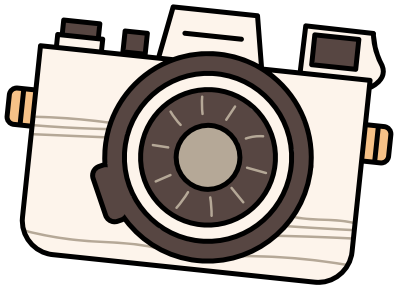
friends of the animals
Southern Oregon

FALL 2026

Newsletter



Close-Ups & the Big Picture



COVER STORY
Luke: From down and out to dancing about!

THE BIG PICTURE
2,310 surgeries, and the year isn't over

IN FOCUS
FOTAS is powered by volunteers

CLOSE-UPS

Every life, *in sharp focus*

friends of the animals
Southern Oregon

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A note from Megan



Dear Friends,

Working with animals means holding two things close: the life in front of us and the larger need around us.

Sometimes that work looks like helping a dog like Luke feel safe enough to do a happy dance. Sometimes it means giving a cat like Sweetie the care and time she needs while she waits for a home. And sometimes it means preventing future suffering through affordable spay and neuter services.

Each act of care matters. Together, they create the bigger picture you'll see throughout this newsletter.

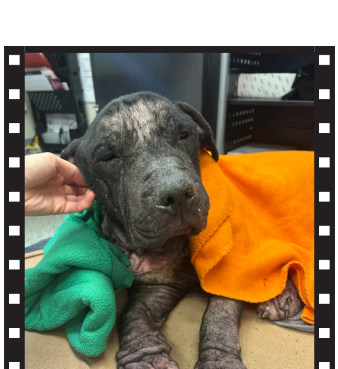
As Executive Director, I am grateful for the people behind every one of these stories: our volunteers, fosters, staff, board members, veterinary teams, donors, and community partners. Your time, compassion, and generosity make this work possible.

The need in our community remains great, but so does the commitment of the people who show up to help. Thank you for being part of Friends of the Animals and for making room in your hearts and lives for animals who need us.

With gratitude,
Megan Ayars
Executive Director

COVER STORY · DOG FOSTER PROGRAM

Luke: *from down and out to dancing about!*



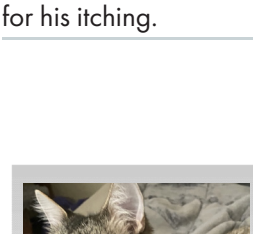


Luke came into the Jackson County Animal Shelter as a severe neglect case. A painful skin condition had left him intensely itchy, nearly hairless, and covered in scabs. His feet were in even worse shape. He couldn't walk without them bleeding. He was depressed and shut down, a dog who didn't seem to know what a loving human looked like.

We moved Luke into the FOTAS Dog Foster Program, and into the home of FOTAS staff member Taylor. He was seen by FOTAS veterinarians and by Dr. Costello at A Street Animal Clinic, and started on medication for his skin and a special diet for his itching.

The change was almost instant. In his first two weeks in foster care, Luke began growing his hair back, looking less like a wrinkly shar pei and more like the pit bull he is. His face is now covered in soft black fur, and the rest of him is quickly following suit. His feet have gone from swollen stumps to healthy paws, and he doesn't just walk. He does the cutest happy dance!

Luke still has some healing to do, but thanks to fosters like Taylor, he has a bright future ahead.



Sweetie

CAT FOSTER PROGRAM

Sweetie: *waiting for her person*

Sweetie came to us as a pregnant stray in late April and gave birth three days after settling into her foster home. One by one, her kittens were adopted while Sweetie kept waiting. A few months later she was diagnosed with asthma. She now uses an inhaler daily and eats a special GI diet for her sensitive tummy. Thanks to donors, fosters, and volunteers, this harder-to-place adult cat has all the care she needs to thrive. For now, she's enjoying snuggles with her foster family. Could she be part of your picture?

