

NEWS



**friends of the
animal shelter**

Jackson County

APRIL 2021

SUPPORTING THE PROGRAMS OF THE JACKSON COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

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FEATURE:

New Microchipping Service now at the Shelter

A Friends of the Animal Shelter partnership

Don't lose me.
Microchip your pets.

1 out of 3
pets will get lost in their lifetime.



We all know that sinking, sickening feeling. Your pet escapes. You panic. Your pet is out there ... somewhere. Where do you start?

We recommend microchipping as your first line of defense.

An overriding goal of Jackson County Animal Services and Friends of the Animal Shelter is to return lost pets to their owners as quickly as possible. All animals should be wearing some sort of visible identification on their collars, but we all know our pets are part Houdini, and can take off/lose their collars easily. And, of course, we are guilty of taking off their ID because of those annoying jangling tags.

Microchipping – Permanent ID

Microchips are a permanent identification solution. It sure would have been easier after the fires this past summer if strays had been microchipped!

As part of Disaster Recovery planning for the County, and with funding from Friends of the Animal Shelter, the Shelter began injecting a microchip for all animals adopted from the

Shelter in January. That means that during 2021, approximately 1,400 dogs and cats will leave the Shelter "chipped" with their new owners' contact information.

Microchips can be scanned by any veterinarian's office, Animal Control officer, or animal shelter, which will provide your contact information, and ensure a quick trip back home, safe and sound. Thus, it's important to keep the information on your pet's microchip updated with a current phone number and address.

COMING THIS SUMMER

Low-cost Microchips Available to the Public

In June, the Shelter and Friends of the Animal Shelter will make low-cost microchips available at a public "Chip-a-Thon". Held at the Shelter, much like our monthly low-cost vaccination clinics, you'll be able to make an appointment to get your pets "chipped" for only \$20 per animal. There are no additional annual fees. (See back cover for event details and to make an appointment.)

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 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
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
(541) 774-6654
9 AM – 4 PM
Meet Adoptable Animals
Buy Licenses

5595 S. Pacific Hwy, Phoenix
Tuesday–Friday, 11am–4pm
Saturday & Sunday, Noon–4pm

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Jackson County is still under HIGH RISK COVID-19 restrictions, so the Jackson County Animal Shelter will continue to embrace social distancing and safety measures by being a “by appointment only” facility.

Minimizing the number of people in the Shelter at any given time helps protect the Shelter staff, Friends of the Animal Shelter volunteers, and potential adopters.

Browse online at
www.fotas.org/adopt,
then make an appointment
by calling (541) 774-6654
between 8 AM and 4 PM,
Tuesday - Sunday

We’ll make sure an Adoption Counselor is available to show you around and arrange “meet and greets”.

We realize this process is a little cumbersome, but it seems to be working REALLY well for everyone, including the animals!



View adoptable animals anytime at:
www.fotas.org/adopt

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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Ben Cohn, Treasurer
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Newsletter

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

Hours

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

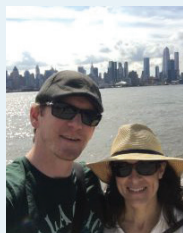
Meet Our New Board Members

Supporting the programs of the Jackson County Animal Shelter

A non-profit is only as strong as its leadership, and we are happy to introduce two new (and one returning) Board members. We are so very grateful for the time and energy our Board puts into keeping Friends of the Animal Shelter a healthy and sustainable organization that saves thousands of lives every year.

Aiden Costello

Aiden Costello is a veterinarian and owner of "A" Street Animal Clinic in Ashland. He graduated from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2009 and has lived in the Rogue Valley since 2012. Aiden and his wife, Dr. Jessica Voellm, also a veterinarian and co-owner of "A" Street Animal Clinic, live with their cats Gigi and Weeone and their newly-adopted shelter dog, Shelby.



Aiden has had a long history of working with shelter animals and participating in high-volume spay and neuter clinics. His clinic supports the efforts of Jackson County Animal Services (for foster animals), the Friends of the Animal Shelter's Street Dogs Project, SNYP (in Talent), SNIP (in Yreka), and SoHumane, providing lower-cost spay/neuter options to non-profits serving animals.

