

*friends of the  
animal shelter*

Jackson County

# COVID-19 UPDATE

Volunteer Rabbitt with Leroy

Supporting the programs of the Jackson County Animal Shelter

**SPECIAL ISSUE**

## President's message

These past couple of months have not been easy for any of us, and we send warm thoughts to everyone in the community affected by the Coronavirus. Some of you have experienced greater hardships and losses, but we are comforted by the knowledge that we are all in this together.

As an essential service, the Jackson County Animal Shelter remains open during the shutdown. Many of the day-to-day routines have changed to keep staff, volunteers and the public safe. Physical distancing meant reducing the number of people working at the Shelter, so most of the dogs and cats that were available for adoption in early March, were quickly placed in foster care.

Due to this increased demand on our foster program, an extensive foster recruitment campaign was immediately initiated. Close to 150 applications poured in and our foster care coordinator, Michelle Fox, has been busy connecting with these generous souls.

Once again, our foster families are our heroes by stepping up to take both dogs and cats from the Shelter into their homes to house, feed, socialize and love them. They are an amazing group of dedicated volunteers (including their families) who open their homes and hearts to animals in need. Continued on page 2...

Volunteers and Shelter staff work together to care for the many kittens now entering the Shelter system. More on page 5.



© Sunny LeGrand

Staff member, Rebecca

## 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  
By appointment.  
(541) 774-6654

## 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.

This is especially helpful, as “Kitten Season” is now upon us, and many orphaned kittens are in need of our help. If you can’t foster, please consider donating to the Orphaned Kittens Shower on page 5, or at [fotas.org/kitten-shower](http://fotas.org/kitten-shower). And we can always use more dog foster families ([fotas.org/foster](http://fotas.org/foster)).

### Plan Ahead! By Appointment Only

Adopters now need to plan ahead by viewing photos and reading about the animals posted on our website ([fotas.org/adopt](http://fotas.org/adopt)). Check out the wonderful pictures with detailed descriptions of the animals, including their likes/dislikes, behaviors, and what type of household would be best for them. These detailed descriptions are compiled using important Shelter staff and volunteer observations and feedback. Then, potential adopters can visit with the animals, by appointment only, at the Shelter or at a foster family’s home. One of the great benefits of doing this “homework” is that the potential adopters are more informed about the animal they are meeting.



Friends of the Animal Shelter volunteers have also been steadfast in their commitment to helping the animals still housed at the Shelter. Our dedicated team shows up to walk dogs, care for cats, take the ever important photos for adoption postings, and support our various programs every day. You never know how an organization will fair in time of crisis until you are truly tested. Please see our stats on page 3, which illustrate just how much has been accomplished during these challenging times.

### Ongoing Updates

We continue to work closely with the Shelter to support their changing needs. For current news in these changing times, please visit the COVID-19 Update section on our website homepage at [fotas.org](http://fotas.org).

### Stay-Home, Stay-Safe

Pets are scientifically proven to improve health, ease anxiety, lower blood pressure, lessen feelings of loneliness, and reduce stress. As you know, pets provide you with a sense of purpose. If you have a pet, you are never alone. So, in this crazy time, take a moment to thank your animals for being there for you. Your pet listens to you talk for as long as you want. No one loves you more unconditionally than your furry buddies. And, no mask or social distancing is necessary – so, give your pets loads of affection – and get even more in return.

Tilly Gibbs, President

Volunteer photos: top - Midge with Carole, middle - Sunny, photographer

### NEW TAX DEDUCTION OPPORTUNITIES

Because COVID-19 has adversely affected contributions made to non-profits, the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act” was enacted to provide tax incentives for making charitable contributions for the 2020 tax year.

There is now no limit on the amount of itemized charitable donations for 2020. For people who do not itemize deductions, you will be able to claim an “above the line” deduction in your taxable income of up to \$300.

Please consider making a contribution to Friends of the Animal Shelter to help us through these challenging times. And, consult with your tax accountant for up-to-date information.

