

# ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ NOVEMBER 2017

## Pet Bath House Update

As you may have read in the Calaveras Enterprise, the Conditional Use Permit for the Pet Bath House was revoked by the City of Angels. This is a continuing process and the owner can appeal so this story is far from over – keep an eye on the newspapers for updates.

In the meantime, a donation account for Steve Mendoza to benefit Casper and Coco (his two remaining dogs), has been set up at Umpqua Bank in San Andreas. All funds will go to Steve Mendoza for his dogs. Please feel free to share the information!

Checks should be made out to : Steve Mendoza and put account # 3969202922 in memo line and mailed to:

UMPQUA Bank  
PO BOX 759  
San Andreas, CA 95249

## Critter Corner



Charlie, American Bull Dog mix, is about 8 yrs old, weighs 67 pounds, is a neutered male, and has been heartworm treated.

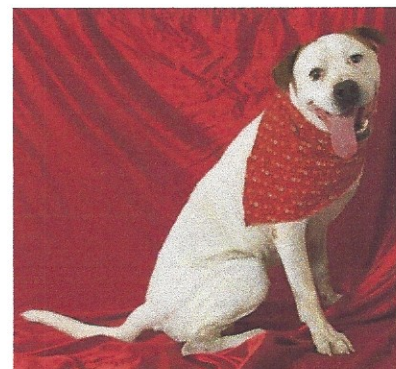
Charlie is a love. Charlie is the most well-rounded dog I have ever met. He is willing to please and easily trained. He has started his formal obedience

training. He is house broken and sleeps in his crate at night, never uttering a peep.



Charlie gets along with all dogs, male and female. He is full of energy and loves to go for walks. Charlie is also a very relaxed boy, if that is what is happening. This boy is very affectionate and loving. He has a sweet and forgiving nature. He tested good with his food and could not care less if I put my hand in his bowl when eating. Charlie is a good watch dog and I feel very safe with him. He listens when told that it is enough and greets company accordingly. He passed all of his handling tests with flying colors: ear check, teeth check, lifting leg, pulling tail. Charlie will be a once in a life time dog. I have never known such a truly good dog. Charlie does not seem to be fond of cats, his only fault!

**UPDATE!!! Charlie just got adopted!!! Awesome!**



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## Health tips by Doc Hopper

By Guest writer, Michele Rugo



### Holidays Can Bring Health Dangers to Our Pets

It's the most wonderful time of the year—until your pet ingests some tinsel or decides to drink from the Christmas-tree water. As we excitedly welcome family and friends home for the holidays, it's often a time when we can be less than vigilant about our pets and what they're getting into. And unless your houseguests are conscientious pet owners themselves, chances are they aren't aware that they may be creating a toxic environment for your pet. Here is a list of what veterinarians say are potentially harmful and to keep out of the reach of Fido and Fluffy. Though cats tend to be less adventurous than dogs in sampling these new taste sensations, they can be every bit as toxic to felines. (Naturally, the same can be said for children.) Should you believe your pet has consumed any of one of these, contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) immediately.

#### **Pretty, shiny baubles everywhere**

Dogs may not appreciate the beauty of holiday décor as much as see them as new chewing opportunities. Keep wreaths, candles, ornaments and other festive accessories out of his or her reach. Strings of electric lights plugged in also present the danger of electrical shock. It's never wise to leave a dog or cat alone at home with the Christmas tree, this is the time to take advantage of a safe and secure mudroom or crate.

#### **Chocolate, chocolate and more chocolate**

Whether it's a gift of gourmet chocolates or yet another batch of the neighbor's homemade fudge, chances are you have lots of chocolate lying about.

Chocolate is teeming with theobromine, an alkaloid toxic to dogs. It can cause seizures and even death. Symptoms that your pup may have binged on chocolate include vomiting, diarrhea, irregular heartbeat and muscle tremors.

#### **Holiday lattes and other coffee treats**

Our coffee addiction may kick into overdrive during the busy holiday season, but caffeine is a definite no-no for dogs. It is a stimulant and can cause seizures, abnormal heartbeat and even death. Specialty coffee drinks topped with whipped cream are particularly tempting to canines, so keep them up high and out of reach. Be sure to place the chocolate-covered coffee beans high on a shelf as well.

