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*friends of the  
animal shelter*

Jackson County



Supporting the programs of the Jackson County Animal Shelter

**SPRING 2019**

## Meet a real hero

**From rescued to rescuer**

Every dog and cat that comes through the Shelter and finds a loving home is a joy for us. It's what drives our volunteers to show up seven days a week. On occasion, an incredible story illustrates just how special these animals are, and just how much they can change when given love and training.

### **Blake has such a story to tell.**

In October 2016, Blake, a 2-year-old, handsome Chocolate Lab was picked up as a stray in Central Point by Jackson County Animal Services. He had no collar, no microchip and no one came to claim him. Two weeks after his arrival, Search Dog Foundation (SDF) Canine Recruiter, Kirsten Fulk, visited the shelter, seeking high-energy dogs to evaluate for the SDF. Rescuing dogs and training them for careers in search and rescue is the foundation's mission.

Dogs recruited from across the country are trained to become the nation's first responders to disasters across the nation. Kirsten quickly spotted Blake, and took him to the SDF training center in Santa Paula, California to be evaluated for entry into their program. He was accepted!

In April 2018, after 17 months of care and training, Blake was paired with firefighter and paramedic, Mike Brice, of the San Diego Fire-Rescue/California Task Force 8.

Continued on page 3

*Paws*  
to Celebrate

Details on back...

**Friends of the Animal Shelter supports the programs of the Jackson County Animal Shelter in Phoenix, Oregon.**

We provide hundreds of volunteers to help increase pet adoptions and improve the quality of life for Shelter animals while waiting for their new forever homes.

Because preventing unplanned litters is the first step to reducing pet overpopulation, all Shelter animals are spayed/neutered before adoption, and we promote and offer spay/neuter options for non-Shelter pets.

And to ensure animals get a second chance, the Jackson County Animal Shelter and Friends of the Animal Shelter fund preventative and rehabilitative medical treatments.

All of this is in service to our vision that all adoptable animals in Jackson County find a loving home. And you can help!



**Jackson County Animal Shelter**

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



**View  
adoptable  
animals  
anytime at:  
[www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)**

**Every bit helps!**

## Shelter Wish List

- Good-quality wet and dry food in original packaging
- Dog collars (medium and large) and strong leashes
- Large towels
- Small blankets and bedding (washable)
- Washable beds (all sizes)
- Baby and pet shampoo
- Dog and cat toys
- EXTRA-LARGE Kongs for dogs

Drop off your donations during open Shelter hours.

## 2019 ANNUAL EVENTS

- Paws to Celebrate | June 21
- Paws for a Cause  
Dog Walk & Fair | September
- Puss 'n Boots  
Costume Ball & Auction | October 26

Details at [fotas.org/events/annual-events/](http://fotas.org/events/annual-events/)

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

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01-19 Friends of the Animal Shelter's newsletter is published three times a year.

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Barbara Talbert,  
Shelter Manager

5595 S Pacific Hwy 99  
Phoenix, OR 97535  
(541) 774-6654

### Hours

Tuesday - Friday  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Saturday and Sunday  
Noon - 4:00 pm



Transformation from shelter dog to search dog is not an easy one. Dogs who may have been neglected or abused by humans must learn to trust again, in order to form an inseparable bond that will carry them through training and their new lives as search dogs. Mike and Blake are part of the nation's elite FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force and are deployed to emergency and disaster sites across the country.

We contacted Mike in San Diego to find out how Blake was doing at his new job. "So, you know how they say that a dog is a man's best friend? That is the biggest understatement of the century, because Blake is that and so much more. Not only to me, but also to my family and pretty much everyone who comes in contact with him."

"Blake loves his job. He is very methodical and alerts with a strong confident bark. Although he is my partner at work, he is also my best friend, my "dog son," and he inspires me to push harder and be a better search team than the day before."

We will never know where Blake came from or why he was found wondering in Central Point. If he had



**Team mates,  
Mike Brice  
of the San Diego  
Fire-Rescue  
and Blake  
during training.**

a tag or an up-to-date microchip, this outstanding dog could have been reunited with his owners. Fortunately, Blake found a new life and new career as a true hero for our country.

**Blake's story shows us that every animal can be a hero when given love and training.**

## How to update your pet's MICROCHIP

### High-tech protection can prevent heartbreak - but only if it's current.

In the last issue, we touched on the topic of microchips, and now we'd like to emphasize the importance keeping your contact information associated with your pet's microchip up to date!

Too often, microchips in stray dogs and cats that come to the Shelter have old contact information, which makes the microchip useless. Remember to update your contact information when you move or change your phone number. And if you rehome your pet, give the microchip information to the new owner, so that they can update the information. Include your email address, since many of us keep the same email address for years!

