



friends of the animal shelter

Jackson County



Supporting the programs of the Jackson County Animal Shelter

WINTER 2020

All about cats!

Helping every cat navigate the Shelter system

In the last issue of the Friends of the Animal Shelter newsletter, we provided readers with a view of how our canine clients navigate the Shelter system with the help of our dog-loving volunteers. In this issue, we pay tribute to the many feline volunteers who help make a cat's journey through the Shelter a better experience.

Like dogs, cats arrive at the Shelter for many reasons, but most arrive as strays brought in by the public. Nationally, only 5% of cats are returned to their owners, since most arrive without any visible identification or microchip. And sadly, many owners don't contact their local shelters looking for their feline family member.

Shelter Staff Care

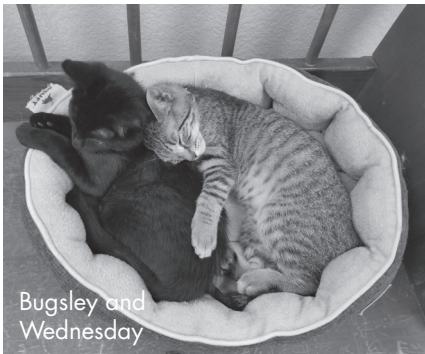
Upon arrival, all cats are photographed, scanned for a microchip, and given a physical evaluation, during which their age and health are assessed, ears are cleaned, nails are trimmed, a flea and worming treatment is administered, and the first in a series of vaccinations is given. If the cat is older than 6 months old, they are tested for feline leukemia. The cats are then placed in a quiet environment for 3 days to help reduce their stress level while waiting for their owner to contact the Shelter.

The Holding Team

Most cats are moved into adoption as soon as possible, but for those needing extra attention, the Feline Holding Team steps in. These exceptional volunteers provide extra socialization and loving interaction in an effort to prepare these special cases for adoption. The Holding Team often get a feel for these kitties' personalities and needs, and that information is passed on to volunteers in the adoption rooms. Very young kittens and special needs cats are moved to Foster homes, where they can receive in-home care until ready for adoption.

Once cats and kittens are moved to the adoption rooms, our volunteers help provide a safe and calming environment, and are instrumental in helping match the cat or kitten with an adoptive family. Communication between the volunteers regarding the cat's behavior and health is key. Daily reports are written by cat room volunteers and distributed via email, including which

Continued on page 6



Bugsley and
Wednesday



Micky

Check out our upcoming events on page 12.

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 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 ADOPTIONS and LICENSING

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

SHELTER WISH LIST

- Dry cat/Kitten food (dye free)
- Canned cat/kitten food (paté)
- Canned dog/puppy food (pate)
- Dry dog/puppy food (dye free)
- High-value dog treats (soft, meaty)
- Dog collars (medium and large) and strong leashes
- Large towels and LOTS of them!
- Small blankets (washable)
- Washable beds (all sizes)
- Baby and pet shampoo
- Dog and cat toys
- EXTRA-LARGE Kongs for dogs

Check out our Amazon online wish list at:
www.fotas.org/wish-list

Drop off your donations at the Shelter.

Every little bit helps!



© Sunny LeGrand
 Bo



Hulk

View adoptable animals anytime at:
www.fotas.org

OUR MISSION

Friends of the Animal Shelter is dedicated to the well-being and adoption of animals at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, the training and recruitment of volunteers, and the promotion of pet health, spay/neuter and education through community outreach.

