



ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ MAY 2018

Donations Needed for Fall Yard Sale!

As reported last issue, the date has been set for our biennial yard sale at Wendell's parking lot in Mokelumne Hill.

We have been gathering some wonderful donations but certainly need more! We will be continuing to gather your unwanted treasures until the October yard sale.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 6 through Monday, October 8th (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 to make arrangements for collection of donations.

A Huge Shout Out & Thank You!

Every year, the various departments of Calaveras County participate in a frog jump off at the Government Center, with the winner participating in the actual Frog Jump at the Fair.

The employees make a donation for every entry, and Calaveras County gave them the option of choosing either the Calaveras Humane Society or FOCAS.

Employees were VERY generous and FOCAS received a grand total of \$540.00! AWESOME~

Here are Dee Dee Drake of the Calaveras Humane Society and Deborah Beaufort of FOCAS at the Government Center looking quite pleased with the generous county employees.

And as far as I know, neither one had to kiss a frog to get the money!



Volunteers Desperately Needed!!

Training will be provided so please don't feel that you "don't know enough" to help out. You will be taught everything you need to know!

Dear Miss Penny Paws



Dear Miss Penny Paws,

I'm not real crazy about getting my toenails clipped. And when I do let my mom clip them, I have all these unsightly hang nails.

My mom found a solution! It's a small, battery operated rechargeable grinder. It has a little grinding stone on the end and high or low settings. It keeps my nails short and smooth. I like it much better than the nail clippers although it took me a while to get used to it because it tickles and makes noise.

She bought it at Home Depot and it wasn't cheap! But I'm worth it. Now, if I could just decide on the right nail policy color.

Signed,
Foot Fetish

Dear Fetish,

It sounds like you're talking about a Dremel tool, or similar type gadget. This is a great way to keep your toes in tip top shape, but now they have special grinders made just for pets. They're great because they don't allow the nail to be ground too far down.

Of course, if you were double-jointed, you could naw them short yourself! As to color, I prefer natural pink for day-to-day, and perhaps a soft peach for those special occasions.

Signed,
Janet



Want to have some fun?
Do you want to make a real difference to animals in need?

Volunteers are needed to clean cat cages, cat rooms and socialize the shelter cats.
Volunteers are also needed to walk and socialize the shelter dogs!

Kitten season is upon us!
There will be lots of little babies to help clean and play with.
The weather is perfect to take a walk with a new four legged friend!



Please join the force of dedicated volunteers at the Calaveras Animal Shelter

For more information, please contact
beaudog1944@gmail.com

Sponsored by FOCAS
(Friends of Calaveras Animal Services)

THE ANIMALS THANK YOU!

www.focasweb.com



Rattlesnake Anti-Venom and/or Rattlesnake Avoidance Training

We live in rattlesnake country, and this year appears to be particularly bad. Many owners elect to give their dogs the anti-venom shot to help protect their pets should they get bitten by a rattlesnake.

The following is from the PetMD website, by Dr. Jennifer Coates:

A study published in 2011 showed that giving antivenin to dogs who had been bitten by rattlesnakes “effectively stabilized or terminated” the effects of the venom.

Researchers had access to 115 client-owned dogs who had been bitten by rattlesnakes and whose symptoms associated with the bite were worsening over time. All dogs received “standard supportive care” and one vial of rattlesnake antivenin either given all at once or divided in half with the second dose given six hours after the first. Each dog’s condition was evaluated using a standardized system and assigned a “severity score.”

The scientists found that after receiving the antivenin “the mean severity score of the 115 patients decreased from 4.19 to 3.29 points” and “the mean severity score of the 107 patients without fatalities decreased from 4.16 to 2.15. It didn’t seem to matter

whether the dogs received the entire contents of the vial as one dose or divided into two doses.

Giving antivenin is not an entirely benign treatment. Dogs can have adverse (including allergic) reactions to the injection, but in this study only six percent of the dogs had problems associated with the antivenin.