### What if I don't remember who makes my pet's microchip?

That's easy! Just ask your vet to scan your pet. And the Shelter is happy to do that for you as well. Either way, you'll be able to find out what vendor the microchip is registered with, as well as your pet's microchip registration number. Google the chip

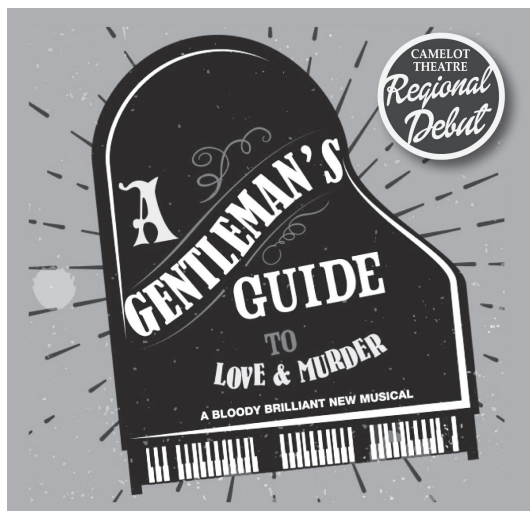
company and either register your pet or update your info, using the registration number.

If you are getting your pet microchipped for the first time, registration is easy. Some vet offices will do it for you. Make sure you ask!

**No matter where you choose to register your pet's microchip, make sure you keep the information up to date. Help us get your beloved pet back to you!**

### Chip Myth Busters:

- Since only veterinarians and shelters have scanners, your pet should always wear a collar with ID and current contact information.
- Chips are placed just under the skin, in between the shoulder blades. Over time, they can "migrate" within our pet's body. Therefore, it's important that animals have a full-body scan. All strays turned into the Shelter undergo a full-body scan.
- Chips are not the same as licensing. Oregon law requires dogs older than 6 months obtain a dog license from the county in which they live. Licenses can be purchased at the Jackson County Animal Shelter and many vets.



## A Benefit performance at Camelot Theatre in Talent Wednesday, February 27 at 8:00 PM

Tickets: \$25 each (open seating)

- Purchase online: [fotas.org/gentlemen](http://fotas.org/gentlemen)
- Also available at the Friends of the Animal Shelter office: (541) 774-6651

This Tony Award-winning musical is set in London in 1907 and tells the uproarious, farcical story of Monty Navarro, an heir to a family fortune who sets out to jump the line of succession by – you guessed it – eliminating the eight pesky relatives who stand in his way. You see, the family disinherited Monty's mother, so, in revenge, Monty plots to eliminate the heirs, one by one – and they're all played by the same actor! All the while, Monty has to juggle his mistress (she's after more than just love), his fiancée (she's his cousin but who's keeping track?), and the constant threat of landing behind bars! It's killer entertainment!

## ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

### LOW-COST PET VACCINATIONS & NAIL TRIMS

Bring your pets to the Jackson County Animal Shelter for the monthly Low-cost Pet Vaccination Clinic.

- 3rd Saturday
- 11 AM – 1 PM
- 5595 S. Pacific Hwy in Phoenix
- CASH ONLY
- Dog Distemper–Parvo Combo: \$15
- Cat Distemper–Respiratory Combo \$15
- Rabies (cats and dogs): \$10
- Nails: \$5

Your pets must be at least 8 weeks old. Animals that are ill, on antibiotics, in heat, or on cortisone medications cannot be vaccinated.

Dogs older than 6 months are required by Oregon law to be vaccinated for rabies and licensed in the County in which they reside. You can also purchase dog licenses (cash, check or credit card) with a rabies certificate.



### WAGGIN' TALES MONTHLY USED BOOK SALE

- Peruse our ever-changing inventory and pay what you want.
- Last Saturday and Sunday of the month
- Saturday, Noon – 4 PM
- Sunday, Noon – 2 PM

### LOUIE'S RESTAURANT \$20 GIFT CARDS

Purchase a \$20 gift card to Louie's Restaurant in Ashland from us, and we keep \$10.

Gift cards are available at the Friends of the Animal Shelter office at the Jackson County Animal Shelter or purchase them on-line at [fotas.org/Louies](http://fotas.org/Louies), and we'll send you the cards in the mail.

*Thank you, Louie's,  
for your incredible  
generosity and support.*



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# Announcing the SNYP Low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic



## Planned Services

- Owned dog and cat spay/neuters
- Subsidized low-income dog and cat spay/neuters
- Community cat (feral and stray) spay/neuters
- Trap/Neuter/Return support and training
- Shelter dog and cat spay/neuters
- Breed-specific incentive programs

After twenty-one years of providing low-cost spay/neuter services through their voucher programs, SNYP is gearing up to open the first stand-alone low-cost spay/neuter clinic in southern Oregon. The clinic, located at 111 N. Pacific Hwy in Talent, Oregon is expected to open in mid-February of this year.

