

Friends of the Animal Shelter

the



# Scoop

Fall • 2014

Save the Date!

Historic Ashland Armory

PUSS 'N BOOTS

Saturday, October 25



Photos by Brooke Bell-Turner



### 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.

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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.



**ACE:  
A VERY LUCKY DOG**

*by Barbara Talbert, Manager,  
Jackson County Animal Services*

A wet, white shepherd-looking dog was brought to the Shelter on a rainy Saturday afternoon in March. He had been wandering on the shoulder of I-5 on the Oregon side of the California border

when a couple driving from Yreka stopped to pick him up. They discovered a large gash across the back of his neck, but found him to be very friendly. Since they were on their way to visit family in the Rogue Valley, they dropped him off with us but wanted to be kept informed about his progress.

During his intake at the Shelter, we thought the large, deep wound across his neck may have resulted from an encounter with a bear or cougar. Nonetheless, he was happy and relaxed, seeming to enjoy the attention from the humans around him. I transported him to Best Friends Animal Hospital in Talent the same afternoon. The veterinarian said she would be able to close the wound in spite of its

“The veterinarian said she would be able to close the wound in spite of its depth and length, which literally extended from one side of his neck across the top, all the way to the other side.”



**Lucky was badly injured when he was brought to the Shelter, but still had a big goofy grin on his face.**

depth and length, which literally extended from one side of his neck across the top, all the way to the other side. However, she wanted him on antibiotics for a couple of days before doing the surgery. In talking with her, it became clear that this dog had connected with her and she wanted him to make it. So, I took him back to the Shelter and made him comfortable in one of our kennels.

I'm not sure what it was about him, since we encounter many dogs with medical issues. This dog had such a happy spirit, in spite of the

trauma he had been through, that I thought he deserved a second chance, too. He was a handsome dog and seemed very adoptable with his friendly personality. While he was waiting for his surgery, we notified Siskiyou County Animal Control in case someone from the area was looking for him. The couple who found him was so pleased that we were going to do the surgery that they donated \$100. I personally paid the rest of his medical costs so this case wouldn't impact the Shelter's limited budget and the other animals in need. Within just 24 hours, this dog had connected with four humans and convinced each of us that he was worth saving! So we named him "Lucky" for obvious reasons.

On surgery day, the veterinarian at Best Friends Animal Hospital discovered buckshot throughout the wound. Given the size of the wound and amount of buckshot, it was thought that he was hit at close range. It still wasn't clear what happened to him. If he were chasing livestock and someone tried to shoot him, that wouldn't be at close range. So was it possible that someone had taken him somewhere to end his life? We'll never know, since no owner came forward to claim him.

After he spent a couple of nights at the veterinarian's home

*Continued on page 5*

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**The Scoop Newsletter**

Issue 9-14  
Friends of the Animal Shelter's newsletter is published three times a year.  
**Editor**  
Leslie Huntington  
**Graphic Design**  
LiveWire Design: Pete Livers and Karen Finnegan  
**Printing**  
Beaver Press, Central Point  
**FOTAS Photographers**  
Brooke Bell-Turner  
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Barbara Talbert  
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**GOBLINS, WITCHES, DOGS AND CATS** *By Peggy Moore*

It's hard to think about fall when sitting in the heat of summer. There is so much to look forward to, however, including cooler weather, falling leaves, smells of spices in the air and of course, the 23rd annual

**PUSS 'N BOOTS COSTUME BALL & AUCTION!**

Join us on Saturday, October 25th at the Historic Ashland Armory for an evening filled with mirth, good food, wonderful shopping opportunities, dancing to a live band and the chance to make a difference for Shelter cats and dogs. One marvelous way to do this is by participating in our Fund-a-Need program. This year's proceeds from Fund-a-Need will go directly to spay and neuter efforts (including support to SNYP) and a new community outreach program to assist residents by providing safer options to the tethering of dogs.

Samantha Johnson, seasoned FOTAS volunteer, has taken the helm as the auction's coordinator. She and many other dedicated volunteers will "hit the streets" and contact local businesses in Ashland, Medford and Jacksonville to fill the auction tables with irresistible items for our guests. It will be a great opportunity to start your holiday shopping early, with the benefit of giving money that will go directly to animal care and Shelter programs. If you'd like to help, solicit donations, or wish to donate a new item worth at least \$50, please call (541) 944-2021.

