

Friends of the Animal Shelter

the Scoop

Fall • 2016

Find Love at the Shelter!






Opposition Brewing Golf Tournament
 Saturday, September 24
 See page 10

OPPOSITION BREWING CO.



Paws for a Cause Dog Walk & Fair
 Sunday, September 11
 See insert



Puss 'n Boots Costume Ball & Auction
 Saturday, October 29
 See page 3



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

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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

WELCOME BONNIE CHIRRIK Meet our New Volunteer Services Manager

We are delighted to announce that we have a new Volunteer Services Manager—Bonnie Chirrick. Bonnie's first day was August 1st, and she's diving right into meeting, greeting and learning.



Bonnie Chirrick, Volunteer Services Manager

Here's a little bit of background on Bonnie:

Bonnie and two of her friends bought Café 116 in Ashland in December 2015. The café is community-oriented with great breakfasts and lunches. In addition, Bonnie has wider interests, including working with nonprofit organizations, especially those related to animals. Cats and dogs have enriched Bonnie's life. She has worked with Dogs for the Deaf at its national headquarters in Central Point, primarily as an event coordinator, where she won the Employee of the Quarter Award in 2015.

Bonnie has also worked in the "for-profit" world and her project management skills and operational management skills will benefit FOTAS.

She has volunteered as a grant writer for the Outdoor Discovery Program in Talent and has done business outreach projects for Thrive in Ashland. Bonnie's references speak to her collaborative working style, her creativity and her great interpersonal and listening skills.

Bonnie will be working 30 hours a week, Monday through Thursday, 9 am–to 4:30 pm, at the Shelter. Alex Spindler will continue his work with us Thursday through Sunday. Alex and Bonnie will sort out tasks and work together to put together a FOTAS staff team that will focus on the volunteers, programs and tasks to assist Shelter staff.

Also during this transition, FOTAS Board Members Becky Cohn and Christine Fernlund have taken on additional tasks to ensure Bonnie is well-oriented and the office continues to run smoothly with as little impact on our valued volunteers and Shelter animals as possible.

Welcome aboard, Bonnie!

THANK YOU, ALEX!

We want to publicly and effusively thank Alex Spindler for stepping up to fill in for the Volunteer Services position while we hired a new Volunteer Services Manager. He has worked very hard with a smile for all who have sought his help. Alex will continue as an important part of the team and we deeply appreciate his flexibility and commitment to FOTAS and Shelter animals.

FOTAS PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Peggy Moore

We want to thank our two annual **Dog Wash** hosts and business partners, **Pet Country/Grange Co-op** and **Ashland Food Co-op**, as well as **Land of Paws** owners, Didi and Andrew Thomson. Lots of dirty dogs were brushed and washed, and some even enjoyed the full "spaw" treatment by having their nails done! The fur was flying, but lots of dirty dogs went home clean! Thanks to all our volunteers for getting wet and furry for the cause. (See page 10.)

We also want to thank Nancy and JW Lyon and Christine Fernlund for chairing our 2nd annual **Paws for a Cause** fancy-dress affair in June. Close to 100 animal enthusiasts enjoyed a lovely evening at the Rogue Valley Country Club while raising funds for FOTAS programs. We hope you'll join us next year!

The FOTAS Board held our annual strategic planning retreat in August. To ensure sustainability, and to increase the positive impact Friends of the Animal Shelter has on saving more and more Shelter animals, our planning focuses our goals and implementation strategies for the next three years.

So many events are coming up and are covered in this edition of the SCOOP. I am always excited about the various fun, friend and fund-raising opportunities that benefit our Shelter animals and FOTAS programs. We hope to see you there!