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Newsletter

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Jackson County Animal Shelter

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

Financial Report 2019

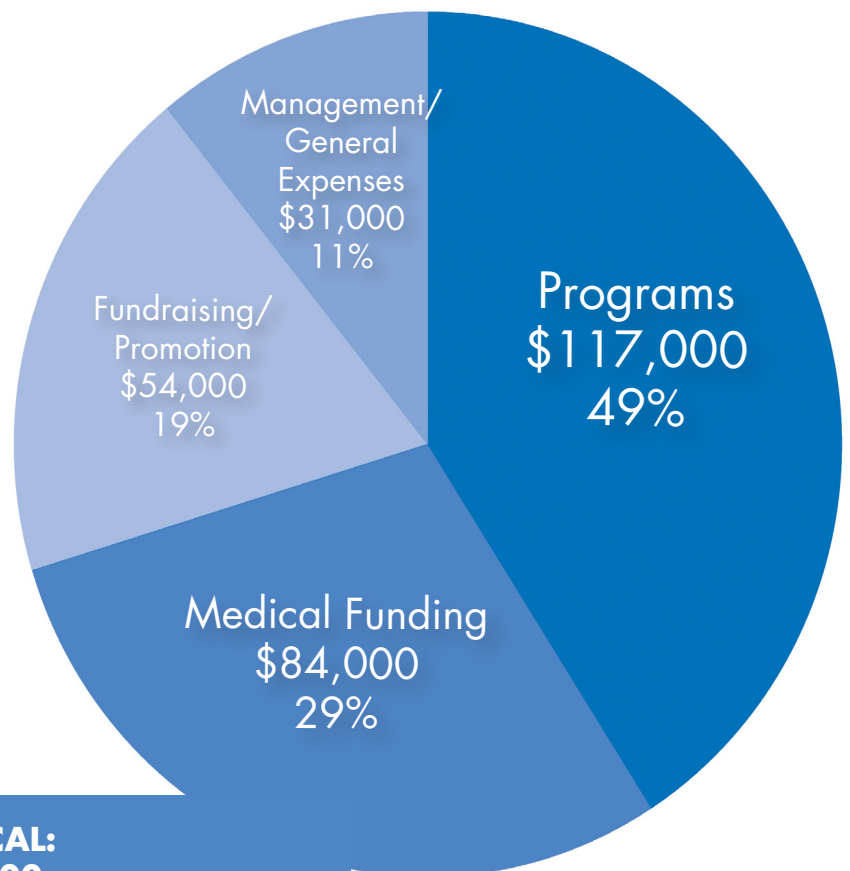
In 2019, with the help of our dedicated volunteers and donors like you, Friends of the Animal Shelter expanded life-saving programs and services. Our live release rate for dogs rose to 95% (from 94%), and to 82% (from 57%) for cats.

In the past year we:

- Expanded the Foster Care Program
- Improved our dog playgroup system
- Increased socialization and training programs
- Enhanced preventative vaccinations and medical care services

We look forward to supporting the Jackson County Animal Shelter in 2020!

Tilly Gibbs, Board President



PROGRAMS: \$117,000

Our expanding Foster Care Program, where under-age and sick animals are taken into volunteer homes to grow up and heal, is saving thousands of animals each year.

Hands-on animal care, like playgroups, walking and training dogs, and socializing cats, keeps animals engaged and healthy in a Shelter setting, making them even more adoptable.

Street Dogs Program volunteers create trusting relationships with our homeless community members with companion animals. Spay/neuter is greatly decreasing the number of unplanned litters and keeping street dogs (and cats) healthy.

Adopted animals sometimes need a little help adjusting to their new homes. Dog adopters are offered one-on-one with a trainer in their home, which has greatly decreased the number of dogs returned due to adjustment issues.

MEDICAL: \$84,000

Contributing to the cost of Shelter medical costs is a large part of our budget. Spay/neuter for dogs, cats and bunnies, preventative vaccinations, antibiotics, and even surgeries, when needed, ensure animals are healthy and ready for their new adoption.

FUNDRAISING/PROMOTION: \$54,000

We have to spend money to make money! The Board is very careful about our fundraising expenses, especially for events. Community partners and sponsors underwrite a great deal of the costs, for which we are immensely grateful.

