

Friends of the Animal Shelter

the Scoop

Spring • 2016

Save the Date!
chi
(and Small Dog) Races
Saturday, May 7

Find Love at the Shelter!



Our vision is for all adoptable animals at the Jackson County 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 County 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

Like us on Facebook!
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Our Premier Fancy-Dress Friend and Fund-raising Event!



PAWS TO CELEBRATE
Friday evening, June 24
Rogue Valley Country Club



Jackson County Animal Shelter

5595 S Pacific Hwy, Phoenix
Monday–Friday, 11am–4pm
Saturday & Sunday, Noon–4pm
(541) 774-6654

View adoptable animals:
www.petfinder.com

PLEASE JOIN US
for an elegant evening of friend and fund-raising for our beloved animal companions.
See page 3 for details ...



GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT PEGGY MOORE

We celebrated our 300+ volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party in February. We couldn't do what we do without their devotion to fulfill our vision of finding loving homes for all adoptable animals at the Jackson County Animal Shelter! Thank you! And if you are not currently volunteering, and think you might want to do so, then please come to a **New Volunteer Orientation** on the first Saturday of the month at 1 pm at the Shelter. You never know how you might help!

"The most exciting news for me every month is that the Live Release rate at the Shelter continues to improve, thanks to the Shelter staff and our wonderful volunteers."

It's always busy at the Shelter, working with the animals and keeping them safe and adoptable. And now things get a little busier as we begin our "event season," which is our key time for friend and fundraising. We begin with the **Chi (and Small Dog) Races** at Howie's on Front in May; move onto our major "dressy" event — **Paws to Celebrate** at the Rogue Valley Country Club in June; then Dog Washes at Pet Country in July, and in Ashland in mid-August. Whew!

But, wait – there's more! Our second annual **Paws for a Cause Dog Walk and Fair** in September starts at Nature's Pet Market in the Medford Center, and winds through the newly re-imagined Hawthorne Park, with lots of entertainment and goodies! And then in October, we will host our 25th annual **Puss 'n Boots Costume Ball & Auction** at the Historic Ashland Armory.

And, of course, we continue to spend thousands of hours (60,000 in 2015) with the animals at the Shelter and at outreach activities throughout the Rogue Valley!

The most exciting news for me every month is that the Live Release rate at the Shelter continues to improve, thanks to the Shelter staff and our wonderful volunteers. Please see page 5 for 2015 statistics!

I hope to see you at the Shelter, at an event, or adopting an animal soon!



You can help us continue the trend of saving more lives by becoming a donor or volunteer, and remembering us in your estate planning.

INCREASED DOG AND CAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

We have expanded and integrated our dog and cat enrichment activities in a number of areas, helping to keep the animals entertained, calm and social.

- Alex Shepherd Cat Adoption Room — a quiet place to meet 'n greet
- Whiskerville Free-roaming Room
- Kitten Bottle Feeders group established
- Holding Crew for dogs not yet released to adoption
- Dog Morning Treats enrichment to keep them entertained
- Off-site day trips and overnights for dogs for a change of scenery
- Expanded number of Foster homes, but need more large dog foster homes

Keep up with adoptable animals and adoptions on our Facebook page!

[facebook.com/fotas](https://www.facebook.com/fotas)

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Saturday and Sunday
Noon-4:00 pm



PAWS TO CELEBRATE

Our Annual Premier Fundraising Event

Friday, June 24 • 6 pm — Rogue Valley Country Club

Now in our third year, the **Paws to Celebrate** fundraising event is bigger and better, and will take place on Friday evening, June 24th at the Rogue Valley Country Club in Medford.

We invite you to don fancy clothes that make you look and feel fabulous. Since we're all animal lovers, if there's a little fur on the lapel, we won't notice!

- Schmooze a little while enjoying a glass of wine and tasty hors d'oeuvres, listening to live Chamber music and entering your bids in a small, but wonderful Silent auction.
- Enjoy a delicious plated dinner with your choice of entrée, dessert, and lots of wonderful local wine.
- Meet some local "furry" celebrities and hear their stories!
- Bid on some incredible Live auction items.
- And, of course, you'll have the chance to raise your paddle to donate to Friends of the Animal Shelter's projects and programs that save hundreds of lives every year at the Jackson County Animal Shelter and in our community.

The festivities continue after the Auction, as you enjoy dancing with a DJ playing the tunes you love!

REGISTER TODAY!

Tickets are \$100 each (\$90 before June 1)

Online: www.fotas.org/paws-to-celebrate

By phone or email: Christine • 541-482-1772 • cfyrn@yahoo.com



A good time was had by all of our generous guests in 2015.