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



PUSS 'N BOOTS COSTUME BALL & AUCTION

Saturday, October 29, 6-10:30 pm

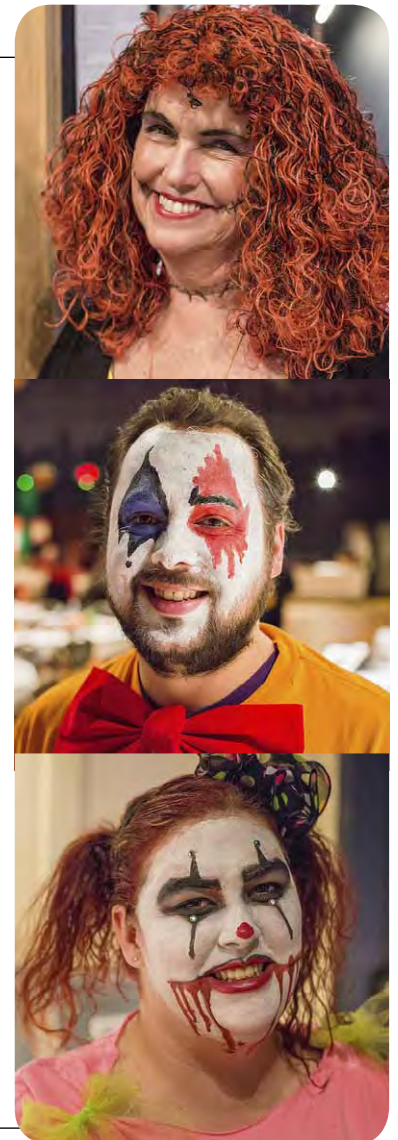
- Historic Ashland Armory
- Tickets \$45 per person, and includes dinner, dessert and dancing
- Adults only with no-host bar
- Dinner catered by Quality Catering / Café Dejeuner
- Fabulous Silent & Live Auctions with opportunities to make donations to help save lives!
- Music by the Rogue Suspects

Buy tickets starting Monday, September 19

- Paddington Station, Ashland
- On-line: www.fotas.org/pnb

It's a sell-out every year, so buy your tickets early!

This is one of two major fundraising events for FOTAS each year. The price of your ticket only covers the cost of the event...we hope you'll plan on bidding high and making a donation that evening!



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FINDING THE RIGHT MATCH

Personalities abound in the cat and dog kennels. FOTAS volunteers and Shelter staff know from experience that each one of them, from the quiet wallflower to the gregarious, center-stage party animal, has their perfect adoptive match out there waiting for them. Part of the adoption work, which is also highly rewarding and fun, is to witness the magic of that “just right” connection between animal and adopter.



Skyla waited patiently for her purr-fect match.

Sometimes the match is almost instantaneous. Sometimes it takes a little bit of time and learning before the animal reveals just who their perfect human will be. This was the case for **Skyla**, a one-year-old female calico cat who came into the Shelter as a stray in early April.

It didn't take long for the FOTAS cat room volunteers to learn Skyla's list of qualifications: a family who will let her rule the roost, gives her many opportunities to play with them, and, of course, just simply adores her. It was also well known that Skyla wasn't too keen on sharing the space with other cats, so the volunteers made sure her forever home had to exclude feline roommates.

After a two-month stay at the Shelter, it appeared that her first adopter had it all. They loved each other and his house would be hers to rule. It seemed to be a happy ending for both of them.

Unfortunately, Skyla was returned a few days later because a new qualification emerged: no canine housemates. This was discovered when a family member came to visit with his small dog. Skyla was not shy to show her extreme displeasure of the dog's presence.

Although it was heartbreaking, it was also good information to learn from her short stay. It would certainly take more time to find that right living situation for Skyla, but the volunteers committed to keep watch for that special opportunity.

A month later, after seeing Skyla on the FOTAS website, a couple came in to meet her. Not only was this couple accepting of her needs, they stated they were drawn to her feisty personality!

Yet another wonderful example of how every animal has a home waiting for them. It can take a little time, and possibly a second or third chance to find the right match, but just as in Skyla's case, the work and the waiting is well worth the satisfaction and joy of finding the right fit for every animal at the Shelter.

It may take a while, but
the Shelter and FOTAS are
dedicated to finding homes
for all adoptable animals ...
no matter how
long it takes!

