



| Winter 2023 |

## Thank you! Thank you!

This newsletter is full of stories we are proud of---but we could not have accomplished what we did without **YOU**—our FRIENDS. We raised \$ 27,640 our first year. The shelter animals are experiencing your generosity every day. We promise so many more good things are coming in 2023...all because of **YOU!**

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”

John Bunyan

## FOSCAS at the Shelter

FOSCAS has implemented a vibrant dog enrichment program at the Shelter. This program helps reduce the stress and boredom of kennel life.

Without proper enrichment, shelter dogs may display behaviors in the kennels that make adoptions more challenging simply because they are not given the opportunity to chew, be mentally engaged, or interact calmly with humans.

FOSCAS’s program costs are around \$850 per month and relies on many wonderful volunteers, to stuff kongs, pass out toys and treats, and, of course, walk dogs. This is only one of the ways FOSCAS supporters are improving the lives of the homeless animals in Sonoma County Animal Shelter.



## Get to Know the Sonoma County Animal Shelter

Sonoma County Animal Shelter (SCAS) is an **open admission** shelter. That means no domestic animal or livestock is turned away, regardless of space. **SCAS is the largest shelter in Sonoma County** and serves the City of Santa Rosa and the unincorporated areas of the County. Here are the 2022 Statistics:

### 2,127 animals!

In 2022 they took in and cared for **2127 animals** comprised of 1,141 dogs, 805 cats and 181 others (horses, goats, sheep, birds etc.)

### Inside:

- FOSCAS at the Sonoma County Animal Shelter
- FOSCAS Sponsored Adoptions
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Pet Corner

## Volunteer Spotlight: Social Media = Adoption Success!

Our dads bought cars by visiting the car lot to kick the tires. People seeking pets wandered through the local shelter. Today the search for cars or pets often starts online.

Nanette Sanchez-Cook, a volunteer with Sonoma County Animal Shelter since 2005, has become our "influencer" on social media! She and husband Leo can't help at the shelter since their move last fall, so Nan uses social media to reach potential adopters who would otherwise not meet our shelter dogs.

It began with **Junior**, a black 7-year-old pit mix brought to a mobile adoption event held in Oakmont last fall. The little dogs garnered all the attention, but Junior was ignored. Nan knew what a great dog he was. Determined he would NOT be overlooked, she used words and photos to tell his story on Next Door. Her post received many likes and comments, and Junior was adopted five days later! Now called Jack, he lives with his "mom" where he loves walks, doggy friends, and snuggling. Jack's adopter, Cheryl, keeps in contact with Nan, updating her with photos and expressing gratitude for "this dog that I love so much it's ridiculous!"

**Penny** was the second dog Nan posted to Next Door. Penny and her brothers were strays found in a rural area of Sonoma County. Penny was tall and lanky at 90 pounds. A shelter favorite among the staff and volunteers, she enjoyed the company of other dogs but didn't like sharing a home with them. After being adopted and returned twice, staff concluded she should be adopted to a one-dog home. When Susan saw her picture on Next Door, something in those eyes told her she needed to bring Penny home. That post drew over 500 "likes" and many comments. Penny, now called Hera, went home with Susan a few days before Christmas. They enjoy long walks and cuddles on the couch. Hera has a big dog friend to play with. Though they can't exactly chat, Hera can communicate her needs! Once when Susan was telling her it was too late to go outside, Hera carried a slipper and dropped it at her feet. So out they went to enjoy the stars on a quiet night.

Both Cheryl and Susan are grateful to the staff and volunteers at Sonoma County Animal Service who provided care and companionship to Junior and Penny. From all of us at FOSCAS, thank you, Nanette, for all your hard work, and thank you for finding the perfect homes for these two dogs!



Nan & Cheryl, with Jack (formerly Junior)



Susan with Hera (formerly Penny)

Follow Us on Social Media! @friendsofsocoanimals

## FOSCAS at the Shelter



Jade is modeling one of the many jackets sewn by FOSCAS volunteers to keep our Shelter dogs comfy in the cold weather.



Shelter dog beds need to be safe, durable, easy to clean and, of course, comfortable. This past year FOSCAS purchased 22 beds (\$1,635.82).



It is a Shelter tradition to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with those who need it most. FOSCAS volunteers and Shelter staff prepared a Thanksgiving meal for every dog at the SCAS.



The kennels were decked with Christmas stockings. The animals enjoyed the holiday goodies!

## FOSCAS Sponsored Adoptions

FOSCAS sponsored 30 adoptions last September. Now 30 dogs are living happily in their loving forever family!



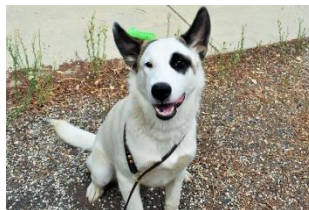
Tommy



Snickers



Bailey



Loki



## How You Can Help

There are many ways that you can help from donating money and enrichment items. We are so grateful to the many donors who financially support our mission to help the animals housed at our County Shelter!



Hold a garage sale and donate your proceeds to FOSCAS. Board Member, Juanita Kopriva held a second successful garage sale and generously donated \$240 to Friends of Sonoma County Animal Shelter. Thank you, Juanita!



Donate enrichment items such as: XL and XXL Kongs (red or black), bully sticks, or peanut butter. \$50 buys about two2 XL or XXL Kongs.



Participate in the 2-week Foster Program

SCAS is seeking two-week B&B vacation homes for our shelter pets. Foster supplies provided by the Shelter. [SCASFosters@sonomacounty.org](mailto:SCASFosters@sonomacounty.org)



Find us at @friendsofsocoanimals

Help us spread the word about the shelter animals by following, liking, and sharing our content on Facebook or Instagram. Go to our website to see more pictures.

## Pet Corner

Meet Ace!



This friendly, fluffy boy is a neutered black and white Siberian Husky who's been at the shelter since the end of May. He loves water play, soaking in a tub or playing with the stream from a hose. He knows some basic commands and likes to chase a ball or stuffed toy. He weighs in at 60 pounds and wears a luxurious fur coat!

Ace is available for adoption. Check him out online then go visit him at the shelter.

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/public-health/animal-services>



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