



# ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ FEBRUARY 2018

## Donations Needed for Fall Yard Sale!

The date has been set for our biennial yard sale at Wendell's parking lot in Mokelumne Hill. We will be collecting donated items beginning in March and continuing to gather your unwanted treasures until the October yard sale.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 6 through Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> (Columbus Day weekend) and plan to come find that special something you never knew you needed while helping the animals at the same time!

Please contact Peggy at 786-7037 or email [friend@FOCASweb.com](mailto:friend@FOCASweb.com) to make arrangements for donations.



## 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)  
Sheri Logan, Director (Valley Springs)

The Public is always welcome to attend our meetings.

## Volunteers Desperately Needed!!

Volunteers are needed at Calaveras County Animal Services and for Friends of Calaveras Animal Services.

We need folks to transport dogs and cats locally and long distance (mileage is reimbursed)

We really need cat volunteers because kitty season will be starting soon. Cat volunteers clean and socialize and cuddle and help with adoptions.

Dog volunteers can dog walk, socialize and even give dog baths and help with adoptions.

Contact Debby [beaudog1944@gmail.com](mailto:beaudog1944@gmail.com) for more info and an application.

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## Health tips by Doc Hopper



### Canine Influenza

Over the past several months, 72 cases of canine flu have been reported in California, according to Cornell University. The rapid spread of the contagious virus from dog to dog has caused the temporary closure of boarding facilities in the Bay Area. While there have been no cases of canine influenza in Calaveras or Amador counties, it is good to familiarize yourself with the symptoms.

The symptoms of canine influenza include a fever, coughing, runny nose, sneezing, lethargy, reduced appetite, and discharge from the eyes and can range from mild to severe, depending on the case. However, it can be difficult to determine whether the dog has influenza or an older virus like parainfluenza or Bordetella (kennel cough), because the clinical signs are nearly identical.

In speaking with Dr. Alison Pillsbury (Acorn Vet Clinic, Amador County) she recommends taking your dog's temperature if they seem "off" their normal behavior, or show any signs listed above. Like people, some have strong immune symptoms and others have weak immune symptoms so the course of treatment may vary from dog to dog. Dr. Pillsbury says "KNOW your dog" and what is normal and not normal for them.

As to the vaccine, some vets are recommending the 2-shot series now - the older H3N8 virus and the newer H3N2 virus. Others, like Dr. Pillsbury, are taking a "wait and see" stance because the current vaccines do not appear to be effective for the most prevalent strain of the flu virus. Like the vaccine for people, they take their best guess and

develop the vaccine but some years their guess is a bit off, such as the current human vaccine is only estimated to be 30% effective this year. Dr. Pillsbury is having her staff monitor the CDC and veterinary websites for updated information.

All dogs are susceptible to infection from the newer virus due to their lack of antibodies that can fight the disease. Canine influenza is classified as a "lifestyle disease," so dogs that are more isolated have a lower chance of infection, and dogs that visit public places and come in contact with other dogs more often have a higher risk.

The virus is contagious and is spread in similar ways to human influenza. The disease can be spread from dog to dog through respiratory secretions, sneezing, licking other dogs, and can even be spread on fomites (inanimate objects), including the clothing of a person who has come in contact with an infected dog.

When the disease is contracted, it is treated symptomatically: the treatments alleviate the symptoms. Antibiotics are only prescribed if the dog develops a secondary bacterial infection. Both strains have high morbidity rate, or the amount of dogs infected with the disease, but a low mortality, or death rate.

Treatment largely consists of supportive care. This helps the dog mount an immune response. In the milder form of the disease, this care may include medication to make your dog more comfortable and fluids to ensure that your dog remains well-hydrated. Broad spectrum antibiotics may be prescribed by your veterinarian if a secondary bacterial infection is suspected.

For more information, here are some links you can research

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/canineflu/keyfacts.htm>

<https://pets.webmd.com/dogs/features/dog-flu-canine-influenza#1>

Critter Corner



Animal Services and FOCAS Present

# LEADING LADIES\*

All are  
**“Works of Purrfection”**  
 ~ *Tom-Cat Tribune*

**Breaking News for Cat Lovers: It’s time to fall in love again.**  
 ~ *The Kitty Observer*

Our Leading Ladies have star quality and are eager to bestow their affection on adoring human fans. Like all drama queens, they can be temperamental—they love adult people, but do not care at all for other cats. Leading Ladies need to be the *only pet* in a cat-savvy household so they can be THE STAR OF YOUR SHOW!

*\*Casting subject to change due to availability of Leading Ladies*

All Animal Services cats and dogs are available at a reduced rate during February.

This adoption event is sponsored by

FOCAS (Friends of Calaveras Animal Services)

 **BRAVO...some of the best performances of The Season!**  
 ~ *The Scratching Post*



**Breaking News for Cat Lovers: It’s time to fall in love again.**  
 ~ *The Kitty Observer*



**Five Stars – Must see!**  
 ~ *Pussycat Press*



**Valentine’s Adoption Special**

**Give the gift of everlasting love**

 

**50% off dog or cat adoption for the month of February**

At Calaveras County Animal Services  
 Jeff Tuttle Dr., San Andreas

**Sponsored by FOCAS**  
 (Friends of Calaveras Animal Services)  
 209-754-6509 • [www.focasweb.com](http://www.focasweb.com)





## Happy Tails Helpful Training Tips

By Sheri Logan

### Oh no! Not my shoes!

Have you ever come home to find that your pup has decided your shoes were his new chew toys? Well, you are not alone! Inappropriate chewing is one of the most common unwanted behaviors your pup may do. It is important to understand all dogs, especially puppies, are going to chew and it's your job to teach your pup what things are appropriate to chew on.