#### **Alcohol**

Though you likely won't intentionally pour your pets a bowl of wine or spiked eggnog, your pawed pals may take the liberty of lapping out of any glass in which they can get their tongues. Wine, beer and hard liquor can cause seizures, respiratory failure, decrease in blood sugar, low blood pressure and a drop in body temperature. Always keep alcoholic beverages away from your pets.

#### **Unbaked dough**

That bowl of rising bread dough on the counter can mean death for your dog. Unbaked bread dough can expand in your pup's stomach and cause bloat or a twisted stomach. Symptoms may include vomiting, retching, elevated heart rate, weakness and a distended stomach. Another danger in unbaked dough is the yeast, which converts into alcohol in your dog's stomach. The alcohol is quickly absorbed into your dog's bloodstream and can result in alcohol poisoning. If your dog eats dough, get it to a vet immediately.

#### **Sugar-free treats**

Congratulations on dropping that extra ten pounds you've been carrying around ahead of the holiday season. Well-meaning friends who know you're counting calories may give you sugar-free goodies

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containing xylitol, a lower-calorie sugar substitute. When consumed by dogs, it may lead to a drastic drop in blood sugar and liver damage. Lethargy occurs quickly after ingestion and can be fatal.

#### **Ibuprofen or other over-the-counter medications**

Perhaps you tend to get holiday stress headaches or pull a few muscles putting up the Christmas lights and find yourself relying on Ibuprofen or other pain relievers. You wouldn't think of leaving these medications out on the counter when the grandchildren visit so do the same for your furry companions. Keep all over-the-counter and prescription drugs out of reach as both can cause liver and kidney damage, severe ulcers, anemia and even death.

#### **Macadamia nuts**

Who doesn't love yummy macadamia nuts often found in holiday treats? It's also the delicious gift that many vacations to Hawaii thoughtfully bring home. These delectable treats can prove toxic to your dog. Symptoms typically occur within twelve hours of ingestion and may include depression, weakness, tremors, vomiting and pale gums.

#### **Turkey skin, turkey bones and table food scraps**

While your pup may whine for a treat during the holiday dinner or beg Uncle Al for a snack under the table, bones from poultry, fish, pork and even beef can cause choking or splinter in your dog's digestive tract. Fatty table scraps, turkey skin or leftovers can lead to pancreatitis and high-sodium fare can cause your dog to drink too much water, resulting in bloat or a twisted stomach. Human food is best kept for humans.

#### **Fruits, nuts and other meal ingredients**

Grapes, raisins, onions and garlic left out on counters in preparing appetizers, baked goods or entrees can be toxic. The same is true of walnuts, which can be poisonous to animals when only slightly moldy in their shells.

#### **Poisonous holiday plants**

Poinsettias have long suffered a bad rap as a toxic plant for dogs. Contrary to belief, poinsettias are not deadly though they can cause severe irritation to the mouth and stomach and sometimes vomiting when a large amount is consumed. Eating Christmas tree pine needles can similarly produce oral irritation, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy and posterior weakness. Holly, commonly found during the Christmas season, can cause extreme vomiting, diarrhea and depression. Perhaps two of the most dangerous to your pets are Mistletoe and most varieties of Lilies. The two plants are often used for holiday décor and as gifts but when consumed by your dog can lead to the symptoms above as well as difficulty breathing, erratic behavior, hallucinations, collapse and even death.

Dogs and cats don't understand what's bad for them and many dog owners can attest that a dog will eat anything at least once. The holidays can be accompanied by a bit of chaos and lack of routine and watchfulness as we eagerly anticipate celebrations. Make sure yours are ones to remember fondly by paying attention to the added dangers in food and décor that the season can bring for your pets.

#### **Dear Miss Penny Paws**



I stuck my nose in the wrong place last week and boy! Did that hurt!! My mom called the vet and then took a picture of my football shaped nose. At first she thought it might have been a snake bite, but here is what her vet told her: If it was a snake bite, it is so painful you can't even touch the dog where it was bit,

and there will usually be two little fang marks in the swollen area. He said to take your dog to the vet immediately if that is the case.

