2-Fur-1 program is financed entirely by donations to FOTAS, as well as special fundraising efforts such as the Umpqua Bank Coins for Kitties campaign held each September. The Coins for Kitties campaign raises funds for 2-Fur-1 by encouraging the public to drop off their spare change to any Umpqua Bank in the Rogue Valley during the month of September.

Help double the pleasure and love for humans and felines alike by bringing your spare change to a container at any Umpqua Bank branch or the Jackson County Animal Shelter this September or by making a donation to the 2-Fur-1 program (checks should be sent to FOTAS, PO Box 92, Ashland, OR, 97520 with "2-Fur-1" written on the memo line.)

**Meow means Thank You!**

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THE GOOD LIFE GETS BETTER FOR KITTY KORNER RESIDENTS

By LESLIE HUNTINGTON AND

**MARILYN EDWARDS** There's nothing finer than basking in the sun on a summer morning. Just ask any of the cats outside in Kitty Korner lounging on the kitty perches high above the ground. For those snoozing on a sunny area of newly installed "grass," it is nap time in paradise. The lush, green turf is a welcome change from the lava rock that had previously covered the space underfoot, or paw, in this case.

Kitty Korner was built in 2012 with funds donated to FOTAS for the Shelter. The effort to replace the rocky ground cover stemmed from a recent recommendation by the Oregon Humane Society. In July, FOTAS purchased the high-quality synthetic grass and other materials at a total cost of \$500. Volunteers Brian Johnson and Ed Fierro went right to work on the installation. Kitty Korner resident Curly was more than happy to help Ed, climbing into his tool bag and helping

himself to the gear. Larry and Mo, Curly's assistants, enthusiastically dug holes in the ground for Ed, which would have been welcome had the digging occurred before the grass was secured in place!

It didn't take long for the cats to find better activities for the new turf. At any given time you will find a cat or two stretched out on the lawn and kittens engaging each other in friendly games of chase around the yard. Others enjoy the chance to play hide and seek (or more appropriately, find and pounce) with many of the toys lying in the grass.

The new ground cover adds to the ambiance of the outdoor space, which also contains designer scratching posts, a huge "hamster wheel" and a tree right in the middle of it all for cats who like to climb. For cats that prefer a less active experience, the high ledges are perfect place for an undisturbed snooze or to survey their entire kitty kingdom.

The Shelter cats receive much enrichment during their time in Kitty Korner, which invariably provides


entertainment and joy to the visitors and volunteers who happen to pass Kitty Korner on their walk towards the Shelter entrance. It has also become a wonderful place for people and kitties to play and cuddle.

Volunteers and potential adopters are almost guaranteed to have eight or more cats and kittens climbing all over them if they happen to sit on the chair at the indoor space or on the rock wall adjoining the grass outside.

Whether playing, napping, cuddling or just having their meditative moment in the sun, the kitties of Kitty Korner are a happy lot — grateful to have outdoor space, companionship and the addition of amenities that provide them a taste of home while they wait for their forever homes. 🐾



**Outdoor life in Kitty Korner is more comfortable for the Shelter cats since the addition of synthetic grass in July.**




*"What greater gift than the love of a cat."*  
 —Charles Dickens

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## FOTAS VOLUNTEER STEPHANIE ROLAND

**How did you learn about volunteering at the Shelter?** I learned about volunteering through a brochure I saw in the office when I was there to drop off a stray pet I had come across. At that time in my life I was renting and was not allowed to have pets of my own, so I thought volunteering would be the next best thing.



Photo: Stephanie Roland

**Stephanie and her husband, Curt, have fostered over 20 Shelter animals over the years alongside their own with their own pack of dogs.**

**In what ways, and why do you volunteer at the Shelter?** As a volunteer at the Shelter I have done just about everything: walking dogs, cleaning litter boxes, adoption counseling, volunteering at outreach events and clerical work. You name it and I feel like I've done it.

A couple years ago an e-mail went out to volunteers looking for more foster families. After talking to my husband, Curt Smolen, we decided this was something we would enjoy doing together. Since then we have fostered about 20 or so animals including dogs, puppies, cats and kittens.

**What are the challenges? What are the rewards?** The challenges of being a volunteer, and especially as a foster home, is fighting the constant urge to want to keep them all for yourself. But we have our own small herd of four dogs and two cats that keeps us pretty busy when we aren't fostering! Another challenge is that the adult animals in foster care are often there because of a medical or behavioral issue, and it's hard to see the neglect they went through in their past life.

However, the best part of fostering is when a pet is ready for adoption and a great applicant comes along. You get to share with the new owner all the things you've learned about the animal, and what the person needs to know to be a successful pet owner. Sometimes they send us pictures or call with questions. It's always nice to hear from them and give them help if they need it.

The foster coordinator and Shelter staff has always been great about making sure a foster dog or cat is a good fit for our circumstances. If someone is looking to have a direct impact on saving an animal's life, then become a foster family! In our opinion that is the number one way to save lives. Not only are you helping that animal make a big transition in its life, you are freeing up space at the Jackson County Animal Shelter for another pet to have a chance.

**We need more foster homes! Learn more about fostering at [www.fotas.org](http://www.fotas.org).**