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EVENTS

you don't want to miss

New Volunteer Orientation

1st Saturday of the month,
1–2:30 pm at the Shelter

Low-cost Vaccinations

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

Waggin' Tales Used Books Sale

Last Saturday, Noon–4 pm
Last Sunday, Noon–2 pm

Paws for a Cause Dog Walk and Fair

Sunday, September 11
starting at 9 am

Starting at Nature's Pet Market in Medford and continuing through Hawthorne Park and downtown Medford. (see insert to register)

Black Beauty and Beautiful Joe Big Barn Bazaar—New & Used Items

Saturday, September 17
10 am–4 pm

Equamore Sanctuary Barn
4723 Highway 66, Ashland
(see insert for more details)

Opposition Brewing Company Benefit Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 24
(see page 10 for more details)

Puss 'n Boots Costume Ball & Auction

Saturday, October 29, 6 pm
Historic Ashland Armory
(see page 3 for more details)



COMMITMENT, COMMUNITY SAVES A LIFE

Clancy, a brindled, 80+ pound boy was all charm. His sweet temperament won you within moments of meeting him. The perfect gentleman towards dogs and people alike, the Australian Shepherd-Labrador mix was the star of playgroups with his easy-going demeanor.

But something wasn't quite right. For a relatively youthful 5-year-old, his energy was low. His belly was distended. The Shelter staff suspected a medical problem, but the initial testing revealed nothing obvious. Then other signs began to appear. Clancy's belly became painful. He started panting and he urinated frequently. He became increasingly anxious and barked frantically in his kennel when people were nearby. As time went on, he became increasingly disconnected with people.

The Shelter staff worked closely with Dr. Laura Fredrickson at Best Friends Animal Hospital in Talent, in the quest to find a cause. After a few visits, blood tests and an ultrasound, Dr. Fredrickson diagnosed Clancy with Cushing's Disease.

Cushing's disease is an endocrine disorder that causes excessive production of the hormone, cortisol. Fortunately for Clancy, his condition was treatable with monthly medication and tests to monitor his cortisol levels. Unfortunately, the cost of treatment and ongoing testing was expensive...as much as \$350 a month.

Clancy's fan club of volunteers stepped up to help by covering the diagnostic tests, as well as the first month of treatment. This allowed the Shelter's medical fund to remain available for the needs of other animals. Volunteers even pre-paid his adoption fee.

Despite his medical difficulties, his good nature still shined, and that was enough to attract the attention of Dee, a volunteer who eventually adopted him. "He seemed uninterested in people at the time and didn't connect with me," she recalls, "but he was very polite. After a couple of more experiences with him, his impeccable manners and sweetness were starting to really show through once he felt better. I had a gut feeling about adopting him. With his Cushing's disease now under control, his personality has blossomed."

"Clancy is just a wonderful guy," says Dee, "he is such a happy dog. He wakes up with a wagging tail every day." She reports that Clancy is well-mannered and doesn't bark after all. He likes being around people and gets along well with his canine sibling. He is even social with other dogs that come to her property for R&R, and has formed a good relationship with the dog of Dee's daughter, who isn't normally social with other dogs. Clancy is smart, too. He is a star pupil in agility class.

"Every day he gives us another reason to love him! He continues to be a joy to live with and we couldn't be happier with the decision to adopt Clancy."



Clancy's medical issues didn't stop the Shelter staff and FOTAS volunteers...they found a great home for the big, loveable guy.

A GROWING FAMILY

Sometimes there is more to a story, and this story has more than a lot to tell.

In April, an older gentleman came to the Shelter to surrender a dog that kept escaping from his house. After taking a quick look of the young female Chihuahua/Dachshund mix named Jewel, the Shelter staff suspected she had had puppies previously, and also thought she may be pregnant. Jewel also seemed very shy and under-socialized. Thinking there could be more to his situation, the staff engaged the man in conversation regarding his home life with the dog.



Jewel is a one-year old who is shy at first, and spent some time in foster care to help her gain confidence and trust. After a short stay, Jewel found her perfect new home, and is done having puppies.

