



# ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ AUGUST 2017

## Welcome & Membership

FOCAS formed May 2014 in direct response to a request to assist the animals in the shelter and to protect donated funds from being absorbed into the County General Fund.

FOCAS has grown in amazing ways in the past 3 years. We have received several suggestions that we consider memberships (for an annual fee) and provide a newsletter to all the supporters as a way of keeping folks current on what FOCAS is doing.

We thought this was a great idea so have decided to proceed and see the response from everyone. At the bottom of page 5, you'll see a membership form. Please either complete the form or email the information back to us (all instructions are on page 5) and payment can be by check, visiting our web page, or PayPal.

We're going to start with a quarterly newsletter and suggestions are always welcome.

Thank you!

## Critter Corner



It is still kitten season at the shelter. Many kittens have been adopted this summer but there are still more little fur balls of every color and size waiting

for homes. If you've got room in your life for lots of loving, lively, licking fun, come check out our kitten collection.

One of everyone's favorites in the cat house right now is Joey. He's a young adult who came in as a very young kitten and didn't have a mama cat to teach him skills for living outside, so he'll be happier as an indoor cat.

Joey lives in one of our communal rooms with other cats and he has become something of a mentor to each new cat entering "his" room. He welcomes all new comers, helps them get over any initial shyness, and generally takes great care of all his roommates. We're hoping he will get adopted with another cat or go to a home that already has other cats, because he definitely loves being with other kitties.

We don't know why he hasn't been adopted yet. Perhaps he looks like an ordinary black cat, but he's got a heart of gold and will fill his forever home with quiet, dignified love.



**UPDATE~~~~During this publication,  
Joey got adopted!!!!**

But stop by the shelter soon and check out all the dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens currently in our care and available for adoption.

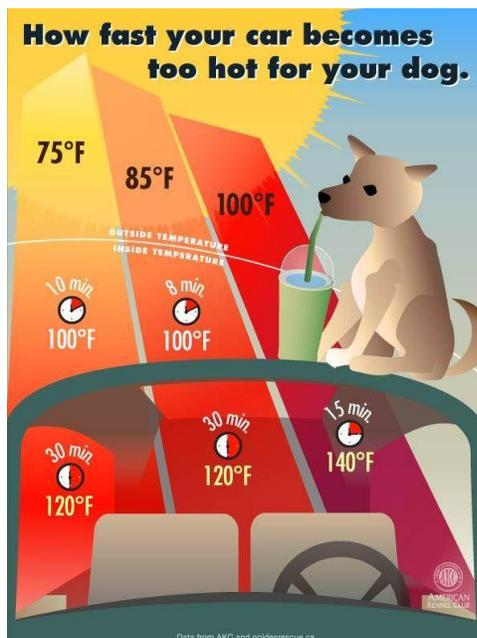
## Health tips by Doc Hopper



### Hot Dogs and Hot Cars

With the summer heat comes the warning for dog owners whose canine friends love to ride in the car. Most owners know that leaving dogs unattended in a car on warm days is not only dangerous, it can be fatal.

Few people realize that even balmy weather can be deadly. On an 80-degree day, the temperature in a parked car – even if the windows are open – can easily reach 120 degrees within minutes. Don't risk it! It's fun to bring our furry friends with us but if it's the slightest bit warm, do them a favor and leave them home.



Cats who get locked in garages or basements or sheds can get overheated too. If your dog or cat is suffering from heat exposure, you should do a few things before rushing them to your veterinarian.

Take your pet's temperature first. If it's between 99 and 102.5 degrees, that's normal and you can

simply take them to the vet. However, if it's over 102.5, gently douse the animal with cool water before you to go the vet. Try to cool your pet off as much as possible.

Depending on how overheated your animal is, your vet will likely give them fluids and treat them for shock. The vet will want to keep an eye on them in case of later complications, such as liver or kidney failure.

Keeping your animals cool and comfortable during the hot summer months needs to be your primary concern – because they can't do it very well themselves!

### Dear Miss Penny Paws



Recently I discovered a virtual cornucopia of "toys". My owner calls it a wastebasket. What does she know? It is not waste! It is a puppy's dream. There are cardboard rolls, Kleenex, Q-tips, and lots of other fun stuff. The only problem is she tells me "NO! Leave it!" every time I go to this new-found toy box. How can I get her to understand this is not waste? These are cool puppy toys, I'm sure.

Signed,  
In Toy Heaven  
Dear Toy Heaven,

Your owner needs to work on the LEAVE IT command with you a bit more. I know you think these are great toys, but many things in the wastebasket can make you sick.

Your owner can set up tempting situations where she is out of sight. She can take an empty soda can

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or similar receptacle, put a few pennies in it and tape the top. When she observes you rooting for the forbidden toys, she can toss the can near you (but never at you!) which should scare you away from the tempting trash.

Another solution is to simply remove the trash can and temptation, by putting the receptacle out of your reach. Sometimes your owner has to pick her battles.

And of course, you can use this situation to plead for more acceptable toys!!



### Message From the Top Dog

(Henning Schreiber, Animal Services Manager)

The first half of 2017 has already passed and it is time to once again check how we are doing at the shelter. Last year we saw quite a reduction in cat intakes. Even though the Butte fire had an impact, I think we do see the results of the tirelessly working folks from the Feral Feline Program. It looks like we can sustain these low numbers of cats coming into the shelter.