Meet Sweetie: fotas.org/cat-adoption

VOLUNTEER CLOSE-UPS

The people behind the lens

FOTAS runs on volunteers.
Here's who they are and what they do.

JANUARY 2026 – NOVEMBER 2026

Our volunteers, by the numbers

428 VOLUNTEERS

24,500+ HOURS GIVEN

6 WAYS TO HELP

SHELTER DOG CARE 01

100 volunteers a month, on average

10,000+ hours with shelter dogs

Walks, enrichment, grooming, and comfort at the Jackson County Animal Shelter.

TRAINING CREW 02

17 volunteers

207 shelter dogs adopted with volunteer help

Consistent, positive training that helps county dogs become adoptable.

DOG FOSTERING 03

25 foster homes

51 dogs fostered

Homes where dogs like Luke heal, decompress, and get ready for adoption.

CAT FOSTERING 04

51 foster homes

167 cats & kittens fostered

Care for moms, litters, and special-needs cats like Sweetie.

SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC 05

23 volunteers

2,310 surgeries supported

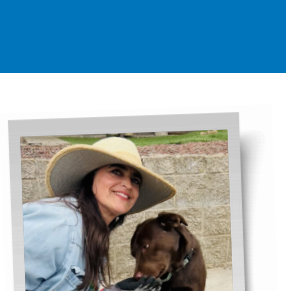
Helping our clinic team keep surgery affordable for the whole valley.

OUTREACH & EVENTS 06

58 volunteers

50+ community events

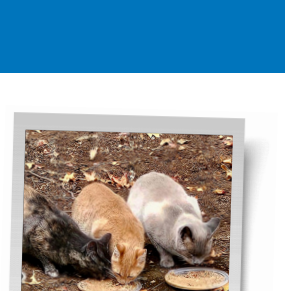
Meeting neighbors at partner events across the Rogue Valley.



SHELTER SUPERSTAR

Abbey Paiken

Since August 2025, Abbey has logged nearly 800 hours helping shelter dogs work through behavioral challenges. When Jakida joined our Training Crew because she was reactive on leash, Abbey worked with her using positive reinforcement every shift, until Jakida's wonderful personality shone through and she found a loving dad. Thank you, Abbey!



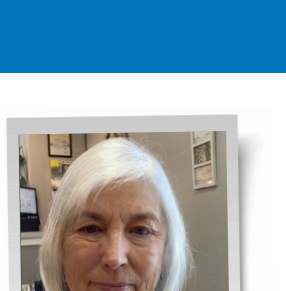
TNR TRAILBLAZER

Susan Moen

When it comes to feral and community cats, Susan Moen is here to support you throughout the TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) process.

One homeowner was feeding the three feral adult cats pictured above. Susan did a site visit to determine the best way to trap, brought over a trap, and assisted in the successful trapping of all three cats!

Visit fotasclinic.org for information about trap rentals!



CLINIC CHAMPION

Iris Short

Iris spent her whole career caring for animals, large and small, working in veterinary clinics while training herding dogs as a hobby. She had been retired for ten years when FOTAS opened its Spay & Neuter Clinic, and she jumped at the chance to put that experience to work. Since then, Iris has volunteered more than 1,300 hours with FOTAS. "I was excited for the opportunity to use my career knowledge to not only contribute to a cause, but to keep me active in my golden years," she says. "I have found it a very rewarding experience." Thank you, Iris!

Step into the frame

New volunteers start with a short orientation. We'll find the role that fits you.

fotas.org/volunteer

THE BIG PICTURE

Together, we complete the picture

A message from our board, what your support made possible, and the community behind it.