Originally, Aiden joined the FOTAS board as a consultant to help develop a much-needed spay and neuter mobile clinic program, and is now a Board member.



Christina Ruby

Christina Ruby grew up on a 10-acre horse property in Southern Oregon surrounded by horses, dogs, cats and six very opinionated peacocks. After leaving the area for school and work, Christina returned to Southern Oregon in 2015 and bought a house in the Applegate with her husband, Matt. She currently has three horses (including a BLM mustang adopted in 2016) and two cats adopted from the Jackson County Animal Shelter.

Christina is a licensed attorney in both California and Oregon, with a practice that focuses on employment and appellate law. In her spare time, she enjoys horseback riding, traveling, theater and rock climbing. She also loves volunteering and currently serves on the Board for the Center for NonProfit Legal Services.

Christina joined the FOTAS Board in 2020 and is thrilled to be part of such a dedicated and passionate organization working to save the lives of animals in our area.

Barbara Talbert

Barbara Talbert is a familiar name to those of us who have been involved with FOTAS and the Shelter over the past 10+ years. She joined the FOTAS Board in 2009, after having volunteered as a dog walker and foster parent.

Barbara began serving as President of the Board in 2010, but was asked to take a "temporary" job as Shelter Manager while the search to fill that vacancy was being conducted. Barbara ended up staying for almost 8 years as the Manager of Jackson County Animal Services and retired in May 2020.



She has since continued to stay involved with the Shelter dogs as a FOTAS volunteer and rejoined the Board in October 2020. She currently chairs the Publicity Committee and serves on the Development Committee.

Since 2009, Barbara and her husband, Kevin, and their dog, Chaco, have fostered more than 100 dogs, finding homes for many that were "hard to adopt". Their 108th foster dog, Emma, was one of those dogs and she became a permanent member of their household in October 2020, a couple of months before Chaco died. Emma was the fourth dog they have adopted from the Shelter since 1999.

2021 Friends of the Animal Shelter Board of Directors

- Becky Cohn, President
- Tricia DeFelice, Vice President
- Ben Cohn, Treasurer
- Samantha Johnson, Secretary
- Tilly Gibbs, Past President

Members at Large

- Lorna Bolton
- Aiden Costello, DVM
- Bob Crowley
- Christina Ruby
- Barbara Talbert

Find out more about Friends of the Animal Shelter at:

fotas.org/about-us

LEAVE A LEGACY

Because of generous, forward-thinking animal lovers like you, we have been the recipient of many generous bequests.

Please join our Legacy Society by including Friends of the Animal Shelter in your Planned Giving.

Call (541) 774-6651 to set up an appointment to talk with a member of our board.

Financial REPORT | 2020

Operations Expenses

This past year has been a challenge for our community, Friends of the Animal Shelter and the Jackson County Animal Shelter. COVID-19 restrictions completely altered how we volunteer, adopt, and raise funds. The destruction from the Alameda fires tested our ability to respond quickly and rebuild. Through it all, we continue to protect animals in our care, and those who care for the animals.



PROGRAMS: \$95,000

- Our **Foster Care Program** came to the rescue when the Shelter had to be evacuated. Within 48 hours, more than 100 animals evacuated from the Shelter were safe in foster homes. In addition, throughout the year, under-age and sick animals are taken into volunteer homes to grow up and heal, 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.
- Adopted animals sometimes need a little help adjusting to their new homes. Dog adopters are offered one-on-one sessions with a trainer, which has greatly decreased the number of dogs returned due to adjustment issues.
- The **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.
- And the **Working Cats Program** went into high gear this year, helping to move community cats displaced by the fires into new homes on farms, vineyards and warehouses.

PROGRAMS:
\$95,000

MEDICAL:
\$86,500

FUNDRAISING/
PROMOTION:
\$36,000

MANAGEMENT/
GENERAL
EXPENSES:
\$37,000

MEDICAL: \$86,500

Contributing to the cost of Shelter medical costs is a large part of our budget. Spay/neuter for dogs and cats, preventative vaccinations, antibiotics, and even surgeries, when needed, ensure animals are healthy and ready for their new adopters. Costs this year were a bit higher because more animals were in foster care and needed to get assistance from a variety of veterinarian offices in the County while the Shelter was closed.