FOTAS volunteer Linda Stickle will once again lead the decorating efforts for the Ball, transforming the space into a spooky, colorful venue for the evening. **Quality Catering from Café DeJuener** will prepare and serve a delectable buffet with vegan options. Per the request of our supporters, we selected the **Robbie DaCosta Band** this year to play popular tunes from the '50s and '60s for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Although costumes are not mandatory, we hope you'll come in your best disguise to participate in our costume contest. This is always a crowd pleaser and the competition is fierce! You have many categories to choose from, with prizes for the winners. Compete for the best themed group, monster, animal, political figure, ghost or witch!

**Wine Raffle** — As a build-up to the Ball, FOTAS is holding its 2nd annual Wine Raffle. Last year's inaugural event was so successful, we are doing it again! For only \$10, you could win one of five cases of wine valued at \$240 to \$600. You need not be present to win (but we hope you will be!) Future wine raffles will be held every other year, so as not to compete with the Ashland Rotary Club's wine raffle. That means we're taking 2015 off, so don't miss the chance this year! Tickets are available on the FOTAS website ([www.fotas.org](http://www.fotas.org)), from FOTAS volunteers, or call Eliza at (541) 482-8172.

**Tickets** for the Ball will go on sale September 25th at [www.fotas.org](http://www.fotas.org) and at Paddington Station. You can also obtain tickets by using the order form below, or by calling Eliza at (541) 482-8172. The 2013 Ball sold out ten days before the event, so don't delay – buy tickets early and plan to join us at the "Best Halloween Party in Ashland." It is all for the animals.

"Per the request of our supporters, we selected the Robbie DaCosta Band this year to play popular tunes from the '50s and '60s for your listening and dancing pleasure."



**PUSS 'N BOOTS TICKET ORDER FORM**

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ADDRESS _____			
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PHONE _____	EMAIL _____		
	<b>QTY</b>	<b>AMT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
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<input type="checkbox"/> Unfortunately, I/we cannot attend, but I'd/we'd like to support FOTAS with a gift of _____			\$
<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			<b>TOTAL</b> \$

## MUCH TO CELEBRATE AT PAWS TO CELEBRATE

By Peggy Moore

More than 80 friends and supporters of Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS) stepped out and stepped up to help the Shelter animals at our first annual Paws to Celebrate friend and fundraiser, held at the Ashland Springs Hotel on June 20th. This dressy affair was a HUGE success, netting \$41,000 to help save animals that pass through the Jackson County



Photo: Brooke Bell-Turner

**The first annual Paws to Celebrate event raised more than \$40,000.**

Animal Shelter. These donations will directly benefit the medical fund, spay/neuter, and programs supporting reduced adoption fees. This signature event was the brainchild of FOTAS volunteers **Nancy and J.W. Lyon**, and we are grateful for their vision and efforts in making it a success.

We were lucky to have local celebrities make guest appearances at the event. Picasso, the Great Pyrenees dog star of OSF's *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (at least, he thinks he's the star), joined OSF actress K.T. Vogt for pictures with attendees. Picasso is a rescue dog owned by the Lyons.

Attendees entered the atrium to the sounds of a baroque trio from the Rogue Valley Symphony, arranged by FOTAS volunteer and cellist Sue Flynn. The trio provided

wonderful music while guests enjoyed complimentary drinks and delicious appetizers prepared by Larks. A modest silent auction was opened for bidding before dinner, and there was much mingling and laughter.

The after-dinner fundraising activities proved lively and engaging. OSF actress Vivica Font served as emcee and auctioneer for the evening. Gratefully, nearly all of the live auction items went for full value or more. A highlight of the auction was certainly the week-long stay in Tuscany, complete with a private swimming pool and accommodations for ten guests. It ultimately sold for \$3,000. Other popular auction items included a week in a Mexican villa on the Riviera; rounds of golf at local clubs; a guided fly-fishing trip; an "instant" wine cellar featuring west coast wines; and a computer table/night stand crafted by local artist and FOTAS volunteer Beth Dolos of BD Iron Works. Bidding wars broke out on several items. At one point, three different bidders vied for an amazing hand-crafted garden bench built by Applegate artisan Kevin Shawhan.

The evening then transitioned into Pledge for Paws, facilitated by Chuck Bridges and Dee Perez, during which patrons could raise their paddle to make a 100% tax-deductible donation to FOTAS and Shelter programs that directly benefit the animals. A wonderful Shelter alumnus, Lucky (now named Ace), was featured as a success story highlighting the joint efforts of FOTAS and Jackson County Animal Services. Lucky's complete story is on page 2 of this edition. Barbara Talbert, JCAS Manager and Lucky's foster parent, shared his special story with the attendees. Lucky was found walking on Interstate 5 with a gunshot wound to his neck. Pictures of Lucky in various stages

of recovery were displayed as Barbara described his plight, which elicited gasps and many teary eyes. Barbara explained the money donated to the FOTAS medical fund provides the opportunity for animals like Lucky to be treated. She detailed the benefits of foster care for Lucky. Just as Barbara concluded the story, Lucky entered the room with his owners, Rick and Chris. Lucky received an extended standing ovation from the patrons as he made his rounds to greet the guests.