# Measuring our efforts

Friends of the Animal Shelter volunteers have been busy growing our Foster program and expanding our volunteer resources to support the Shelter's needs at this time. The statistics show the efforts of our volunteers and the compassion of our community, in March and April.

- Number of new Foster applications received due to the immediate foster recruitment efforts:  
**145 and counting**
- Number of animals placed in foster care:  
**24 dogs, 28 cats, and 37 kittens**
- Number of FOTAS volunteers continuing to care for the animals remaining at the Shelter and via foster care:  
**107**
- Number of volunteers helping from home (administrative, adoption postings, event planning, program development, computer support):  
**110**
- Number of animals adopted from the Shelter and via foster placement:  
**102 dogs/puppies, 56 cats/kittens**

Dog: Railey

## Get the latest UPDATES

In this time of constant change, Friends of the Animal Shelter is providing up-to-the-minute information on Shelter hours, operations and adoption opportunities.

**Just visit [fotas.org](http://fotas.org)**  
and view the current postings.

### COVID-19 UPDATE

(May 7, 2020 update) The Jackson County Animal Shelter will remain closed to the public through May but can be contacted for animal-related issues and to schedule an adoption appointment.  
Pet adoptions are still happening! 541-774-6654

For the latest news view our posts below.



**6 WAYS TO HELP DURING COVID-19**  
Every voice can help us help the animals.

6 Ways to help the Shelter during the COVID-19 crisis  
Written on 4/16/20. Posted in Updates

Here are 6 great ways people can be of immediate help: 1. ADOPT: Adopting a cat or dog into a loving home is the most obvious way to provide the animals with a happy life. Doing so also makes room at the shelter for incoming strays that need a place to stay. The regular adoption [...]



*We're expecting!*  
Hundreds of kittens, that is!  
Join us for **Purrs & Paws VIRTUAL ORPHANED KITTENS SHOWER**

New campaign to help during "Kitten Season"  
Written on 4/16/20. Posted in Updates

We are gearing up for Kitten Season! Friends of the Animal Shelter has created the Purrs & Paws Virtual Kitten Shower to help raise funds and supplies to support the needs of the hundreds of vulnerable orphaned foster kittens that will be cared for over the next several months. As you can imagine, [...]



**Adoptions are still happening!**  
Adopt a new forever friend while you have time at home.

Adoptions are still happening!  
Written on 4/15/20. Posted in Updates

Adopting a cat or dog during the COVID-19 physical distancing protocols is a perfect time to bring a new pet into your home. You have the time to bond with your new forever friend and they can help you reduce stress. Adopting now so also makes room at the shelter for incoming strays that need [...]



**Animals available for adoption at the Shelter, and presently in foster homes can all been viewed at:**  
**[www.fotas.org/adopt](http://www.fotas.org/adopt)**

# Pending UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends of the Animal Shelter is continuing to plan our summer and fall events. So until you hear otherwise, we hope to see you at one of these upcoming happenings!

## Mark your calendar for our annual Dog Washes:

- **Medford** – Saturday, July 11  
PetSmart
- **Ashland** – Sunday, August 9  
Ashland Food Co-op

Event times: 10 AM – 2 PM

In addition to brush and wash service for \$15.00, we offer a Spaw package: \$20.00; or nails \$7.00



**PAWS FOR A CAUSE**  
DOG WALK & FAIR

This event was created to celebrate the joy of companion pooches. It's all about you and your pet!

**Planned for September.**  
Details coming soon.



## Sit, Stay, Home

**FOTAS invites you to join us for something that isn't cancelled: spending time with your pets.**

### Post some snap shots!

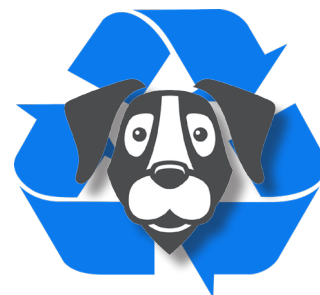
Everyone needs a happy 'tail' these days. Post your "alumni" photos on [facebook.com/fotas](https://facebook.com/fotas)

## Recycling UPDATE

### A safe solution to dispose of your cans and bottles

Yes, the Ashland Recycling center is open, and YES! we are still accepting cans and returnable bottles! Our recycling program is a perfect way to safely dispose of all of those returnable cans and bottles that have been piling up during this Stay-at-Home phase of our lives. It's easy to drop off your recycling at the center and the bins are set up to keep physical distancing. You stay safe, and Friends of the Animal shelter will put the refunds to good use at this much needed time.