FUNDRAISING/PROMOTION: \$36,000

Although we were not able to hold any in-person events in 2020, we reached out to our donors and others in the community to help us by mail and social media. And you responded! Thank you!

Promotion expenses really translate into “getting the word out” about the fabulous animals available for adoption 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: \$37,000

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 low, while supporting our dedicated volunteers and, of course, the animals.

Please consider becoming a recurring donor (www.fotas.org/donate) and including Friends of the Animal Shelter in your Planned Giving (www.fotas.org/legacy-society).



Working Cats PROGRAM

Finding permanent homes
for fire-affected cats

As the fires roared through neighborhoods in Ashland, Talent and Phoenix, hundreds of owned cats and community cats ran for cover! Many died. Many were injured. And many returned to their old homes, only to find no owner, food or shelter.

Numerous cat lovers sprang into action, providing food and shelter, and miraculously, reuniting hundreds of cats with their worried owners.

However, that left us with hundreds of kitties that were being fed by caring folks who had lost their own homes. With clearing and rebuilding under way, it was essential that cats be moved out of harm's way once again.

So, a lot of trapping has been going on – with the goal of spay/neutering our feline friends, “enrolling” them into the Working Cats Program, and finding permanent homes.

Most of the fire-affected cats have been trapped, but it's kitten season, so we're staying diligent!

FUNDS NEEDED

To make this program possible:

Trapping, spay/neuter, and setting up “house” all takes money! And we need your help to purchase:

- Humane traps (\$95 each)
- Large metal kennels for their first month in their new surroundings (\$85 each)
- Durable and reuseable Hidey Holes for helping the cat feel secure (\$100 each)
- Wool blankets and coverings (purchased from 2nd-hand stores)
- Food dishes and food
- Spay/neuter

Please help us help our feline friends by donating to the Working Cats Program:

fotas.org/working-cats or mail a check to:

Friends of the Animal Shelter

PO Box 1013

Phoenix, OR 97535

and include “Working cats” on the memo line.

ADOPT WORKING CATS

We're looking for homes for non-quite-friendly-enough-to-be-pets kitties. These lovely cats assist with rodent control and are purr-fect for farms, vineyards, and even warehouses. The cats come spayed/neutered and microchipped, and we provide all of the supplies you'll need for a successful new home experience.

Due to financial support from FOTAS, there is no adoption fee for these cats, in return for proving a safe place for them to live out their lives. Check it out at fotas.org/working-cats or call (541) 223-9818.



Temporary homes are used to help the cats get accustomed to their surroundings. Over the month they live in these temporary accommodations, the cats have the opportunity to become acquainted with their feline partners and caretakers.



Honoring our Dedicated Dog Walkers

Diane, Leanne, JoAnne, Sue

Like people, each lost or surrendered dog is different and comes to us with their own past experiences, fears, and behaviors. That’s where Shelter staff and the Friends of the Animal Shelter canine volunteers step in to help every dog, every day, each in their own special way. Our dedicated and trained volunteers address stress behaviors quickly and effectively with training they receive through FOTAS. Without our attention, sadly, some dogs shut down, curl up on their bed or seem to ignore visitors. Potential adopters would only see behaviors that don’t represent who the dog really is, or how they will act at home.

To help relieve that stress, our volunteers take dogs out for walks several times per day, and organize Play Groups that give the dogs a chance to socialize and burn off energy. These outings also give our volunteers an opportunity to assess each dog on its own terms. With loving attention, dogs become more relaxed and better behaved in their kennels, and potential adopters see a happy dog, which in turn makes them more adoptable.

The Tuesday Dog Walker Team

Amazingly, one group of wonder women, affectionately known as the “Tuesday Dog Walker Team” have been working together for close to 20 years, and some of them even longer! Walking thousands of dogs has brought joy to both the dogs and the Team.

To show our gratitude to Diane, JoAnne, Leanne, and Sue, each was presented with a personalized plaque honoring their many years of volunteering with Friends of the Animal Shelter.