So how can you help teach your pup to stop chewing on your things?

- 1- First off remember, ALL dogs chew, but WHAT they chew is up to you! By fixating your pup on the proper chew toys, it will be easier for him to make the correct chewing choices.
- 2- You should have four to five proper chew toys and make sure all family members know that these are the toys the pup is allowed to chew on. Be careful to stay away from anything that resembles valuables in the home. For example, a rope toy may resemble the tassel ends of a rug.
- 3- Then play with these toys with your dog, using praise, petting, and play to encourage your pup to want to pick up and chew on the correct toy. These chew toys need to be the major source of interaction between

your pup and all family members.

Eventually your pup will learn to enjoy chewing on these toys and will be less likely to chew on your furniture or favorite pair of shoes!

- 4- Make sure not to draw your pup's attention to inappropriate items by chasing him when he has a hold of something he shouldn't. You don't want it to turn into a game of 'catch me if you can' because this is rewarding to your pup. Dogs love a good chase! So instead, try to lure him away from the item by offering a tasty treat or by providing him with the appropriate chew toy. This might take some time so be patient. Then make sure to put the item up and out of reach of the dog.

Stay focused on using the appropriate chew toy when playing with your pup and reward him whenever you see him doing so. He will soon learn that it is much more fun to chew on the proper chew toy than to have a chew on those shoes!

Sheri Logan, ABCDT – Certified Dog Trainer  
Logan's Happy Tails

[www.sherilogan.thedogtrainer.org](http://www.sherilogan.thedogtrainer.org)

## What Happens to Your Pets if You Died?

Not a fun subject, but still, something to plan ahead. The following is from the Sacramento SPCA and they offer a free seminar 4 times a year. Definitely something of great value to consider!

### SACRAMENTO SPCA GUARDIAN CARE PROGRAM

It is our goal to provide a program that will give you peace of mind and options for quality care of your pet(s) when you are no longer able to do so. Not only will your pets be cared for, you will join a group of people who are helping secure the Sacramento SPCA for future generations to come.

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Questions to consider:

- Have you thought about what would happen if your pet(s) survive(s) you?
- Who will look after your pet(s) if you are no longer able to do so?

The Sacramento SPCA will provide:

- A custom-designed care program that meets the needs of you and your pet(s).
- Staff assistance in helping you to identify the best possible care options for your pet(s).
- On-going, loving care for your pet(s).

Benefits:

- Peace of mind for you.
- Security knowing that you are providing care for your pet(s) when you no longer can.
- You help give other pets a second chance by supporting the Sacramento SPCA.

How the program works:

- It helps you determine the best and quality care for your pet(s).
- We will help you come up with a plan that makes everybody—including your pet(s)—happy.
- If you do not already have legal or financial advice we can help by making recommendations for personal assistance.
- We will sit down with you and gain as much information about your pet(s) and discuss options.
- We will make you aware of important legal and financial information about the future of your pet(s).
- We can help you avoid challenges from non-pet-loving relatives.
- You will learn why having a will isn't enough.

Eligibility:

- Open to all loving and responsible pet lovers.
- Minimum \$4,000 commitment per animal to cover food, vet care and emergency care (as needed) until the pets can be placed in a permanent home.
- Must be a member of the Sacramento SPCA.

Enrollment:

We are available to help you choose the best plan for you and your pet(s) future. Call or email today to learn more about how this program can best serve you.

Michele K. Steiner, Development Officer  
916-504-2870  
msteiner@sspca.org

Here is a link for more information:

<http://www.sspca.org/estate-planning-leave-legacy>

## Dear Miss Penny Paws



Dear Miss Pennypaws,

I have a very disgusting habit – although not nearly as disgusting as those kitty Rocca snowcaps found in the litter box. My secret vice is dog poop. I just can't seem to help myself – there is something so tempting here. I'm very ashamed after I've indulged, not to mention how unhappy my owner is with me. Is there any hope for me?

Signed,  
Partial to Poop

Dear Partial,

This is not an uncommon problem, so don't feel alone – although your owner may not want you near after you've feasted!

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Your owner can try sprinkling a little 'Accent' seasoning over your food. There is something in the Accent that changes once you ingest it, that makes those poops very nasty indeed. Most pups won't indulge once this trick is tried. Some pet stores carry a product called 'Forbid' that will produce the same unappetizing after-product.

Of course, the best deterrent is for your owner to immediately clean up after you have done your business and keep a very strict eye on you so that you don't have a chance to indulge.

And the good news is many pups outgrow this less than pleasing habit.

Stay strong and resist!  
Miss Penny Paws

## And on the Lighter Side~



A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana and he sees a sign in front of a broken down shanty-style house: 'Talking Dog For Sale 'He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard.

The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

'You talk?' he asks.

'Yep,' the Lab replies.

After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says 'So, what's your story?'

The Lab looks up and says, 'Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so... I told the CIA. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping.'

'I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running...

But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals.'

'I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired.'

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

'Ten dollars,' the guy says.

'Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?'

'Because he's full of beans! He's never been out of the yard'