They learned Jewel resided with five other dogs, four of her young puppies and one adult, neutered male. Keeping up with Jewel, and especially with a growing family that would expand soon, was overwhelming. The staff took their time to counsel him and provide options that would work best for him and the dogs. One option was surrendering Jewel's puppies, but the man couldn't readily decide on the best course of action while he was standing there. He surrendered Jewel to the Shelter and returned home.

Two weeks later, he came back to the Shelter with three of Jewel's original litter of four puppies: Peanut, Spot and Hazel. The very next day he brought in Star, the last sibling. The male dog would remain his only pet. Better days were assured for an owner and Jewel's growing family, thanks to the keen eyes, gentle prodding and helpful approach by the Shelter staff to a difficult situation.

But, of course, that's not all.

This growing canine pack needed some help. Mom and pups were under-socialized. Nearly all of them were overwhelmed by this new world. And, Jewel needed a safe and quiet place to have her puppies.

FOTAS volunteers heeded the call. Some mobilized to be foster families, dedicating several weeks to the pups. And another foster family dedicated two months to care for Jewel and her new puppies.

The efforts paid off! Every dog is now adding a new happy chapter to their stories. Read more of their happy endings in the photo captions.

Jewel's New Puppies:

Topaz could entertain herself but was always willing for some rough and tumble play with Jasper, her littermate. She was adopted on July 12 by a family with three children. She is the first dog for the family and happily settled in.

Travertine, now Misty: This little busy bee never got tired of play and found the most fun fetching toys and wrestling with her brother, Jasper. She was adopted by a veteran who will keep her by his side.

Jasper: this silly, happy-go-lucky boy was quite the explorer at his foster home and loved to play with his sibling, Travertine. He is enjoying his new life in northern Oregon with a couple who own a Doxie pal.

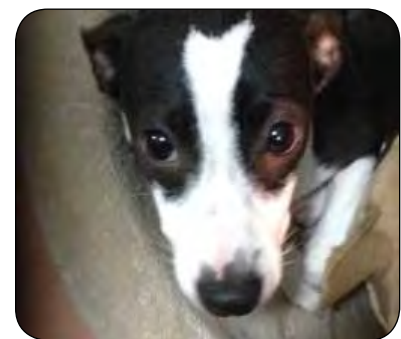
JEWEL'S ORIGINAL PUPPIES:



Star was in foster care for a month to give her time with a family before she was adopted. Her new family saw her online and took her home after a nice meeting with the foster parents. Star bonded and loves to snuggle.



Peanut was in foster care for two months with a family, her sibling Spot, a resident dog and cats. She returned to the Shelter and was promptly adopted by a FOTAS volunteer and was renamed Sugar.



Spot was in foster care for approximately two months with her sibling, Peanut. Her new adopters had their last dog for 17 years and were ready for a new companion.

Not Pictured

Hazel, now named Jelli — was adopted almost immediately after she was placed in adoption. A woman and her partner scooped up Jelli for their 12 year-old daughter and as a companion for their shy Chihuahua that was adopted from the Shelter last year.



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BROTHERLY LOVE

Everyone can use a big brother. Mr. Smith knows this well. His brother, Mr. Jones, has been his constant companion, playmate, helper and protector.

Mr. Jones keeps good company with his brother, which in turn keeps his brother safe and happy. You see, Mr. Smith has Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), which limits his ability to explore much of the world outside. He really doesn't mind because he is so bonded with his bro'.

Although the virus is slow-acting, a cat's immune system is severely weakened and makes the cat susceptible to various secondary infections. Infected cats receiving supportive medical care and kept in a stress-free, indoor environment can live full lives for years, many times without symptoms.

FIV is a cat-only disease that cannot be spread to humans or other animals. It is not easily passed between cats. It cannot be spread casually—like in litter boxes, food and water bowls or when snuggling and playing.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones are closely bonded, and would love to bond with a family together. They will make perfect indoor cats since they are also declawed. These handsome boys may be shy at first, but patience and love will help with their transition to their new home. This same approach worked well for them at the Shelter. Now they are personable, good-natured guys who are well mannered and friendly.