Promotion expenses really translate into "getting the word out" about the fabulous animals available for adaptation at the Jackson County Animal Shelter. Our newsletter, website, Facebook, and other social media, are essential in creating awareness and relationships – for adoption, recruiting volunteers and fundraising.

MANAGEMENT / GENERAL EXPENSES: \$31,000

Non-profits need to make sure they stay compliant with financial management processes and laws, employees are safe, and the organization is well run. As you can see, we keep these expenses as our smallest outlay, while supporting our dedicated volunteers and, of course, the animals.

Thank you to our donors! We couldn't do any of this without you. Please consider becoming a recurring donor and including Friends of the Animal Shelter in your Planned Giving.

To find out more about our Legacy Society please visit www.fotas.org/legacy-society



Celebrating Deck the Paws Holiday Fair

This was the first time Friends of the Animal Shelter, under the leadership of event coordinator, Laura Ahearn, held our Deck the Halls Holiday Fair - a wonderful celebration of community coming together to save more animals.

More than 2,500 handmade gifts and decor items were on sale, donated by local crafters and artists, 6th-graders at Ashland Middle School, 8th-graders at Ruch Outdoor Community School, and supporters as far away as Los Angeles and Florida.

Hundreds of Jackson County animal lovers came to shop and have pet photos taken with Santa Paws. In fact, one family traveled all the way from Mt. Shasta to have a family portrait taken with their 140 lb. pound dog.

We raised more than \$7,000. Wow!

Laura Ahearn especially extends a special thanks to the dozens of Friends of the Animal Shelter volunteers who gave their time and talents. Laura wishes she could name and thank everyone individually - your participation is treasured.



We had so much fun, we're doing it again!
2nd Annual Deck the Paws Holiday Fair:
Saturday, December 5, 2020.



Your Recycling = Donations



Friends of the Animal Shelter has partnered with the Ashland Recycling Center on Water Street! Bring redeemable cans and bottles and put them in the white cart next to the dog kennel. Volunteers collect and redeem them for cash throughout the week. Proceeds are used to support programs and services for the dogs and cats at the Jackson County Animal Shelter.

Examples of redeemable items:

- Aluminum Cans (soda, beer, etc.)
- Plastic Bottles (water, soda, etc.)
- Glass Bottles (beer, kombucha, lemonade, etc.).
- No wine bottles please

Recycling Center employees can help with any questions.

If you have a large collection of cans or bottles at home, our recycling volunteers would be happy to pick them up from you. Just call our office at (541) 774-6651 and we will make arrangements.

In 6 months, this new fundraising effort has raised \$2,840. Yowza!

Many thanks to the Recycling volunteers!



The Ashland Recycling Center
is open Monday - Saturday,
9AM - 5PM
220 Water St., Ashland



BUN FUND Helping more... and more RABBITS



Bunnies reproduce like ... uh, bunnies! In fact, in 2019, 77 bunnies were surrendered to the Shelter, a three-fold increase over 2018.

Thanks to our dedicated bunny foster families, we were able to manage a group of eleven rabbits left behind in a rental property, provide care to a hospice bunny, rehabilitate a surrendered "bad" bunny, offer a home environment for two mothers with nursing babies, and provide calm recovery homes following spay and neuter procedures for most surrendered adult rabbits.

Female bunnies can become pregnant every 30 days with a new litter of 1-14 bunnies. Spay and neuter is critical for the long term health of adult bunnies; unaltered females have a 60% chance of developing uterine cancer by age 3. It also reduces the likelihood of aggression and negative behavioral issues, common reasons for surrender, with the added benefit that the bunny can have a companion for a happier life without the risk of unwanted pregnancies. Friends of the Animal Shelter Bun Fund provides the financial support for rabbit spay/neuter surgeries.

Bunnies make excellent pets for families without young children. They are quiet, long-lived, generally very clean, and easily litter box trained. All have unique personalities and bond closely with their people.

Considering adopting a bunny?

Check out the bunnies available for adoption at fotas.org/adopt. We also offer a Bunny Companion Manual online to help with your adoption and ongoing care.

