



Holidays at the Shelter

The animals at the Shelter may have never heard of Santa Claus, but they were not forgotten at Christmas time. There were many goodies and treats provided by FOSCAS for the dogs housed at the Shelter. This year the annual holiday meal happened the day after Christmas, but the animals didn't mind. They gobbled up the turkey, sweet potatoes, veggie rice casserole, dehydrated chicken, doggie cookies, and whipped cream. Serving the holiday meal has become one of the favorite events of the year for those who serve it...and for those who eat it!

Right: FOSCAS board members Yoko Barton, Coni Ahrendt (Secretary) and Susan Aguilara (FOSCAS President) and Ryan (SCAS Animal Attendant) prepare to deliver meals to the kennels on December 26, 2023.

The cart is loaded with holidays meals for various sizes of dogs!



Upcoming FOSCAS Fundraisers

- Join us at the Rainbow Cattle Company in Guerneville on May 14th at 6pm for a buffet dinner at 6pm followed by a gift basket raffle and auction. Proceeds from dinner and a percentage of the evening's total bar tab is donated to FOSCAS for the shelter animals. It's always a fun evening!
- Come walk with us at the Sonoma County Human Race May 4

Inside:

- When a Shelter is Your Home
- FOSCAS at the Shelter
- FOSCAS Christmas Faire
- FOSCAS Sponsored Local Boy Scout Project

When a Shelter is Your Home

None of us like to imagine our pets in a shelter, but statistics show 14,000 animal shelters and rescue groups in this country housing about 7 million animals yearly. The length of stay may be brief but more often it's months, even years. Sonoma County Animal Services requires all volunteers and staff to take the "Fear Free Shelter" online class to learn how to decrease fear, anxiety, stress, and frustration for the shelter's animals, and improve the emotional well-being of not only the animals but the also the people caring for them and potential adopters. Some of the concepts of Fear Free that FOSCAS has been helping to implement are:

- Routine: dogs learn to expect and even look forward to certain events that routinely happen, such as afternoon arrival of the enrichment cart that brings their treat of the day (Kongs, pumpkin balls, bully sticks, etc.) and going out for walks with volunteers. **FOSCAS provides the supplies and materials for the daily enrichments.**
- Reduction of stressful stimuli: Fear Free recommends limiting visual stimuli that animals find upsetting or threatening. Cat carriers are covered with a towel when cats must be transported, and the lower half of the dog kennels are covered along the corridor with the most traffic, both people and dogs. **FOSCAS recently bought over 100 white vinyl panels to block the view, making the kennels more private.**
- Learning that good things happen! Visitors are often put off by the dogs who rush to the front of their kennels barking at anyone who approaches. Hardly a good impression. **FOSCAS bought a gumball machine to dispense dog treats for the visitors to offer to the dogs.** The sign encourages them to reward the dogs for sitting, quiet behavior.



FOSCAS at the Shelter

Thank you to our Donors! We can provide the following because of your generous support!

- **Behavior training** - FOSCAS is funding behavior training for dogs who need some help with manners to help them become adoptable. Porkchop recently had a successful adoption after going through extensive behavior training at K9 No Limits in Kelseyville. Porkchop is now in the loving home with a previous shelter adoptee named Coco.
- **Spay/Neuter** - FOSCAS is working with 3 local veterinary offices to provide low cost spay and neuter services to the many puppies and dogs waiting at the shelter to become adoptable or transferred to rescues.
- **Medical Expenses** - Your donations help cover those medical needs that are outside the Shelter's ability. Medical care covered have included x-rays, large animal spay or neuter, and surgeries for animals with special needs.



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2023 Christmas Faire

FOSCAS hosted a Christmas Craft Faire in Windsor. Thank you to everyone who came!



(upper left: FOACAS Board Members; upper right: Santa and the Grinch; lower left: FOSCAS President Susan in the kitchen helping with hot, homemade lunch; lower right: shoppers meeting the vendors, jewelry, candles, wood working, clothing, fan wear and more). Photos by Mindy Breslin Photography and Audra Von Glahn Photography

Our first fundraising craft fair was held December 10th at the Windsor Grange Hall. With over 30 vendors, a hot lunch, bake sale, raffle baskets, and professional photos with Santa Claus and the Grinch, we raised over \$3000 towards our projects at the shelter. It was a lot of fun. We are grateful to all the vendors, volunteers, Paws for Love volunteers, Photographers Mindy Breslin and Audra von Glahn and community people who pulled together to make this day happen! Some of our doggy visitors included SCAS fosters and dogs adopted from the shelter.



Long Term Dogs Adopted!

The happiest days at our shelter are when a long-stay dog finally goes home. It is a joyous day that can reduce staff and volunteers to tears as they hug goodbye the dog they cared for, advocated for, and grew to love dearly.

In 2023, 32 dogs who were in the Shelter over 100 days found their forever home.

Long-stay dogs are great dogs. Resilient, big-hearted dogs. They have survived a lengthy duration in the shelter system with their sanity and good nature intact. Thankfully once the pet is in a normal routine, doing normal family stuff, they relax and go back to being a normal happy dog.



Princess

Adopted after 644 days!

Our long-stay dogs have plenty of canine knowledge. Staff and volunteers work hard to teach them basic commands, manners, and life skills. In Princess's case, after being at the Shelter for over a year and a half, K9 Activity Club & Lodge generously provided free training and boarding. Princess is now part of a family that absolutely loves her to pieces.



Ace

Adopted after 469 days!

The enrichment program established and supported by FOSCAS is crucial for keeping shelter dogs mentally and physically healthy.



Porkchop

Adopted after 394 days!

Porkchop was long overlooked and not thriving at the Shelter. FOSCAS provided funds for a 5-month board and training situation. For over a month, Porkchop has been living happily in his new loving home.





The Shelter's current longest stay is Ralphie...390 days and we don't know why! Not only is Ralphie drop-dead gorgeous, but he is also joyful, smart, and very expressive. He loves car rides, walks, water, swimming, and other dogs. This boy would fit in with an active lifestyle...hiking, camping, traveling etc. Ralphie is truly a great dog.

To all the adopters of long-stay dogs...thank you! Thank you for recognizing a special soul. Thank you for giving an incredible dog a new beginning. You are a hero in our eyes and in the eyes of your new best friend.

Local Boy Scouts Partnering with FOSCAS

When we decided it was time to replace our dog agility equipment in the SCAS play yards, one of our board members had an idea. This would be a perfect Eagle Scout project! She contacted an old work buddy whose son was hoping to complete his requirements for the Eagle Scout badge this year. This young man, Logan Zumstein, visited us and Management at SCAS to take measurements and present his ideas. The project is in the works, with a number of sturdy pieces of equipment being built. Part of the requirements of the project are that the Scout procures a source for funding (FOSCAS), writes his proposal and plan, gets all necessary approvals, buys materials, then starts the project. All the young people in the troop get involved, and several work days have already occurred. Logan said 'Some of what I thought would be hard was actually easy, but some of what I thought would be no problem turned out to be hard!' One of the challenges was teaching the younger scouts to use power tools. When installation day comes, it will be "all hands on deck!" as the whole troop arrives to assemble the finished pieces and help spruce up our play yards.



(Left) Some of the Scouts from Troop 32 (Santa Rosa) working on equipment for the SCAS dog agility course.

(Right) FOSCAS is also purchasing several sturdy "bus stop" quality benches and tables to replace the old ones in the play yards that have seen better days! This first one was donated

by Sherrill, FOSCAS board member, in memory of her father. If you are interested in donating a bench or table in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact us for details. A name plate will be attached to the piece stating the person's name and a message.