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

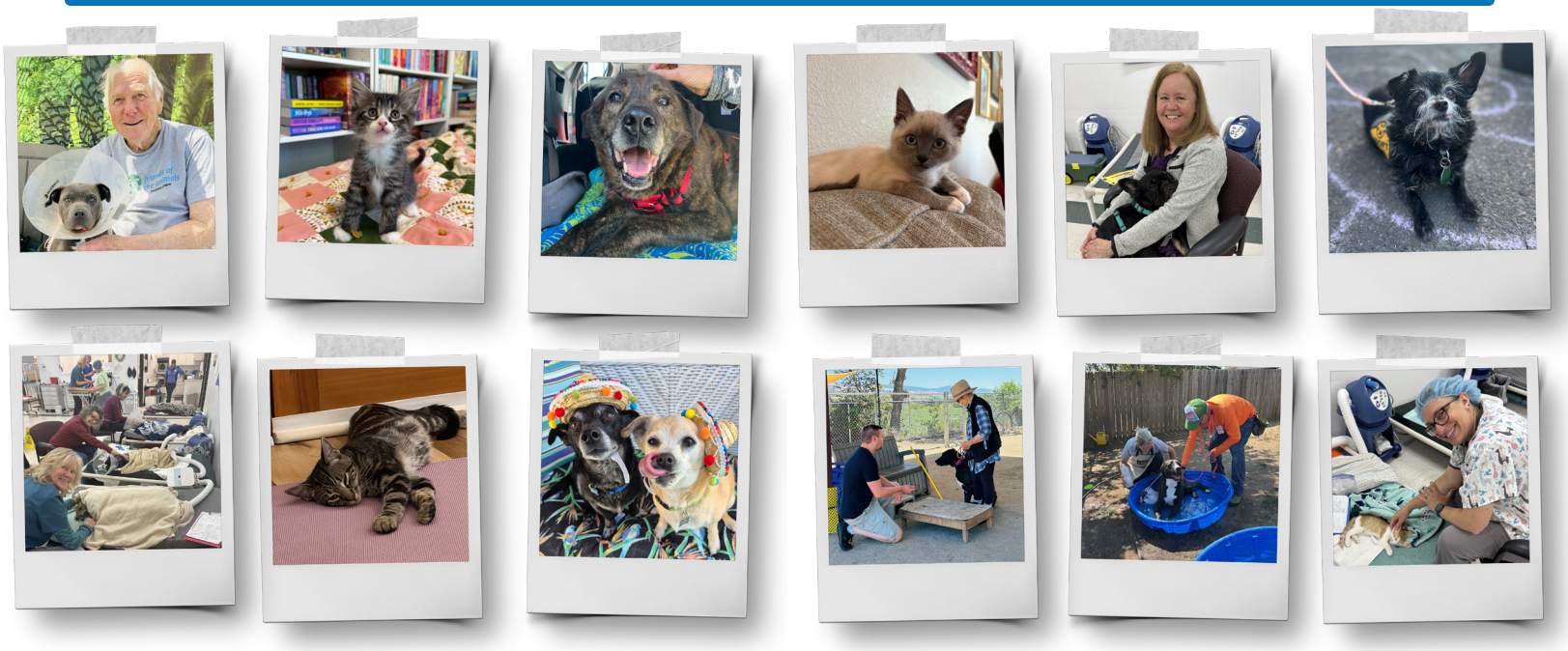
A message from Lisa Frankel



Friends of the Animals has grown significantly in recent years. With the opening of the FOTAS Spay & Neuter Clinic, we're helping address pet overpopulation in the Rogue Valley by providing affordable surgeries to pet owners and partnering with other animal welfare organizations on community challenges, including feral cats. We're also continually improving our longstanding programs, from vaccine clinics and foster and adoption communication to volunteer training at the shelter. We love what we do and are committed to expanding our reach and impact.

Thank you for being part of the FOTAS community. Your support makes our work possible.

Lisa Frankel
Board President, Friends of the Animals



2026 OUTREACH EVENT PARTNERS

Thank you for hosting us!