Some people take a different route – rattlesnake aversion training. Some prefer to reduce the vaccines given to their dogs, some people believe avoidance of snake contact is the best solution.

The rattlesnake aversion training does use real rattlesnakes. The snakes are either humanely muzzled or hooded so as to protect the dogs from a bite.

The “handler” takes your dog on a long-line, with a shock collar. When the dog goes to the snake, they receive a small shock. The dog is introduced to a snake in front of them, one hidden (so they just hear the noise), a skin or a snake with the rattles wrapped (so they associate the smell as well as the sound), and the final test is the handler brings the dog towards the owner, and there is a large snake between the dog and the owner. The owner calls the dog, who should make a wide path around the snake.

I have taken my own dogs to this training. My golden has gone three years in a row, and my Aussie has gone twice. The golden doesn’t need a refresher course next year, but the Aussie will go for a third time. Once the smell and sounds are imprinted on the dog, you only need a refresher every few years.

A friend took her dogs to the training and was out walking her property one day when they encountered the snake. The dog absolutely recognized the smell and sound and came running to my friend.

Everyone has to make their own choices and I'm not advocating one method over another. But the snakes are out in abundance this year. Consider where you live, where your dogs may roam, the possibility of a snake encounter, and what method will work for you to keep them safe.

Critter Corner



Introducing Vega!



Vega has been at the Calaveras shelter for close to a month. He is one of the favorites of the volunteer walkers so we are miffed why he has not been gobbled up for a forever home.

A031892 Vega Intact Male, 6 years, 58 pounds, heartworm negative, eligible for 55-5 program.

Vega still thinks he's a puppy. He is a fun, exuberant and happy boy. He plays well with dogs of all sizes, male and female.

Though he is strong and needs more leash training, he is willing to learn and eager to please. Vega is very responsive to commands. His favorite activity is playing ball. He will sit and wait for the toss and drops it at your feet upon return.

Vega enjoyed getting a bath though he thought the hose was another toy. He would be a great addition to a family with older children that could handle his strength and enthusiasm.

He needs a place without livestock. Vega will need to be neutered before going home with you.

If you have a family looking for big fun-loving member, he is the one. But please hurry. Time is running out.

Contact info: Calaveras County Animal Services 209-754-6509 or svavzincak@co.calaveras.ca.us or pmorley@co.calaveras.ca.us

Happy Tails Helpful Training Tips

By Sheri Logan



Help for Families of Newly Adopted Dogs! (Like Vega!)

You make a decision to adopt a new pup from the shelter, bring him home and realize you need some help! It is very common to sometimes feel a little overwhelmed when bringing a new pup home. There are new routines to consider and since dogs don't talk...it can sometimes be a challenge.

I am happy to announce there is GOOD NEWS for families now adopting from the Calaveras County Animal Shelter! As a way of saying “THANK YOU” for adopting a pup in need, a FREE “in home” session is now being offered. This session will address issues such as getting your pup settled in, setting rules, training tips, and behavioral concerns. This valuable help is provided by Logan’s Happy Tails.

Since the inception of this service, the outcome has been very beneficial for both the pup and owner! It is exciting to be able to offer this service to families in hopes that it will help ease the transition into their pup’s new forever home!

Sheri Logan, ABCDT – Certified Dog Trainer
Logan’s Happy Tails
www.sherilogan.thedogtrainer.org

Maybe he's confused..



Or just demands equal rights!

Health tips by Doc Hopper



As summer and the warmer weather arrives, many people consider shaving their dogs in an attempt to keep them more comfortable. But there are some dogs that should not be shaved as their coats provide protection.

The following article is an excerpt from <https://www.puppyleaks.com/should-you-shave-your-dog/> and provides some great information to be considered before making that decision.

What You Need to Know Before Shaving Your Dog

With the summer fast approaching many of us will be spending more time outdoors with our dogs. And to keep them cool in the summer we provide them with plenty of fresh water, lots of shade, and some of our dogs may even get a nice summer haircut.