Initially, the clinic will serve shelter partners in Jackson, Josephine, and Siskiyou counties, as well as community (feral and stray) cats. Beginning in March, the clinic will open to the general public throughout the region.

### Having a dedicated spay/neuter clinic will allow SNYP to:

- Increase the number of animals SNYP can assist annually
- Expand their services to neighboring Josephine, Klamath and Siskiyou counties
- Grow their community cat services
- Introduce new spay/neuter services for specific breeds, such as Pit Bulls and Chihuahuas
- Support shelters' spay/neuter-before-adoption needs in three counties

### What this means to the Shelter and Friends of the Animal Shelter:

SNYP can help get adopted animals neutered sooner, getting those lucky pets into their forever homes faster, and freeing up precious space for more animals to be rescued.

Dr. Mike Maynard will be joining the clinic team from Colorado. Dr. Maynard is trained in high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter (HQHVSN), which is instrumental to the clinic's high-volume demands. Dr. Mike is already busy advising on best practices, supply procurement and a hundred and one other things as SNYP nears their opening date.

Pricing and a detailed list of services will be posted on the SNYP website as they get closer to their opening date.

A special thank you goes to Friends of the Animal Shelter for their continued support.

**Updates at [SpayNeuter.org](http://SpayNeuter.org)**





# CELEBRATING THE FOSTER JOURNEY

**Fostering of under-age (too young to spay/neuter) and kennel-stressed animals is one of the most vital components to saving more animals. It's also an amazing journey, for both the foster families and the shelter animals.**

We asked Amanda, a Foster volunteer, to find out how she became involved and what insight she has for those considering fostering, but are still a little too nervous to take the first step.

"I got into fostering almost by accident, and the experience has been so rewarding, I continue to raise my hand to foster again and again. Admittedly, at first, I was hesitant because I was worried that I would fall in love with the animals and not be able to part with them. But, surprisingly, I discovered I was so excited about how much they blossomed, that I wanted to share them with others and found incredible delight in their adoptions into loving homes. All I can say is that the reward is tenfold. I am really blown away by how much fostering enriches my life."

"I see my role as providing a sanctuary – a home between homes. Fostering also enriches my own pets' lives, and teaches my kids invaluable lessons about taking care of creatures in need. I'm in my third year and have fostered 49 animals so far. I foster both dogs and cats, and when needed, take a Shelter animal that needs a little medical attention. The foster support is excellent. If I need food, medical supplies or just some advice, there is always someone available. I also like that I can take a breather when I need to. The program is very flexible, so I foster when it works for me and my family."

Barbara Talbert, Jackson County Animal Shelter Manager, understands how much fostering can change a dog's personality. "There are many animals that do not thrive in a shelter setting. It's noisy and can be scary for some dogs. Then they don't "show well" to potential adopters."

"It has been a very rewarding experience to take a misunderstood, stressed dog from the Shelter that has struggled in a noisy environment, without having much control over its routine, and see him or her blossom into a super dog with potential to live with



*Most photos for this article were lovingly taken by Foster Volunteer Amanda.*

**Colleen Shanahan, CDBC**

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another family. Each has had their issues, but what motivates me is that the right home is out there. It just takes time and patience. We have fostered more than 90 dogs and never get tired of witnessing their amazing transformation."

### **Fostering doesn't have to be full time**

Some foster families take in a shelter animal on the weekends to give him or her a break from the shelter environment, offer some needed socialization, and learn important things about the foster animal that will be helpful to potential adopters.

### **Why do animals need foster care?**

- Some animals don't do well in a shelter environment because they are frightened, need a little extra care, or just need a break if they've been in the shelter for a while.
- Some dogs need help with modifying behaviors to make them more adoptable.
- Because we are a "spay/neuter-before-adoption" shelter, some young animals need time to grow before their surgery.
- Newborn animals that need to be bottle-fed.
- Animals needing time to recover from an illness or injury before adoption.

Whatever the reason, these animals need some extra love and care before they can be adopted. Providing foster care for a few days, weeks, or occasionally months, can be a lifesaving gift for an animal and a rewarding experience for you.

### **Kitten foster families desperately needed.**

Contact Friends of the Animal Shelter office at 541-774-6651.