Lucky is but one example of the many reasons Friends of the Animal Shelter raises funds at these types of event — to save lives. The Pledge for Paws, thanks in part to Lucky, raised \$19,000.

Thanks to our amazing sponsors, the expenses of the event were covered. All revenue generated by ticket sales, the auctions, photos with Picasso, 50/50 tickets, and the wonderful Pledge for Paws will go directly to saving more animals.

Our second annual Paws to Celebrate is scheduled for June 19, 2015, at the Ashland Springs Hotel. Don't miss out on what some predict to be the event of the season. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for another lovely evening dedicated to the animals at the Jackson County Animal Shelter. 🐾

“Some people talk to animals.  
Not many listen though.  
That's the problem.”

— A.A. Milne,  
*Winnie-the-Pooh*

**Ace**

*Continued from page 2*

recovering from surgery, I brought him home to foster him for the rest of the healing process. He looked frightful with two drains on either side of his neck and a huge pressure bandage around his



**Lucky (Ace) pauses to register for the Paws to Celebrate event.**

neck. Maybe because he was all white, the blood dripping down the side of his neck made him look a bit scary. But through it all, Lucky just grinned and wagged his tail to all who greeted him. He was eager for any affection from people. I got used to cleaning up the blood spatters that followed him throughout our home or in my office. Once the drains were out, I placed a scarf or bandana around his neck to make him more presentable (and dapper) when he hung out with me at the Shelter.

After about three weeks of healing, I sent him off to a FOTAS outreach event at ACE Hardware. Two gentlemen who were looking for their first companion dog saw Lucky. They came to the Shelter later that week to adopt him and renamed him Ace.

Ace's owners have since reported that he has settled in well and gets along with the neighbor's dog. All three of them visited the Paws to Celebrate event in June and were

a big hit, assisting us in raising \$19,000 during the Fund-a-Need portion of the evening. And I was so impressed about how well he had healed. There is no evidence of any wound, now that his hair has grown in, and he still had that big silly grin. As I watched Ace and his new owners walking around the ballroom, stopping to greet each of the guests, I was reminded of that rainy Saturday afternoon



**Rick and Chris feel lucky to have adopted Ace.**

when an injured dog with a special spirit convinced a few of us that he deserved a second chance. Ace is one lucky dog!




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**Purchase Tickets for \$10 each:**

**From a Friends of the Animal Shelter Volunteer**

On line at [www.fotas.org](http://www.fotas.org)

or by calling Eliza @ (541) 482-8172



**Drawing will be October 25 at 8:00 PM at the Puss 'n Boots Costume Ball & Auction**

Only 1,500 tickets will be sold. • Need not be present to win.

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may hide their feelings, but a cat does not."

— Ernest Hemingway

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## GROWING IN THE NEXT LEVEL

By Peggy Moore

In 2015, Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS) will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Our nonprofit organization has matured into one that provides essential support to Jackson County Animal Services (JCAS), annually paying \$150,000 in medical and reduced fee adoption reimbursements, facility maintenance and improvements, dog and cat enrichment, dog trainers, adoption literature, promotion of adoptable animals, and managing more than 10,000 hours of volunteer time towards the care and adoption efforts of the animals at the Shelter.

As FOTAS continues to mature and the needs of the Shelter continue to increase, the Board recognized the need to "grow to the next level." FOTAS must increase both financial and operational support for existing programs, and develop strategies for the creation of new ones. And we need to formulate a plan for growth and systematically address the need for ongoing JCAS financial stability.

After a great deal of discussion and research, the FOTAS Board of

Directors decided that our next steps would be best facilitated under the guidance of an Executive Director, and so embarked on finding the right person for the job.

In July, Jim Ormand was hired as the first Executive Director (ED) of FOTAS. He brings more than 25 years of experience serving as ED/CEO for various nonprofit organizations (turn to page 12 to learn more about Jim). His work at FOTAS will include resource development and management, researching and writing grants, increasing community awareness about FOTAS and JCAS, and creating comprehensive fundraising plans for FOTAS.