FIV doesn't get in the way of brotherly love with these two delightful lads and doesn't have to get in the way of a lifetime of love from a permanent family. Learn more about Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones at the Shelter and consider opening your heart and your home to two special cats with a special bond.



Mr. Jones and Mr. Smith want you to consider adopting an FIV-positive kitty!

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NO KILL SHELTER IN GUANAJUATO

Guanajuato, Mexico is Ashland, Oregon's sister city. While visiting the Rogue Valley during the 4th of July festivities, representatives from Fundación Corazón Animal de Guanajuato, a Mexican non-profit that is building a permanent home for their no-kill shelter for cats and dogs, Refugio Corazon Animal, took a tour of the Jackson County Animal Shelter and visited with Friends of the Animal Shelter volunteers.

Their current facility is on rented land and can house around 70 animals, with an additional 30 living with volunteers. Earlier this year, Sharon



Volunteers raise the walls and roof of their new no-kill animal shelter.

Anton, a founding board member of the Foundation, purchased land and donated it. The Foundation has a small, passionate and dedicated board, and local volunteers. They receive no government funds, and mounted an on-line fundraiser in May, which raised \$8,500, not a lot, but enough to get started.

So far, they have built the walls and roof (as well as a guard house to ensure nothing is stolen), and are looking for additional funds to finish the no-kill shelter. This is a large undertaking, and the Foundation has

asked Friends of the Animal Shelter to get the word out to solicit more donations to help them both finish the building and provide for on-going maintenance.

Visit their English-language website to read more about the Foundation, some wonderful success "before and after" stories, and the Shelter. Then click on HOW TO HELP, which will take you to where you can donate funds via credit card or PayPal:

www.xn--fundacincoraznanimaldeguanajuato-wddg.com/

Sharon writes, "As you can imagine we are extremely grateful for any help we get."

"So far, they have built the walls and roof (as well as a guard house to ensure nothing is stolen), and are looking for additional funds..."

Some FOTAS volunteers will be visiting Guanajuato in October during the Cervantino Festival. If you would rather write a check, please make it out to Fundación Corazón Animal de Guanajuato and mail it to FOTAS @ PO Box 1013, Phoenix, OR 97535. We will make sure they receive your donation.

SHELTER WISH LIST

- Purina Kitten Chow
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- Dog collars & leashes
- Clay cat litter
- Towels (large)
- Washable blankets, rugs, and other bedding for dogs/cats
- Small cat litter pans
- Baby shampoo and pet shampoo

Each of the supplies above directly helps the animals. Any support you give makes a difference.



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1st Saturday ♥ 1–2:30 PM

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**WHY TAKE THE RISK?
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CHIPPING YOUR PET WORKS

In August, a FOTAS volunteer saw a young couple walking to their car at the Shelter with a darling little reddish brown dog (Leon) that she had not seen in adoption.

They told the volunteer that they thought he had drowned in the Rogue River the previous weekend. He disappeared in the water and the young man spent hours searching for him, getting scratched and scraped, but to no avail. The couple and their children were devastated. They had Leon for only a month, but as dogs are great at doing, he had completely won the whole families' hearts.

Well, it seems someone found Leon and brought him to the Jackson County Animal Shelter. The Shelter staff scanned him and found he had a chip, and that the contact information on the chip was current!

Imagine the joy of this family to get a call that their beloved little dog had been found, alive and well. We knew there would be one family celebrating that evening.

And this also speaks well of having our dogs micro-chipped. Many dogs have been reunited with their loved ones simply because of one little chip...and sometimes months, or even years later.

All of the veterinarians in Southern Oregon will "chip" your pet...then you just need to go on-line and enter your contact information—and keep it current. We wish all pets were chipped—imagine how many would find their way back home!

Lost and Found, continued from back page...

Widen Your Search

In addition to contacting the Shelter, scour your neighborhood. Make fliers with your pet's picture and your contact information (including your address), and drop them at every house in our neighborhood, at least two blocks in each direction. Walk those streets calling your pet's name every day, a few times a day. Expand your search!