**One small note from the recycling team:** please do not crush the cans, the bar code needs to be legible on the cans in order to receive the refund.



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

# We're expecting!

## Hundreds of kittens that is!

### Join us for *Purrs & Paws*

### ORPHANED KITTENS VIRTUAL SHOWER

Kitten season has started!  
We need supplies and contributions to care for the HUNDREDS of orphaned kittens entering the Jackson County Animal Shelter this spring.



Find event details and a complete list of the most-needed items at [fotas.org/kitten-shower](https://fotas.org/kitten-shower)

#### **We are gearing up for Kitten Season!**

Friends of the Animal Shelter has created the Purrs & Paws Virtual Kitten Shower to help raise funds and supplies to support the needs of the hundreds of vulnerable orphaned foster kittens that will be cared for over the next several months.

#### **You can help by donating items or funds for:**

**MEDICAL CARE AND SPAY/NEUTER:** Consider making a financial contribution to help cover the costs of medications and medical care. Lots of kittens come in with medical needs. Most of these are easily treated, but we need to provide the medications. Your donation will help purchase what is needed most this season and support our spay/neuter-before-adoption efforts. Help us “flatten the curve” of unplanned litters.

**NURISHMENT AND SUPPLEMENTS:** Canned and dry kibble, digital scales, nipples and bottles, ointments, probiotics and high-calorie foods specific for young kittens.

**HOUSING AND COMFORT:** Along with washable beds and SnuggleSafe warming pads, we are raising funds to purchase a \$700 incubator to keep our most vulnerable days-old kittens warm and safe.

**OTHER NECESSITIES:** A full list of needed items is listed on the event website so please explore the many ways you can help at [fotas.org/kitten-shower](https://fotas.org/kitten-shower)

#### **Purchase items:**

Locally, FOTAS has arranged with Nature's Pet Market (541-708-0707) and Wellness Pet Supplies (541-708-6785) to accept phone orders – you pay, and we'll pick up! For the Grange Co-op, you must order online ([grangecoop.com](https://grangecoop.com)) and use FOTASCAT in the coupon field at checkout. Items will be delivered to the Medford Grange Co-op for us to pick up. Or use the Amazon Orphaned Kitten Shower wish list, and they will deliver to us. Visit [fotas.org/kitten-shower](https://fotas.org/kitten-shower) for a link to the wish list.

**Don't want to shop?** Donating to the Kitten Shower Campaign will ensure your funding will be used where most needed. Go to [www.fotas.org/kitten-shower](https://www.fotas.org/kitten-shower) to make contributions by credit card, or send a check to:  
FOTAS Kitten Shower, PO Box 1013,  
Phoenix, OR 97535.  
Please write KITTEN SHOWER on the memo line.

Please DO NOT bring items to the Shelter. Instead, send an email to [fotas-scoop@charter.net](mailto:fotas-scoop@charter.net) or call (541) 261-6206

*Help us,  
Help them.*



Address Service  
Requested

Non-profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 86  
Medford, OR

PO Box 1013 | Phoenix, OR 97535

If you would like to be removed  
from this mailing list, please  
call (541) 774-6651 or email  
fotas-scoop@charter.net

# SPECIAL UPDATE ISSUE

May 2020

Play Group Volunteer, Paul  
with Odie



#### Board of Directors

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#### Contact Friends of the Animal Shelter

PO Box 1013  
Phoenix, OR 97535  
(541) 774-6651  
fotas@fotas.org  
www.fotas.org  
facebook.com/fotas

#### 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