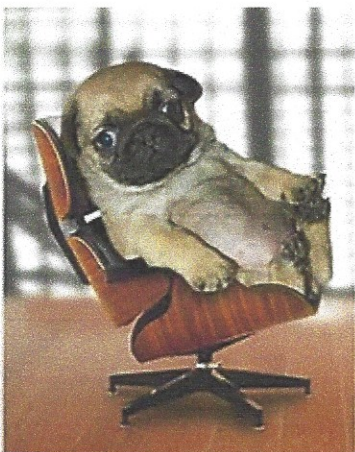
Most likely he thought I was stung by a bee. What are the signs of an allergic reaction to a bee sting?

Signed,  
Wounded Willetta

Dear Willetta,

Well, that will certainly teach you where NOT to stick your nose! The best course of action if a dog has been bit or stung is to GO TO THE VET IMMEDIATELY. Most people are not qualified to determine themselves what type of creature you've come in contact with, and immediate vet care may be necessary.

As with people, most bee stings are not serious unless the dog is allergic to bee stings. Then they can be fatal so head to the vet without delay. You can also immediately give the dog Benedryl to alleviate the reaction. Just be sure to give the dog 1 mg per pound of weight. Because dogs metabolize the medicine differently than a person, the dosage is much higher; i.e., a 75# dog would get 3 of the 25 mg pills.



### Message From the Top Dog

(Henning Schreiber,  
Animal Services  
Manager)

This summer really hit it home. Just as we were thinking we were close to the end of the

fire season, the worst fires ever in California's history brought devastation and grief. It appears that fast-moving fires are becoming the new normal, making preparedness even more important. Often there is only time to grab your go-kit and your pet and leave –

if you have a go-kit. Sometimes you are separated from your pet and a Good Samaritan scoops him or her up and rescues it – and now you are searching for it. And while you scramble and run to your vehicle to evacuate you think about where to go – unless you have a plan in place.

We all know when it comes to disasters, it's not "If..." it's "When..."! Preparedness is one of the most important steps to take to reduce the impact of a disaster. But where to start?

### Microchip your pet.

This works equally for your Guinea Pig and your horse – and every animal in between. The microchip is about the size of a rice corn and is implanted with a syringe right under the skin. Every veterinarian and Animal Services office has scanners that can read the chip and with this information track down the owner information that is stored in databases managed by the chip providers. A microchip is also good proof of your ownership if it comes to a dispute. A microchip is good for life.

Dog or cat collars also help to identify the animal and get it reunited with the owner. On livestock use a permanent marker and write your phone number on the hoofs – if you have the time.

### Prepare a go-kit for all your pets.

It really is not much different from what you should have prepared for you and your family. Here is a short list of the most important items:

- Food, water and bowls for each pet. Keep a 3-day supply in your go-kit and don't forget to rotate it before the food expires.
- 2-week supply of medication, along with a copy of the current prescription. Again, rotate the medication before they expire.
- Paper towels, plastic bags and spray disinfectant for animal waste cleanup.
- Extra collars and tags, harnesses and leashes for all pets (including cats).

- Copies of your pet's medical and vaccination records. Boarding facilities may not accept your pets without proof of health.
- Recent photo of you with your pet.
- Crate or traveling carrier large enough for your pet to stand up and turn around. Label the crate with your pet's name, your name and where you can be reached.
- Blanket or large towel.
- First aid kit.
- Your own contact information with emergency numbers and also your veterinarian's contacts.

### **Make a plan.**

Know the roads to evacuate your area. Avoid small roads, especially when you pull a trailer. Firefighters might come around the corner and you will have to back up or turn around. If possible, the incident command will issue evacuation advisories before they call for evacuation orders. Don't wait until there is an evacuation 'order' when you have multiple pets or horses. The sooner you start your preparation the better you are off. It takes time to load your horses and it takes time to gather your pets. Don't wait until it is too late.

Identify pet-friendly places to stay. It is best to have several potential evacuation places in case one is cut off or also impacted by the disaster.

Create a buddy system. Team up with your neighbors and friends. If you are working, there is a good chance that a disaster strikes when you are not even at home. If an evacuation perimeter is established you will not be able to get to your home and need your buddy – if it is safe! – to evacuate your pets. This is especially important if a health issue is limiting your ability to evacuate. In our county there are also many people that don't have the necessary vehicles to evacuate with their pets. See what you can do for your neighbor – but don't wait until the disaster hits to plan this out.