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PUCK'S PLACE – A SAFE HAVEN FOR CATS

When Compassion, Determination and Hard Work Creates a Long-term Solution

In mid-2015, a shy and sensitive cat we named Puck was surrendered to the Shelter. With a lot of love and attention, FOTAS volunteers were able to help socialize him and find him a fur-ever home, or so we thought! He was adopted and returned a week later, but this time with ringworm, which is highly contagious to other cats, dogs, and even people!

“He was adopted and returned a week later, but this time with ringworm, which is highly contagious to other cats, dogs, and even people!”

FOTAS volunteers wanted a happy ending for Puck, and so one of our volunteers took him home and isolated him in a kennel in her garage while treating him for ringworm (which takes months) with the help of another dedicated volunteer. Well, it didn't take long before a few FOTAS volunteers introduced the idea of a “cottage” where Puck, and other special-needs cats, could be treated off-site in a warm and safe environment.

Within a month, a lovely cottage was built in the volunteer's back yard, with special paint so that walls are easily and thoroughly sanitized, windows for fresh air and sunshine, and of course cat perches. And it's movable, so the shed can be taken to another location, if needed.

The **good news** is that Puck completely recovered and no other animals or humans contracted ringworm! Further good news is that we continue to house lucky feline residents to let them recover from surgery or illnesses in this lovely setting.

The **bad news** is that FOTAS needs some help paying for this new facility. Although some of the materials and labor were donated, we still need approximately \$3,000 to pay off the building, and would greatly appreciate anything you can contribute to help pay for this on-going off-site recovery center! Please write “PUCK'S PLACE” on your check's memo line, or donate on-line at fotas.org.



Puck fully recovered from ringworm and found a forever home.



Generous FOTAS volunteers made Puck's Place come to life, and then nursed Puck (and others) back to adoptable status.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE JIM ORMAND

It was banner year for Friends of the Animal Shelter as we celebrated our 25th anniversary of service to the Jackson County Animal Shelter! I want to send out a special thank you to our fabulous 300+ volunteers, our generous sponsors and donors, and of course, our wonderful adopters!

In 2015, FOTAS volunteers matched close to 1,400 dogs and cats to new forever homes.

Two of our major accomplishments include:

- Implementing a new dog play groups training program, called **Dogs Playing for Life**. It helps socialize adoptable dogs and provides many opportunities for each dog to have loads of fun in the agility yard at the Shelter. (See page 9.)
- The Shelter and FOTAS also greatly improved the feline facilities, at the Shelter as well as off-site. The Shelter now has three free-roaming cat rooms. And a new off-site facility, "Puck's Place," was built for cats that need to be isolated due to treatable contagious diseases or recovering from surgery. (See page 4.)

More than 60,000+ volunteer hours were donated to help adopters find their perfect new best friend; provide foster homes; walk and socialize dogs; cuddle and socialize cats; and staff community outreach activities and fundraising events. Fundraising efforts were expanded throughout Jackson County, with a new Medford Dog Walk & Fair in September, a new 10,000 Friends Campaign and a new Business Partners program!

We invite you to join us for the next 25 years in helping FOTAS support the programs at the Jackson County Animal Shelter as an adopter, a volunteer, a foster family, an individual donor or a business sponsor.

I'd love to hear from you! Please contact me at (541) 646-5985 or fotased@charter.net.

SHELTER STATS 2015

- 1,400 animals found new fur-ever homes in 2015
- Spay/Neuter Efforts:
 - FOTAS contribution to SNYP (www.spayneuter.org) to \$13,000 to help pay for their Seasonal Campaigns
 - Spayed/Neutered more than 150 pets of homeless people through our Project Street Dogs/Cats program, now in its second year
- Logged close to 60,000 Volunteer hours
- 175 Outreach and Adoption Events
- Expanded Social Media presence with more than 4,000 friends on Facebook
- Created Stronger Partnerships with rescue groups to help save more animals
- Introduced new fundraising events and increased revenue from existing events
- Introduced "Business Partners" Program – partnering with local businesses throughout the Rogue Valley

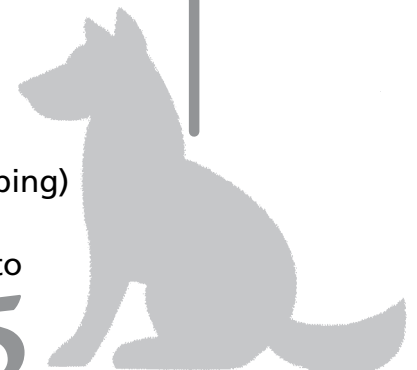
Increased Live Release Rates

Cats: Increased from 16% in 2011 to

56% in 2015 (and climbing)