Diane Hackney-Smith

Diane started volunteering in 1995, walking dogs, assisting at the monthly vaccination clinic, and participating in adoption outreach events. She and her husband, Tom, even painted their van with the FOTAS logo and transported animals to outreach events for several years! When not at the Shelter, Diane enjoys walking, reading, and helps with her neighborhood emergency response team. They share their home with two rescued shelties.

JoAnne Hamblin

JoAnne started volunteering in 1996, working at off-site events and walking dogs at a time when they often only got one walk a week. The Shelter became her second home, since there were so many dogs and so few volunteers. JoAnne and her husband, Gary, have fostered more than thirty dogs and adopted seven, including their most recent foster dog. JoAnne also helped with follow-up calls on spay/neuter vouchers, promotion, and advocated for creating a safe place for puppies, which eventually became Puppy Place. When not at the Shelter, JoAnne loves walking, has a small farm that keeps her busy, and enjoys spending time with friends.

Leanne Russell

Leanne started volunteering in 2000, knowing that a county facility would appreciate her help. She has been involved with off-site events, vaccination clinics, and dog walking. She suggested adding a couple of dog yards, which resulted in the Alley and Triangle Yards. When not at the Shelter, she has spent time volunteering with the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, Community Works, and Help Lines. She has adopted three dogs from the Shelter.

Sue McGrath

Sue started volunteering in 2002, working at outreach events, the vaccination clinic, and baking special dog treats to hand out as part of the Enrichment program for dogs. When she’s not at the Shelter, she enjoys gardening and walking. She has adopted two dogs from the shelter over the years and currently has one cat and one cocker spaniel at home.



JoAnne with Breta



Diane with Greta

Dog Yards Repair Underway!

Thanks to the many generous donors who contributed to repairing the dog yards damaged during the fires, we’re making progress! Friends of the Animal Shelter Board member, Bob Crowley, has taken on the job of coordinating reconstruction, which includes building new agility structures, fence repairs and landscaping.

Bob is presently getting bids to rebuild the shade structures and replace damaged plants – all of which are scheduled for completion this summer. For the safety of our volunteers and dogs, the soil in the yards was tested for contamination before work began. All received a clean bill of health.

The dogs are happily back in many of the yards, and our volunteers are thrilled to be able to reinstate the Play Group Program. There is still work to be done, but it’s getting there, thanks to you!

National Volunteer Week

April 18-24, 2021



Once a year, as a nation, we celebrate the impact and power of volunteers to tackle society’s greatest challenges, build stronger communities, and be a force that transforms the world.

Every day, Friends of the Animal Shelter 200+ volunteers enhance our stray and surrendered pets’ lives. Daily dog walking, hands-on cat care, community outreach and fostering animals in their homes. We couldn’t do it without them! On behalf of the thousands of pet lives impacted, thank you!

Over the past year, the number of volunteers allowed at the Shelter was reduced due to COVID-19 restrictions. We hear often how many of you can’t wait to return! Well, we can’t wait to see you again.

Thank you for everything you do to help us save lives, every day throughout the year!



Donna Cook with Hershey on the new agility structure.

Be a Foster, Save a Life

Their stay may be temporary, but your impact will be everlasting.

Fostering animals saves lives – and it's a whole lot of fun! Well, it's that time of year when cats and dogs "get busy" – and two-to-three months later, voila! Fun little fluffy things that need our help.

Spring is "kitten season" and we're anticipating a boom year! An average litter is 7 kittens. And kitties can start reproducing when they are only 4 months old.

Plus, we have dogs and cats who benefit greatly from being away from the Shelter to heal, gain needed confidence and begin to show their true potential. Animals "show" better to new adopters having spent time in a home environment.

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.

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. 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.

Friends of the Animal Shelter provides everything you'll need to be a successful kitten foster family, including:

- Training
- Supplies (bedding, playpens, food)
- Medications and vaccinations
- And lots of support

Sign up soon, and take one of our Kitten Fostering 101 classes before the kitten floodgates open!



So, if you've ever been curious about fostering, now would be a great time to explore the possibilities.

You get to choose the timing, and we promise not to overload you with too many mouths to feed!

Discover this rewarding lifesaving adventure.

Visit to fotas.org/foster for details and to fill out a Foster Application.