Art Bop Beer Co.
Aryze Hot Yoga
Ashland Family YMCA
Ashland Hills Hotel & Suites
Ashland Yoga Center
Black Bird
Clyde's Corner
EdenVale Winery
Hanley Farms
Jackson County Expo
Maker's Market
Medford Parks and Recreation
Medford Pride
Medford Rogues
Mr. Nice Guy Dispensary
Rogue Valley Country Club
Rogue X
Walkabout Brewing

Thank you to our business partners

Acme Firefighting Devices
Art Bop Beer Co LLC
Aryze Hot Yoga
Ashland Co-op
Ashland Family YMCA
Ashland Furniture Recycling
Ashland Hills Hotel & Luna Cafe
Black Bird
Boehringer Ingelheim
Breadboard Restaurant
City of Medford
EdenVale Winery
El Mirage RV Storage
Eliana Wines
Evergreen Federal Bank
Fred Meyer
Full Circle Realty
Jackson County Library Services
Jed and Celia Meese Foundation
Little Shop of Bagels
Medford Rogues
Medford Safe & Lock-Eagle Point
Melly Cat Rescue
Music Coop
MWI
OR Beverage Recycling Coop.
Paddington Station
Pronto Print
Rays Food Place
Roto Rooter
Sign Dude
The Breadboard Restaurant
The Medford Center
The Music Coop
This One LLC
Vallee Family Insurance
Wild Tyme Productions

THE BIG PICTURE

Zooming out on *pet overpopulation*

friends of the animals Southern Oregon

friends of the animals COMMUNITY SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC

2,310

...surgeries as of November 3, already more than in all of 2025. Unwanted pet overpopulation is a huge problem in our valley, and every surgery chips away at it. Each spay means fewer litters next season, and fewer kittens arriving at shelters and rescues that are already full.

This effort is supported in part by a Big Bet for Pets Boost Grant from the Dave & Cheryl Duffield Foundation



Duffield Foundation's Big Bet *for* Pets

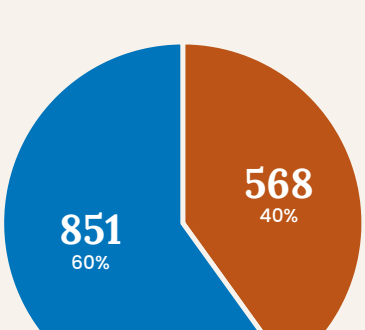
NEW THIS YEAR

Trap Rental Program

Don't own a humane trap? You can now rent one from us to safely catch a community cat and bring them in for surgery.

1,419 cats fixed this year (so far...)

Feral and community cats vs. all other cats



788 female cats spayed

631 male cats neutered

Our **Feral/Community Cat Fund** keeps these surgeries affordable so more people can get community cats fixed. Your gift helps grow that orange slice next year.

One spay, two years of impact

How one surgery at our clinic changes the picture for community cats in the Rogue Valley.



1 surgery = **48** kittens prevented in two years × **788** female cats spayed this year (through Nov. 3) = **37,824** kittens that won't be born

Estimate assumes 2 litters a year with 4 kittens each, half of kittens female, and daughters having their first litters in year two. Actual numbers vary.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY OUR COMMUNITY

friends of the animals
Southern Oregon
Supporting dogs and cats, strengthening our community.

PO Box 1153
Ashland, OR 97520

Address Service Requested

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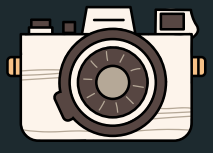
Close-Ups & the Big Picture

We strive for accuracy, but we apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us with corrections, address changes, or to be removed from this mailing list at (541) 708-0090 or fotas@fotas.org.

Here's what's coming up for FOTAS!
Follow us on social media for the latest updates and information!







Get in *the picture*

DONATE
Fund surgeries and medical care.
fotas.org/donate

FOSTER
Open your home while a pet heals.
fotas.org/foster

VOLUNTEER
Join 100+ people helping each month.
fotas.org/volunteer

ADOPT
Meet the cats and dogs waiting for you.
fotas.org/adopt