Dogs: Increased from 57% in 2011 to

88% in 2015



OFF TO THE CHI (AND OTHER SMALL DOGS) RACES

Saturday, May 7 – check the FOTAS Facebook page for more information

Howiee's on Front, in their back alley. 16 N Front St, Medford



Becky, a FOTAS volunteer, encourages her racing buddy

Now in their sixth year (and third year benefiting FOTAS), Howiee's on Front in Medford hosts this hysterical event for Chihuahua and other small "gringo" dogs (under 15 lbs). It's a hoot! Multiple narrow tracks are constructed, and dogs race for a very short distance (seems longer with short legs) to the cheers and delight of their owners, competitors, and the rest of us who are there just for a good laugh (and good beer and food).

There is no fee to enter your

Continued on next page...

EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

New Volunteer Orientation

1st Saturday of the month, 1 – 2 pm at the Shelter

Low-cost Vaccinations

3rd Saturday of the month, 11 am – 2 pm at the Shelter

Chi (and small "Gringo" dog) Races

Saturday afternoon, May 7 Howiee's on Front St. in Medford

Paws to Celebrate Fancy-dress Fundraiser

Friday, June 24, 6 pm Rogue Valley Country Club

Medford Dog Wash

Saturday, July 16, 10 am – 2 pm Pet Country/Grange Co-op in Medford

Ashland Dog Wash

Sunday, August 14 10 am – 2 pm Ashland Food Co-op

Paws for a Cause Dog Walk and Fair

Sunday, September 11, starting at 10 am

From Nature's Pet Market in the Medford Center and continuing through the newly re-imagined Hawthorne Park Dog Parks and historic downtown Medford.

Opposition Brewing Company Benefit Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 24

Puss 'n Boots Costume Ball & Auction

October 29, 6 pm Historic Ashland Armory

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Violet loves her new big city life.

COUNTRY DOG TRANSITIONS TO THE BIG CITY

Violet is a 2-year-old large black and white border collie that started on a farm as a livestock guardian dog, but wasn't very good at her job and turned out to be a danger to the farm animals. So, she needed a career change and was surrendered to the Shelter.

Violet became a favorite of the volunteers during her couple of months at the Shelter. Her beautiful and compelling photograph (taken by a FOTAS

volunteer) in her online profile caught the eye of woman living in Portland, who has a large border collie, named Stella. Once she learned that Violet got along with cats, she drove down the next day. Stella and Violet had a good "meet and greet," so she quickly found herself headed to Portland with her new family.

A week later, her owner reported that Violet had settled in quite nicely. This former farm dog adapted to city life and quickly learned to ring a bell on the door handle when she wanted to go outside. Her new owner reports, "She gives us all lots of kisses, including my other dog and our cat too. She is a lovely dog and we are all so happy to have her in our family."

Enticing photography + social media = more adoptions!

Chi Races, continued...

speedy little guy/gal in this wonderfully somewhat competitive event, although you will need to pre-register at Rogue Valley Pet in Medford, or before the races at Howiee's. In addition to this being a fun-and-friend raiser, it's also a fundraiser for FOTAS. We'll be selling drawing tickets for wonderful prizes donated by Howiee's and others, and adorable Chi Race t-shirts and bags. And, of course, we'll never turn down donations (big or small!).



Race "parents" line up to entice their dogs down the race track.

CITY DOG TRANSITIONS TO COUNTRY LIVING

After spending five months at the Shelter in 2014, including two months in foster care, Link – a handsome and sweet boy – finally got adopted by a young family with kids. After a year and half, they lost their apartment and unfortunately the landlord would not allow Link to stay in their new place. So he ended up back at the Shelter through no fault of his own.



Link is so very grateful for his second chance for love.

Because he was too reactive to other dogs in the kennels, his previous foster family took him home again. Although, he wasn't an easy dog to handle around the Shelter, in a home, he was calm, undemanding, and got along with the foster family's other dog.

After a month in his foster home, Link struck it big! He is now happily romping and living in the country with young family in a big house

on five acres and access to a dog door, so he can come and go as he pleases. He has an 11-year-old boy to play ball with and a 3-year-old girl to cuddle with. His family tells us, "He is such a great dog, we really love him."

**Fostering and second chances add up to saving lives!
Please support our Foster program.**

The FOTAS website is filled with interesting and valuable information!
fotas.org

And while you're there, sign up for our monthly e-newsletter!



Gizmo came in injured; went out purring!