### **TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A FOSTER FAMILY, PLEASE VISIT**

[www.fotas.org/volunteer/about-fostering](http://www.fotas.org/volunteer/about-fostering)

### **More comments from Foster Families**

"Fostering is a profoundly enriching experience. I had no idea how much it would mean to me until the first animal walked through my door and straight into my heart."

"Seeing how my own animals take care of our foster animals always amazes me. They know these animals need love and they give it freely."



"Fostering has helped my whole family be better people, and have a better appreciation for all we have."

"In today's crazy world, this is the best way to teach your kids important life lessons."

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## Best Buddies Program

Some cats are just meant  
to be **together**

### ADOPT 2-FUR-1

Do you remember growing up with your best buddy? Running around, goofing off, and maybe causing a little mayhem? Wasn't that fun?

Well, it turns out that kitties want a best buddy, too! And Friends of the Animal Shelter makes it super easy for you to adopt two best buddies for the price of one!

All of our under-age kittens that are raised in foster homes with their siblings create a bond that is both heart-warming, and frankly, hysterical to watch!

Sometimes adult kitties come in together – having spent their entire lives with their best buddy, where separating them would be simply unkind. And in our free-roaming cat rooms, sometimes felines see each other across the room, and BAM! ... best buddy time!

Oh, and we want to dispel this myth right now! Just because they have their best buddy around, doesn't mean they won't bond with YOU, too! In fact, you may need to acquire another lap, just to accommodate their affection.

So, please consider adopting a set of "best buddies" from the Shelter ...

***twice the love, for only one adoption fee.***



Support Services Associate, Alex Spindler  
accepting this wonderful donation!

### A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Cheryl Ayers, for organizing a donor drive at work. The Ashland Hospital Surgical Services Department really came through with much needed food, towels and blankets.

**Check out our wish list on page 2  
if you'd like to organize a drive at  
your workplace.**

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# VOLUNTEER

## Volunteering @ the Shelter

We have so many wonderful, fun and rewarding volunteer opportunities, it might be hard to choose! Work directly with the cats and dogs. Help adopters find their perfect new companion. Volunteer at the Shelter, in the community, and even from home!

### DOG CARE

With more than 1,500 dogs prancing through the Shelter each year, we need lots of strong Dog Walkers, Ambassadors to work with adopters, Kennel Coordinators and Enrichment volunteers. Dog walkers can even take a dog home overnight!

### DOG PLAY GROUPS

Sounds fun, right? Play groups provide exercise, mental stimulation and socialization for the dogs, and is an important part of our evaluation process as we assess their adoptability. Volunteers have a very active role in getting dogs to and from the kennels, where an experienced yard handler takes charge. If handling a dog is too much, perhaps you can become a note taker. It's fun for the dogs and the volunteers!

### CAT CARE

Cat volunteers help with maintaining a healthy and happy cat room environment, while helping our feline friends feel comfortable and loved, which helps them get adopted. Spend time petting, grooming, keeping kennels clean, socializing and feeding our kitties. Volunteers are very hands-on with our cats, help promote them on social media, and love helping them find their fur-ever homes.

### SUPPORT SERVICES

We have several opportunities for volunteers in invaluable support roles. At the Shelter's front desk you can greet visitors, answer questions, and help with projects. The Shelter has very little staff, so your contribution is immeasurable.

### FOSTERING

One of the most essential volunteer opportunities, which is both fun and rewarding, is providing a foster "home between homes" for dogs/puppies and cats/kittens prior to adoption. With our support, you help socialize animal(s), making them highly adoptable. This is a wonderful and personal way to help save pets in your loving home.

### STREET DOGS PROJECT

This project reaches out to homeless with companion animals to get them spayed/neutered and provide medical care. Help is needed at outreach events, and behind the scenes answering phone calls, bagging food, and scheduling vet appointments. Food, collars, harnesses, leashes and jackets are needed.



## NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

There are many more ways you can help save deserving pets. For a complete list of volunteer opportunities, please sign up for a New Volunteer Orientation meeting by contacting the office at (541) 774-6651 or [fotas@fotas.org](mailto:fotas@fotas.org)

**Find the volunteer activity that works best for you!**

West Main Animal Hospital is not your everyday veterinary practice and you'll recognize the difference the moment you step through our front door!



**DEBORAH TEGARDEN, D.V.M.**

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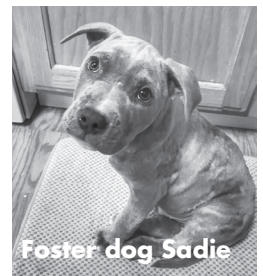
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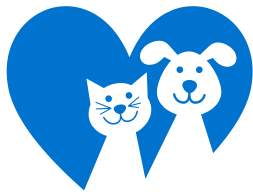
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