Contact us today and become a Bunny Foster Family!

As our rabbit program expands, we need more bunny foster families and funds for spay/neuter. To become a Bunny Foster Family, visit fotas.org/about-fostering or contact our office at fotas@fotas.org.

To make a donation, visit fotas.org and use our DONATE button at the top of the page. Enter BUN FUND in the dedication line, or by check, clearly note BUN FUND on the memo line.



Cover story continued

cats need a little extra reassurance or more play time, identifies bonded pairs that need to be adopted together, and highlights cats that might need a little extra adoption help. Because the volunteers get to know the many Shelter cats through hands-on interaction, they are key in addressing health and behavioral issues before they become a major problem.

Room to Roam

Friends of the Animal Shelter has created two free-roaming areas where cats can explore and interact in a more "normal" setting with people and other cats. These rooms also provide a safe environment for the Kitty Enrichment Program where children in grades 1-8, accompanied by an adult, are invited to the Shelter to read to the cats. The program helps children improve their reading skills while providing shelter kitties with socialization and human interaction.

Volunteers have the opportunity in these rooms to really get to know the cats and their habits. They quickly learn what kind of human interaction each cat enjoys, what brings on the purrs, and what causes them to retreat. Not only do volunteers keep an eye on all of these interactions, they are able to direct visitors to kitties who might be the kind of companion they are looking for. Helping with match making is one of the cat room volunteer's most and rewarding important rolls.

Sponsored Cat Programs

Cats thrive when they have company, and that is why Friends of the Animal Shelter sponsors a "Two Fur One" program, where we pick up the second adoption fee. That means adopters can get two adorable kittens for only \$90, or two adult cats, 6 months and older, for \$50. It's a great deal, since all cats are spayed/neutered and have had some vaccinations. We also have adult Featured Fabulous Felines with reduced adoption fees.

Foster Care - providing a home between homes

For kittens (and puppies) that are too young to be spayed or neutered (the Shelter is a spay/neuter-before-adoption facility), or for overly-frightened cats, our incredible Foster families jump into action! Kitten seasons (spring and fall) mean we are always desperate for more Foster homes. Fostering is an essential volunteer opportunity and is both fun and rewarding. You choose when and how many to foster. This is a wonderful and personal way to help save pets in your loving home. For more information, visit fotas.org/about-fostering.

Beyond Adoption

Our volunteers don't stop with the adoption process. A team of phone volunteers make sure every new owner is called to ensure the match is working, and to hear the happy ending stories! New owners are encouraged to share their stories on the Friends of the Animal Facebook page where their pet was originally posted. They make for wonderful reading! Check them out at facebook.com/fotas.

And, it's working!

As you can see, it takes a lot loving hands and your financial donations to ensure we find homes for all of the cats that come to the Shelter. In the past 5 years alone, our "live release rate" has increased from 56% to 82%. That's amazing! It's working!

Animal Medical Hospital

We love animals and the humans who love them



SCOTT KNOX, D.V.M.
LEANN AHLBRECHT, D.V.M.
TIFFANY GRAEBER, D.V.M.

1525 Highway 99 North
Ashland
(541) 482-2786

www.AnimalMedicalHospitalAshland.com

Providing low-cost spay/neuter services to Jackson County and beyond

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Schedule online at:

www.spayneuter.org





Helping Bonded Pairs through the Shelter System and into a new home

Jon and Arya, who had been together their whole lives, came to us as a bonded pair. Their initial new home had fallen through at the last minute and there was room only on the waiting lists at the local shelters. Fortunately, their owner knew one of our volunteers, who was willing to foster them until a space at the Shelter opened up, two weeks later. Both cats, who are shy at first, felt overwhelmed to be in the shelter environment. Soon after arriving at the Shelter, Jon bit a trustee and was put in quarantine for 10 days, where he was terrified, and didn't want to be handled. Their Foster Mom suggested to let his sister join him, and that solved the problem. Shortly afterwards, they were moved to adoption, where volunteers handled them very gently to let them settle. What their owner had originally told us came true—while they were initially shy, they became quite affectionate when they felt comfortable.

