



# Friends of Sonoma County Animal Shelter

| Summer 2023 |



Here are the coats that our wonderful supporters and volunteers have provided to the Shelter dogs.



## FOSCAS at the Shelter

### *Thank You Donors!*

Whether you donated at one of our events, mailed a check in memory of a loved one, or send us a recurring donation, we are grateful. The best way we know to thank you is to tell you how we are spending YOUR money!

FOSCAS aims to improve the lives of shelter animals. **Spay/neuter** is the only way to stem the tide of unhoused, unwanted animals. We support those surgeries whenever we can.

Basic medical needs are provided by the shelter veterinary staff, but sometimes, just like people, the animals require specialized consultation. Your donations help fund that **medical care**.

**Enrichment** keeps the animals occupied, challenged, and engaged! Enrichment items can be puzzle toys with treats hidden inside, chew sticks, pigs ears, and interesting treats! Or items to increase comfort in the kennels, such as the 39 special dog beds we bought this year. FOSCAS provides the material for the warm fleecy jackets that our short haired dog breeds often wear during the winter months sewn by a couple of our talented volunteers.

## FOSCAS Fundraisers

Thank you Homerun Pizza in the Larkfield Shopping Center for hosting our July fundraiser. We so appreciate your support!



### Inside:

- FOSCAS at the Sonoma County Animal Shelter
- Enrichment
- Ripples on the Pond
- Canines in Cars

## Enrichment

Now just a bit more information about enrichment! Basic requirements in any shelter is access to food, water, and a place to sleep. The necessities of life. Enrichment is about what makes that life better and worth living! The Shelter has recruited and trained more volunteers so that the dogs are getting out regularly in the yards, going for walks and car rides, getting out in the community more. The cats have their own dedicated volunteers who hold, brush, and play with them. Classical music is often playing in the kennels for soothing. Every afternoon, the volunteers bring out the enrichment cart to deliver the goodies of the day. The dogs get excited when they hear the cart coming and most of them come to the front door of the kennel and sit nicely waiting to see "what's it going to be today??" Will it be Kongs, filled with a tasty mixture then frozen? Will it be bully sticks or pigs ears? Oh, maybe it's peanut butter cookie day? Or will it be those big wobbler toys filled with kibble that the dogs have to tilt and knock around to get the goodies out?

A new addition implemented by the SCAS Shelter Supervisor is the scent of the day. These are a variety of essential oils in a spray bottle that can be applied to the bedding or to a spot on the wall or floor in the kennel while the treats are being distributed. The dogs are intrigued by these scents (vanilla, coconut, ginger, valerian) and can often be seen investigating the spot where the scent was applied. Enrichment is anything that helps the animals utilize and stimulate all their senses and decrease boredom.

**For the first half of 2023, FOSCAS has spent \$2,865 of your money on the enrichment supplies.** We thank you and the dogs thank you every afternoon when that cart rolls out!



## FOSCAS at the Shelter



### Gertrude in the car headed to the Vet

- Gertrude had a concerning heart murmur and was considered high risk for surgery. After a pre-surgery cardiac evaluation, FOSCAS was able to fund and arrange her spay at an outside clinic. That beautiful big fluffy white gal was adopted within a week of her surgery! No dog or cat can be adopted from the shelter without being "fixed" first. Expediting her surgery meant less time in the kennel for Gertrude! **Your donations did that!**
- A FOSCAS member happened to be in the right place at the right time to overhear the dilemma of a woman who came to claim her cats from Sonoma County Animal Services. The cats were provided care while she was homeless, but they needed to be spayed before she could reclaim them. The woman now had a place to live but couldn't afford the surgeries. We were able to pay for these two kitties to be spayed and reunited with their very grateful owner.



Follow Us on Social Media! @friendsofsocoanimals



## Ripples on the Pond

There's something mesmerizing about tossing a pebble into a pond and watching the ripples spread out in ever-enlarging circles. How far will they reach?

On a recent hot day, an event occurred that sent out some amazing ripples. Let's start at the beginning. Hot, it was hot. Too hot on the pavement for doggy paws. Once the temperatures were in the upper 80's, there's no more dog walking at the shelter. Two volunteers decided to take dogs, one at a time, on rides in their cars instead. With windows partially rolled down and the air conditioning blasting, several dogs went on short rides around Windsor, stopping by a shady park or driving past vineyards. Some went through the drive-thru at Starbucks for a puppachino! Pictures of the happy passengers were taken, and then later turned into a Facebook post called "Canines in Cars," similar to the TV show "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee."

Once the post was out on Facebook, other people "liked," shared, or commented on the post, which caused ripples, bumping the post on to others. A woman who lives two hours away, who just happens to be the aunt of one of the SCAS volunteers saw the post only because her niece had commented on it. She took one look at Apollo's face and decided she needed to have that boy! So a few days later, they drove over from Sacramento, bringing their white female pitbull who looked amazingly like Apollo. The meet and greet session with Apollo under the supervision of the professional staff at the shelter went fantastically and an hour later they were driving off into the sunset with the two dogs together in the back seat of their car.

How can you help make some ripples? Both Sonoma County Animal Services and Friends of Sonoma County Animal Shelter have their own social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. If you use social media, you could add those groups to your favorites so that you see their posts. The more times a post is liked or commented on, the more circulation it gets. More people see pictures and stories of the animals from the shelter. Help us get the word out! You never know who will see those pictures



Marley



Apollo





## Canines in Cars



Bounce



Astro



Nala

When a dog is in a shelter, he needs more than just food, water, and a bed. Dogs require exercise, activity, stimulation, and basic training to increase their adoptability into a family home. Visit our shelter and you might see dogs out playing and running in the 5 fenced outside play yards. You may notice dogs walking on leashes with volunteers exploring the neighborhood.

As Americans, we are in our cars a lot, daily! Sometimes we want to take our dogs along for the ride! Other times it's necessary for vet visits or grooming appointments. Learning to associate getting in the car with pleasant experiences and wonderful things makes the trip easier on the dog and the owner. On a recent afternoon when the pavement was too hot for walking, some volunteers took dogs for rides instead. They practiced getting in and out of the car and learning that car time can be fun! Look at these photos of some of SCAC's adoptable dogs out on the town!

## Dog Days

First and foremost, we are volunteers with the mission of improving the lives of the animals at Sonoma County Animal Shelter. Here are photos of dogs getting a Saturday park adventure with one of our board members!



422 Larkfield Center, #258, Santa Rosa, CA 95403