Jim led a strategic planning session with the Board of Directors in mid-July, with an emphasis on promoting and strengthening the partnership between JCAS and FOTAS. He is managing and evaluating our staff work responsibilities, so as to better serve the volunteers and the animals. Jim will be proposing new fundraising strategies, with the goal of nurturing current donors, increasing our donor base, and researching/applying for grants. Increasing donations is a critical need for the Shelter.

The cost of running the Shelter is approximately \$1.3 million per year, and it receives less than 10% of its funding from Jackson County. It generates the rest of

its funding through fees and grants, and under Barbara Talbert's leadership as Manager, JCAS is promoting programs to recover lost revenue, such as increasing dog licensing compliance. Despite these efforts, the budget shortfall remains at \$200,000 to \$400,000 annually, due to the rising costs of operations and maintenance of the aging Shelter facilities. Several years ago, the Shelter received a generous bequest to compensate for the deficit, but these funds will last only another two years. If money is not raised to meet the budgetary needs, Shelter programs will be cut and services reduced, which will significantly impact our community and the animals. The Shelter and FOTAS are working together to creatively find a way to financially sustain and increase our financial and volunteer support as we go forward.

The FOTAS Board believes the best way to ensure the ongoing success of FOTAS in its efforts to support the Shelter is through the leadership of an Executive Director, and we feel fortunate to have Jim serving in this capacity. 🐾

"In July, Jim Ormand was hired as the first Executive Director (ED) of FOTAS. He brings more than 25 years of experience serving as ED/CEO for various nonprofit organizations."



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## WELCOME TO WHISKERVILLE

By Marilyn Edwards

It may sound a little Seussian, but the bright, new free-roaming cat room at the Shelter is named WHISKERVILLE. If it had a musical motif, it would be, "Forget your

"At any given time, as many as twelve cats – and we all know that this means twelve different personalities – reside in the room."

troubles, come on, and get happy" because that's how staff, volunteers and the public feel when they enter this wonderful space. Most importantly, it is a place where the Shelter cats can forget their troubles, relax, get exercise, and mingle with other kitties.

Whiskerville became a reality after Rebecca Long, our Shelter Supervisor, and cat room technicians Donna Patnesky and Claudia Sadler, attended a weekend seminar by Kelley Bollen, Certified Animal Behavior Consultant, who spoke on stress

recognition and reduction as well as behavioral and environmental enrichment in shelter settings. It has long been recognized that cats do not do well living in small kennels for extended periods of time. Unfortunately most shelters are filled to capacity and small individual kennels tend to be the most common solution for housing. This was the case for our Shelter, but not for long.

One Saturday in late spring, a dedicated group of two staff members, a cat room volunteer, and two dog walkers rolled up their sleeves and got to work. All kennels were removed in Cat Room C, thus starting the transformation. Bright green and yellow paint, along with some pictures and decals on the walls, and mobiles hanging from the ceiling, formed the backdrop for what was to come: cat trees for climbing and hiding, big cushy pillows where kitties can stretch out, and shelving units for the dedicated feline loungers. A ladder arrangement was painted bright blue and connected in such a



The free-roaming space at Whiskerville is a big hit with the cats at the Shelter.

way as to create climbing space and high-in-the-sky sleeping areas. The ladder also serves as a window to the outside world, and a spot where kitties can bask in the sun. Shy cats can find refuge in the many hidey-holes strategically placed around the room. And of course, cat toys of

*Continued next page*

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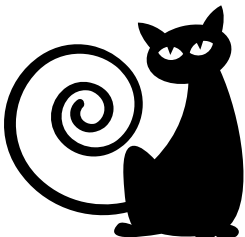
*Continued from previous page*

every description decorate the floor. Whiskerville offers something for each of its kitty residents.

At any given time, as many as twelve cats – and we all know that this means twelve different personalities – reside in the room. Throughout the day, kitties peek out from cozy beds, while others run around the room, jumping up on shelves and ledges, entertaining you with their best Cirque du Soleil routines. Other cats open one eye, glance in your direction, then resume napping (again, they ARE cats, after all). If you're lucky enough to grab a "people" chair before some clever cat beats you to it, you will most likely end up with at least one cat on your lap, while several others vie for your attention. Rattle a treat bag and you will feel like you just arrived in the midst of feeding time at the zoo.

It's thrilling to witness this experiment of communal living evolve, watching the kitties of Whiskerville come into their own. Cats that had languished in the kennel environment now blossom in this room, once they realize they have both private space and room to roam.