In regards to the live outcome of our dogs and cats in the shelter we are right on target to repeat the stellar numbers we had for the last couple years. 90% of our dogs find a new home or are transferred to the numerous rescue organizations we partner with. Although the live outcome rate for our cats is less we are still able to keep it at 75%.

Georgette, the emu we caught in January is enjoying her life now with other emus at PAWS' sanctuary and the six pigs we picked up in Arnold

also moved on, but not before delivering 10 piglets while under our care. They are now in a sanctuary awaiting the outcome of the ownership dispute.

As you probably know Jen has moved to Texas and has left a huge void in our hearts and in the office. At the same time, we have lost one person in the shelter leaving us – once again – severely understaffed. We are scrambling but with the help of everyone we have stayed above water. Since HR has limited resources too, the recruitment process is taking longer than we hoped. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. The office position has closed and we had a record breaking number of over 50 applications. Even though I don't know any of the applicants personally (to my knowledge) I heard that there are a number of 'highly qualified' people. We will have interviews on Thursday August 10 so it is quite reasonable to think that we have someone on board by the end of the month. The shelter position recruitment is currently open and I hope that we can have interviews later this month and might be able to welcome a new person around mid-September. Obviously, there is always a training phase before we will be back to normal (whatever that is 😊).

Last year was a record regarding bites and it looks like this year will become a close runner-up. Over the last two years we have significantly intensified our response to dog bites and the officers spend a lot of time preparing the court cases. It is also a little disheartening, that still too many people think it is cool to let their dogs roam free, that too many people don't understand the importance of rabies vaccination, and that too many people don't spay and neuter.





## What Exactly Does FOCAS Do??

FOCAS's primary goal is to support Calaveras Animal Services in maintaining a quality animal shelter and the level of services and programs necessary for our community in difficult budget times. Most members are already active in the animal community and see the organization is helping with acute, everyday needs, differentiating itself from the Calaveras Humane Society which is primarily concerned with animal adoptions and working toward the funding of a new animal shelter. We view animal services as an important part of public safety and health.

The first project FOCAS tackled was obtaining, moving, and rehabbing the cat houses so the cats and dogs could be housed separately for the first time since the shelter was originally established.

We pay for surgery needed on animals in the shelter, we sponsor cat and dog adoptions (paying most or all of the adoption fees), we sponsor rabies/microchip clinics, and pretty much anything else that is directly related to the care and needs of the animals in the shelter.

## FOCAS Board

Who is FOCAS? We're local folks that really care about the well-being of the animals at the shelter.

Debra Beaufort, Chair (Mokelumne Hill)  
Michele Rugo, Secretary (Murphys)  
Peggy Morley, Fundraising (Valley Springs)  
Kim deArrillaga, Treasurer (Mokelumne Hill)  
Judy Telezinski, Director (Dorrington)  
Carol Cook, Director (San Andreas)  
Nancy Cohen, Director (Murphys)  
Diane Finnegan, Director (Valley Springs)

The Public is always welcome to attend our meetings.

## Thank you Received!

Hi Debby,

Please forward this message to the FOCAS Board:

On behalf of the shelter kittens, thank you so very much for the additional \$1000 to the JFK (Just For Kittens) Fund to reduce the adoption fee for kittens. Due to your generosity, the shelter has adopted approximately 25 kittens during July. Without your support, we would be up to our eyeball in kittens and many of those kittens would soon become juniors and begin to grow roots at the shelter.

Right now, we are mid-point in Kitten Season with 30+ kittens at the shelter—although some are too young to adopt—with more arriving every week. Hopefully we will have as much success with kitten adoption during August and September as we had in July.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia

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You can sign up for a membership (and continue receiving our quarterly newsletter) in several ways:

1 – Complete the form at the bottom of this page and mail it with your \$20 annual membership dues to the address on the form.

2 – email [FOCASfriend@gmail.com](mailto:FOCASfriend@gmail.com) Simply say that you would like to become a member of FOCAS, and provide the information as shown on the form at the bottom of this page.

- You can mail your \$20 annual dues to the address on the form – just put “membership” in the memo line, or
- you can send your \$20 to FOCAS through PayPal by using the following email: [dearrillaga@gmail.com](mailto:dearrillaga@gmail.com) (that is the email FOCAS is listed under and it will show the FOCAS name on PayPal), OR by using the PayPal button on our web page (<http://FOCASweb.com>), under DONATE

3 – We are working on adding a membership button on our web page(<http://FOCASweb.com>), along with the option to unsubscribe/discontinue membership.

<b>MEMBERSHIP FORM (for mailing)</b>	<b>Annual Dues ~ \$20.00</b>
Name: _____	Email: _____
Address: _____	
City/State/Zip: _____	
<b>Please mail to FOCAS, PO Box 22, Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245</b>	

If you decide at any time that you no longer wish to remain a member and receive the newsletter, simply shoot us an email ([FOCASfriend@gmail.com](mailto:FOCASfriend@gmail.com)) or let us know on the website (<http://FOCASweb.com>).

We hope you enjoy our initial issue, which is being sent to all of our supporters. Please join if you wish to continue receiving this newsletter, and remember, suggestions or ideas are always welcome!

Thank you!!