As more good fortune would have it, another one of our FOTAS volunteers had neighbors who were looking for a bonded pair. The family had lost their home in the Paradise fire and were settling into a new home in Medford. They were immediately taken with Jon and Arya, and the two cats were as affectionate as could be. As is often the case, the cats seemed to know these were their new people, and thanks to our Foster System and our Best Buddies Program, the result was a happy homecoming for all!

BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

107 N PACIFIC HWY ▶ TALENT ▶ 541.535.8187

LAURA FREDRICKS, DVM

Pets Need Dental Care Too!

Good oral hygiene is a major step in safeguarding your pet from dental disease down the road.

REDEEM FOR \$100 OFF YOUR PET'S DENTAL CARE PROCEDURES • FREE ESTIMATES

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 1,800 dogs prancing through the Shelter each year, we need lots of strong Dog Walkers, volunteers 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

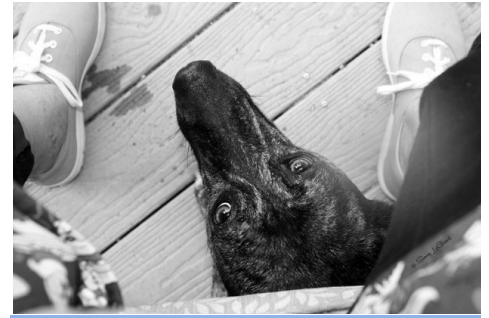
We have several opportunities for volunteers in invaluable support roles. At the Shelter's front desk you can greet visitors, answer questions, and help with projects. The Shelter has very little staff, so your contribution is immeasurable.

FOSTERING

One of our 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.



SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES!

- 32 Daily Shelter Activities
- 5 Monthly Events
- 15 Yearly Events

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

Find the volunteer activity that works best for you!

Colleen Shanahan, CDBC

Dog behavior & training
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Owner/Operator
Over 20 years experience

WILL WORK FOR CHOCOLATE

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Excellent References
Just Ask ☞ We'll probably Say Yes

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and Gail Alexander
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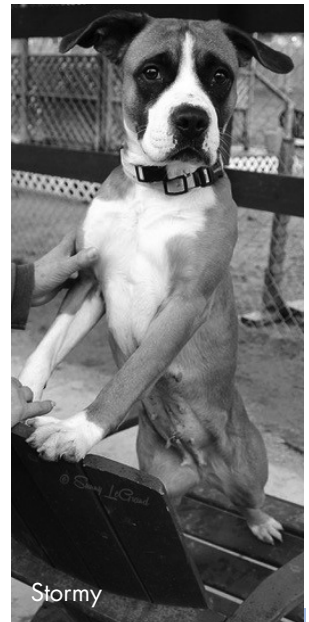
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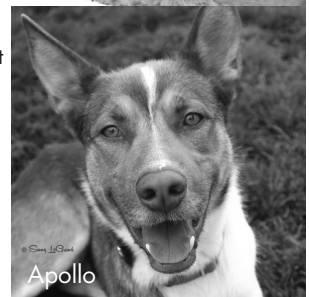


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April 10-11, 2020
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- **Volunteer Appreciation Party**

April 21, 2020
Phoenix Civic Center

This is one of our favorite events
where we honor the outstanding work
our 250+ volunteers, and the 50,000+
hours of support they provide.

- **Paws to Celebrate**

June 19, 2020
Bigham Knoll Ballroom, Jacksonville

Join us for our 7th Annual elegant and
entertaining evening of friends
and fundraising for our beloved
animal companions. Details at
fotas.org/p2c

**Check out more happenings at
fotas.org/events**

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SAVE THE DATES!