NURSED BACK TO HEALTH AND INTO A FOREVER HOME

GIZMO, a tiny 6-month-old tabby, arrived at the Shelter after an injury involving a recliner. The Shelter techs weren't sure that this petite girl was going to be alright. But spunky Gizmo was nursed back to health and was soon in the cat adoption rooms where she charmed everyone by reaching through her kennel door to tap folks as they went by, cuddling in their arms, batting at any toy she was offered and constantly purring her sweet little head off.

Enter Vincent, a cat lover extraordinaire who had already adopted several cats and a dog from the Shelter. It was love at first sight! After the proper introductory period, Gizmo (renamed Tessa) joined three big boy tabbies and was soon ruling the roost. As Vincent says, "She has us all under her spell—even Bella (the dog)."

We have since seen many pictures of Tessa sleeping in the midst of the original three tabbies, perched high on cabinets and shelves in Vincent's home and cuddling with the newest shelter kitty in the household, yet another huge tabby boy named Angelo. Tessa has proven herself to be "the little kitten that could"—and as her dad Vincent says, "If there IS such a thing as perfection, she's it!"

COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR SENIOR KITTIES

It isn't often that someone comes to the shelter wanting to give an older cat a loving home, but fortunately for our beautiful 14-year-old SHI SHI, a lovely young woman, Andrea, wanted to do just that. In Spring 2015, Andrea adopted Shi Shi, who joined a family of dogs, cats and a ring-tail parrot named Marvin (also a Shelter alumnus). Shi Shi had been waiting many months for her purrfect match.

Shi Shi became a wonderful companion to Andrea and staked out her favorite spots in her new home: the top of a tall cat tree and a window perch from which she could watch the outside birds.

As the months went by, Shi Shi's health began to decline, but she was always up for love from Andrea as well as stalking games with her little dog sibling. As the weather got colder, so did Shi Shi's window perches. As a Christmas present, Andrea's friends gave Shi Shi a microwaveable heated cat bed. Andrea wrote, "She followed me into the kitchen and happily waited and meowed at me while I heated it up for her."

On those cold December days, Shi Shi could almost always be found snuggled on her heated bed, watching the birds. In early January 2016, this sweet cat passed away. We were sad to hear this, but

Continued on next page...

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Our donors continue to impress us with their generosity. Many have become monthly or quarterly donors using a credit card, which makes donating easy and spreads their generosity over the year. Go to fotas.org and click on DONATE NOW for recurring donation options.



Shi Shi felt cherished and loved.

Senior Kitties continued from previous page...

also so grateful that Shi Shi, who had spent such a long time at the Shelter waiting to be adopted, was able to spend the last months of her life feeling cherished and warm.

OLDER CATS NEED LOVE TOO!

With kittens, you're never sure what their personality will be like when they grow up. With cats, 1 year and older, you know! The Shelter gets wonderful "previously-loved" cats ... and they linger at the Shelter longer, waiting for YOU to come and adopt them!



Adoptable dogs having a blast in the Shelter agility yard during a Playing for Life supervised session.

DOGS LIVE TO PLAY! NOW LET THEM PLAY TO LIVE!

Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) is a program rooted in the notion that a dog's natural instinct is to PLAY. Playing is a dog's most natural form of positive interaction and communication with both humans and fellow canines. A dog at play provides the best opportunity to peer inside the canine soul and explore who the dog really is.

DPFL is a nationally renowned, innovative training program that was founded by professional trainer Aimee Sadler. The Program demonstrates both the practical efficiencies of play groups, as well as the emotional and behavioral benefits for the animals. Play groups have proven to be a critical enrichment and assessment tool for shelters.

Friends of the Animal Shelter brought Ms. Sadler to the Shelter in 2015 to begin the process of training Shelter staff and FOTAS volunteers on how to safely introduce DPFL to the Jackson County Animal Shelter. It has been an incredible success! The dogs not only have one heck of a good time, but both Shelter staff and volunteers have the opportunity to see the "true colors" of adoptable dogs, helping them know what behaviors to concentrate on while training and socializing them before adoption.

The DPFL training continues in May with Ms. Sadler. The costs for training and equipment are covered by FOTAS, with close to \$20,000 invested to help save lives while keeping the dogs, staff and volunteers safe. And, nearly a year after implementation, we now know that DPFL is resulting in a higher Live Release rate, which is what it's ALL about!

Donations to help off-set the cost of the program are greatly appreciated. Just indicate "PLAYING FOR LIFE" on your check or on-line donation, and know that you are helping save lives!

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See the calendar and the back of the calendar for details!

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