Both cats and dogs can get "lost" easily, once they wander a little out of their familiar territory. Cats can hide for a week or more. So, it's extremely important that you call their name while looking for them. Call, and then listen. Sometimes you'll hear a mournful meow—then just stay put and keep calling.

Veterinarian Offices and Dog Park

- Post lost and found fliers at all veterinarian offices in your area. Many people contact local vets instead of the Shelter—so, your pet could be residing in a home nearby!
- Post a flier at your local dog park—with a photo!

On-line

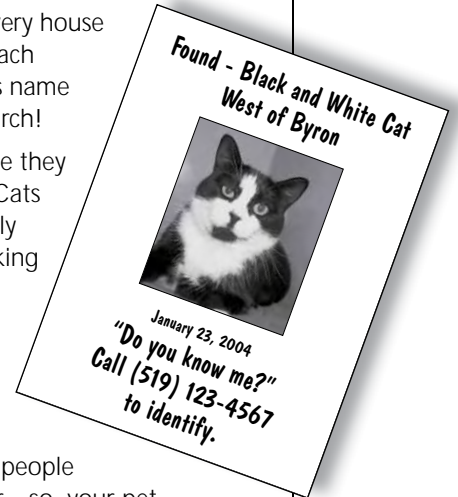
Posting a lost / found notice on-line is easy. A few options:

- Craig's List—under Community: Pets and Lost & Found
- Your Facebook page—and ask people to SHARE
- Medford Oregon Lost & Found Pets Facebook page

Print

- Medford Mail Tribune / Ashland Daily Tidings will let you place a lost / found ad for free

With your help, more pets will find their way back home, safe and sound, and sooner!



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LOST & FOUND

Every day, stray dogs and cats make their way to the Jackson County Animal Shelter. The Shelter's number one priority is to reunite the family pet with their owners. Stray animals are posted on the Shelter's website, and both staff and FOTAS volunteers are on the look-out for on-line postings and newspaper ads looking for lost pets.

LOST DOG



Name: Obie
Sex: Male, neutered
Age: 5 +/-
Breed: Akita/German Shep.
Weight: 70 lbs
Height: Really tall
Color: Tan & White
Features: Tail sticks up in the air like an Akita but not curled, huge ears
Personality: Loves food, can be stand-offish but he is friendly. Knows sit, stay, down, etc.

Last Seen On Windham Avenue near Rudden Lane in Colchester, wearing a green Dogwatch collar & a black reflective collar on June 3, 2009.

If you see him, call 860-965-5010 any time.

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So, why aren't all stray dogs and cats re-united with their families? A lot of it has to do with the families themselves. They need to make more of an effort, throwing their net far and wide, for longer periods of time!

First, contact the Jackson County Animal Shelter as soon as your pet goes missing, or you find a stray animal. No matter what time of day, call (541) 774-6654 and leave a message with the following information (speak slowly and clearly):

- Your full name, telephone number and address
- When you lost/found the animal (date and time), and where (cross streets and city)
- A description of the animal (dog, cat, ferret, bunny), sex, approximate weight, color and any distinctive markings, collar (color) and if it has tags. If it has a Jackson County license, leave the license number.

Based on the information you provide, the Shelter staff might be able to match a "lost" call with a "found" call, and get the pet back home without ever coming through the Shelter. That's a big win-win!

If your pet is at the Shelter, they will call and let you know how to get him/her back quickly and as inexpensively as possible. If your dog has a current Jackson County license, it will get a "Free Ride Home" the first time! That will save you at least \$180!

The Shelter (and most veterinarian offices) scans every stray, looking for a chip that will identify their owner. Surprisingly, very few cats are chipped. Chipping has been proven to be the most effective way to get your pet returned to you. It's imperative that you keep the chip information up to date with your most current address and phone number!

Now, here's the important part: Please remember, there may be a long time lag between when your pet goes missing and when it ends up either being reported found or in the Shelter. That means you need to keep calling, and importantly, visiting the Shelter. It's a busy place, and even though they really want to reunite you with your pet, after a few days the Shelter staff may not remember specifics about your animal.

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