If there is no time to leave you have to shelter in place. Again, the chance for you and your pets to survive this unharmed strongly depends on how prepared you are. For yourself and your indoor pets select a safe room with no (or few) windows. Be able to close everything to keep out smoke. Plan to move your outside pets, horses and/or livestock to a secure area with little or no grass. If possible keep the area wet. Remove any synthetic halters, fly masks, ropes etc. A metal structure with a roof might help protect your outside animals from flying embers.

When you have to shelter in place keep in mind that people and pets are mostly harmed by smoke inhalation, not so much by flames.

Take time to develop your plan. Put your plan in action. Only if you do a practice exercise, can you find out what works and what doesn't. It doesn't help if you plan a certain evacuation route only to find out during a disaster that the bridge was washed out long ago. Keep your equipment in order. A trailer with a flat tire is no good.

These are just the highlights. We all know that preparing for a disaster is about as appealing as a root canal. But it can be the one factor that lets you and your animals survive a disaster. For more information go online. One suggestion would be to check out this website: [www.cads-team.org](http://www.cads-team.org).

Keep in mind, the next fire season is just six months away – barely enough time to prepare. Do it now! And stay safe!

## **This and That....**

### **Free micro chipping**

December 2nd

10 am to 2pm

Location: Save A Pet Thrift Store  
120 Pine Street, Valley Springs

Sponsored by Lost and Found Pets 209  
and Save A Pet Thrift Store.



## Happy Tails Helpful Training Tips

By Sheri Logan

### Puppies are sure adorable BUT...

Raising a puppy can be a very difficult task. We get all wrapped up in their cuteness that we forget how important it is to train them. The earlier the better since puppies are constantly exploring and learning and sometimes learning unpleasant behaviors. Puppy nipping/mouthing is a way your puppy is trying to interact with you. However, it can sure hurt! You want to teach your puppy that a dog's teeth should never be on human skin.

Here are some tips to help you teach your puppy to stop this behavior.

- 1) Be prepared ahead of time when starting to play with your puppy to set him up to succeed.
- 2) Avoid any type of play that will cause the puppy to want to put his mouth on you.
- 3) Reward your puppy when he is giving you the desired behavior.

Here is an example of what to do if you encounter nipping/mouthing:

Step 1: Yelp "Ouch" like you are hurt if the puppy mouths you.

Step 2: Immediately turn away and ignore your puppy for a count of 10.

Step 3: Turn back around and give your puppy a toy that is appropriate to play with.

Step 4: If the puppy takes the toy, say "Good" and praise him (a treat is a great way to praise!)

Step 5: if your puppy mouths you again, repeat the exercise.

It is important that you are consistent with your training and that all family members are on board with the training. Praise and positive reinforcement goes a long way when training your puppy!

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

"Where obedience leads to Happiness!"

In-home Private Dog Obedience and Behavioral  
Training  
(925)337-0046

## FOCAS Board

Who is FOCAS? We're local folks that really care about the well-being of the animals at the shelter. And a big welcome to newest board member, Sheri Logan !!

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.



# The Friends of Calaveras Animal Services Needs Your Support

This is the **BEST No Holiday Dinner Ever!**

You do NOT have to:

- get dressed up and drive to Grandma's house
- arrange for a babysitter for the kids
- have to consume the green bean casserole
- hear the same "we had it so much harder when we were young" from your relatives
- vote on who makes the best stuffing (and resulting argument!)



## INSTEAD

## Donate to the 2017 "No-Holiday" Party

Your donation is tax deductible (ID#36-4790746). Keep this record for your receipt.

If you have any questions, please contact: [focasfriend@gmail.com](mailto:focasfriend@gmail.com) or visit our web site at <http://focasweb.com>



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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to hear from us? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### Suggested Donations:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 in lieu of having to cook the marshmallow yams
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 in lieu of having your cheeks pinched over and over by your elderly aunt
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 in lieu of having to witness the traditional family squabbling
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 in lieu of having to eat huge meal, gain 10 pounds over night, then diet for 3 months!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other amount (No amount is too small or too large)

Please make your check payable to FOCAS. Then mail this bottom slip and your donation to FOCAS, PO Box 22, Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245

**We are so grateful to our wonderful communities for your continued support!**