Michelle, our Foster Coordinator will follow up to get you started!

A LIFE-SAVING EXPERIENCE FOR THEM,
A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR YOU.

"I had no idea how much fostering would mean to me until the first animal walked through my door and straight into my heart."

"During the past 11 years, fostering some of the dogs struggling at the Shelter to find a home has been extremely rewarding. Each one would bring different issues to work through, but to watch them relax and destress over time, then learn better behavior, and eventually settle nicely into a new home made the investment of my time all worthwhile."

"We can't wait to foster again during kitten season. Our whole family helps! It brings us great joy, and teaches our kids how to care for animals."

"We adopted our brother and sister kittens and picked them up from a FOTAS foster home. They spent a week in their "safe room" while we introduced the kids and dog to them, and then they just settled in. We are so glad we adopted two! They are the best of friends!"



FOSTER FAMILIES MAKE ADOPTIONS HAPPEN!

Kenai, a 9 week old Anatolian Shepherd - Husky mix, came to the shelter with his 5 siblings. They went into foster care to make sure they remained healthy and to become properly socialized. Kenai was the lucky one to be adopted first.

Kenai now lives on a property learning how to help guard livestock (as his breed was designed). He is pictured here with his proud new sister, 17-year-old Jaden.

Donations

It's a new year, with new hope for a new normal! We miss seeing you and sharing our love of animals.

In the meantime, we are thankful for your generous donations as we continue to fulfill our mission of finding loving homes for adoptable pets in Jackson County – at a safe distance!

Donations: November 1, 2020 – March 15, 2021

(We apologize for any errors or omissions.)



Donors

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Jeanie Adams, in honor of Stella and Gracie
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 Priscilla and John Cuddy,
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 Patrick Cunningham
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 Alexander Davie
 Jill Davies, in memory of Alex
 Chris Davis, in honor of
 Antigonius
 Gerri and Scott Davis
 Julie and Jack Davis
 Marsha Davis
 Tricia DeFelice
 Geri Esposito and
 Jack DeFontaine
 Christine Degan in
 memory of Susan
 Barbara DeGroote
 Sunny and Monte Dehlinger
 Jeanne Denning
 Kathleen Devitt
 Debby DeWitt
 Alice and Robert Diefenbach
 Richard Diestler
 Pamela Dieterichs
 Angela and Edward Dillon
 Janis and Steven Dinardi
 Judy Dolmatch, in memory
 of Rolalie
 Christine Donchin
 Rosann Doolittle
 Julie Downey
 Roberta Downey
 Trudy and Bob Downing,
 in honor of Winnie
 Phyllis and Gary Downs
 Diane and Gene Doyle
 Annie and Eric Driver
 Michele Drouin
 Deborah Dryden
 Catherine Duerks
 Kathryn Dunlap
 Barbara Dunlap-Pearne
 Jessica and Scott Dunn
 Chris and John Dutcher
 Janet Duxbury
 Teresa Dye
 Gene Miller and
 Christine Eberhardt
 Susannah Edgington
 Madeline Edwards
 Pam Vellutini and
 Marilyn Edwards
 Thomas Edwards
 Rachelle Eich
 Lucienne Eisenhaure
 Deborah Elliott, in honor
 of Eliza's birthday
 Laura Emery
 Coni and Scott Engle, in
 memory of CoCo Monkey
 Elaine and Walter Ensign
 Paula Block and

Terry Erdmann
 Martha and David Erikson
 Sharon and Craig Erwin
 Elizabeth Escher
 Shannon and Bill Esry
 Marian Evensizer
 Christine Evenson
 Mary Ann and Thomas Ewald
 Martha Fabian-Krause,
 in honor of Rico
 Carol Fahmi
 Katie Falkenberg
 Dawn Fallon
 Dana and Bill Feagin
 Sharon Feil
 Joanne Feinberg
 Carmen Ferguson
 William Ferguson
 Echo Fields
 Fran Fields
 Sue Finley
 Elizabeth Finnegan
 Blaire Finney
 Suzanne and David Florian
 Donna Fogel
 Sarah Forbes
 Linda Forrette, in memory
 of Oreo
 Wendy Fountain
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