Whiskerville is a sanctuary for cats and the people who love them. They can unwind, enjoy some quiet time together, and engage in delightful play. It is a great venue for prospective adopters who like the idea of meeting kitties in a more home-like setting. It is a safe and engaging temporary home for a number of our very remarkable cats. All in all, it is a glorious win-win.



## PAMPERED PUPS, WET DOGS AND HAPPY OWNERS

*By Peggy Moore*

Once again, FOTAS volunteers came out in force to clean up the city...of dirty dogs, that is. Armed with shampoo and decked out in aprons, a mix of seasoned and new dog washers enthusiastically bathed dogs of all sizes and ages at two different venues this summer: Pet Country in Medford and the Ashland Food Co-op.

Both events featured a nail trimming station, compliments of Didi and Andrew Tomlinson, owners of Land of Paws in Ashland. They handled the arduous task of nail clipping with style and efficiency, bringing smiles to those who typically find this task to be their least favorite dog activity. The Tomlinsons donated all money earned from both events to FOTAS.



**Dirty dogs are scrubbed clean by FOTAS volunteers at the Ashland Food Co-op.**

The July 19<sup>th</sup> dog wash at Pet Country marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for this event. The efforts of FOTAS volunteers, Land of Paws and Pet Country staff brought in \$905 and made new friends in the community as well.

Just three weeks later, the dog washers were back to work at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual dog wash at the Ashland Food Co-op. The day started with a large crowd of happy owners (and likely, less enthusiastic dogs) who were ready and waiting for the chance of a good dog wash and grooming. Canine Shelter alumni were spotted throughout the day, much to the delight of the volunteers. One dog rescued from India even came by for a visit and a wash.

The day's efforts resulted in 97 dogs being washed and \$1,600 raised, including Land of Paws' donation of \$287 and \$403 in donations from grateful owners.

These two dog washes are a great way to get out into the community, meet people with dogs and see a few Shelter alumni along the way. It's a fun way to spend part of a weekend, communing with like-minded people — animal lovers. We do this every July at Pet Country and every August at the Ashland Food Co-op. If you missed us this year, plan to join us next year. All you need is a dirty dog and a towel. 🐾

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**Umpqua Bank's Coins for Kitties September Campaign Supports 2-Fur-1 Adoptions**

The FOTAS 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 2-Fur-1 program pays one adoption fee to the Shelter when two cats or kittens are adopted together into their new home. The adopter pays the other fee.

Coins for Kitties raises funds through the donation of spare change at any Umpqua Bank in the Rogue Valley throughout September. Bring your spare change to a container at any Umpqua Bank branch or the Jackson County Animal Shelter! Or you may make a donation directly to FOTAS for the 2-Fur-1 program. Make the check payable 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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## A Message from our New Executive Director



Photo: Jim Ormand

**Jim Orland, FOTAS Executive Director, with his  
newly-adopted Shelter dog, Apollo**

Hi, my name is Jim Ormand and I'm very pleased to join FOTAS as its first Executive Director (ED).

My professional experience spans more than twenty-five years, having served as the ED/CEO for several nonprofit disability and community service organizations. I grew up in a traveling military family – we lived in Japan, Texas, Mississippi, South Dakota, Germany, Florida, and North Dakota. I like to camp, fish, hike, canoe, and also enjoy searching for vintage radios and fan-shaped vases.

My family and I have lived in Southern Oregon for about 12 years. In July 2002, I relocated from Florida to lead the turnaround of a troubled nonprofit in Ashland. I was soon joined by my wife, Julie, our daughter, Elora, and Tiger, our rescued 7-year-old grey tiger cat from the Orlando, Florida Shelter. We purchased a home in Medford the following year and adopted Brutus, a rescued 2-year-old brindle Boxer. In 2009–2010, we lost Brutus and Tiger, then adopted Rock, a 6-year-old fawn Boxer from Jackson County Animal Services (JCAS) and Minky, a young, frisky, and loveable black cat. We lost Rock in 2012, but this July we adopted Apollo, an amazing 8-year-old red Doberman from the Shelter. Minky and Apollo are already good friends. I encourage you to see their photograph displayed at the Shelter.

I am very excited to join FOTAS! My initial focus is to help guide the Board through strategic planning, assist in developing a comprehensive fundraising program, support and bolster the volunteer experience, and strengthen the partnership between FOTAS and JCAS.

You are invited to stop by and share your story – I'm truly looking forward to meeting each of you and to working together!

My best,  
Jim

[fotased@charter.net](mailto:fotased@charter.net)  
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