Have you ever considered shaving your dog for the summer? I did it years ago under the assumption that it would help keep him cool, but unfortunately it had the opposite effect.

Before you decide to shave your dog remember this: **double coated dogs should not be shaved.** Shaving a double coated dog will not help keep him cool, and it often ends up making things much worse.

Single coated breeds (such as Poodles) can have their fur clipped or shaved down to the skin and it will grow back the way it was, but this is not the case for double coated breeds.

Why Double Coated Dogs Should Not be Shaved

When deciding whether or not to shave your dog you need to determine what kind of coat your dog has – single or double.

Double coated breeds are those that have two layers of fur. The top layer is made of tough guard hairs and the bottom layer is a thick layer of fur called an [undercoat](#). The undercoat is a layer of fine hairs close to an animals' skin that help keep them cool in the summer and warm in winter. In the spring they go through a major shedding period known as blowing their coat when much of that undercoat is released to make way for their lighter summer coat.

Common [double coated breeds](#) include Huskies, Chows, Labradors, German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, and Pomeranian's. Most of the herding breeds have a double coat, as well as the Spitz type breeds and a majority of Terriers.

Shaving a double coated dog can permanently damage their fur, and contrary to popular belief it does not help keep them cool in the summer. Shaving a double coated dog should only be done in extreme cases of matting or with certain skin conditions.

Shaving Will Not Help Cool Them Down

The reason I shaved my dog was to help keep him cool in the summer. It didn't, in fact it made him even less tolerant to the heat. Your dog's coat serves as a natural insulation from both hot and cold weather. The hot sun will warm your dog up more if they don't have that layer of insulation protecting them.

*When the coat does grow back it produces a **thicker undercoat** with a mix of short guard hairs. This new coat is thicker and softer than the old coat. Why is this bad? A dog's shaved down false coat acts as a sweatshirt. Its softness soaks up the water and*

attracts burrs and hitchhikers. The thickness of the coat is extremely hot in summer. – Blue Cross Animal Hospital

Shaving Increases Sunburn and Skin Cancer Risks

The top layer of your dog's fur helps protect them against bug bites and the sun's harmful rays. By shaving your dog you're leaving them more exposed to the sun, increasing their risk of developing [sunburn](#) or [skin cancer](#).

Their Fur Can Become Permanently Damaged by Shaving

When a double coated dog is shaved there's no guarantee the top guard coat will grow back. And the older a dog is the less likely it is to grow back normally. The undercoat continues to grow, but for some dogs the guard hairs never do. These dogs are left with a coat that has a patchy, frizzy, dull appearance. Shaving your dog can alter their coat permanently.

This is what happened to my dog Carter. His backside, belly, and legs never grew any top hairs back. It became nearly impossible to groom him on my own. The undercoat became so wild, frizzy, and unruly that it felt just like harsh wool.

The undercoat is all that is left when you shave a dog, and as it grows faster than the outer coat, it takes a very long time for the outer coat to catch up, if at all. This means that there is no outer coat to protect the under coat, which becomes brittle and breaks off, and that there is no shiny, glossy hair on your dog. – EKC Gr

Shaving Your Dog Will Not Help with Allergies

Will shaving your dog help with allergies? Not at all. The dander on your pet's skin and fur is what [causes pet allergies](#), not the fur itself. And that dander is a collection of dead skin cells that sits in the undercoat of double coated dogs. So, when you shave your dog

you're actually going to be exposing yourself to more irritants.

Shaving your dog will allow more of these allergens to become airborne, leading to more chances for direct contact.

*These allergens become airborne during the animal's natural shedding process, and end up everywhere: on carpet, drapes, blinds, furniture — even on clothes. — **Dr. Karen Halligan** director of veterinary services at SPCALA*

Shaving Your Dog Will Not Decrease Shedding

Shaving your dog does not **decrease shedding**. Your dog will still shed, and after shaving it will just be shorter hair that they're shedding. Because their top guard layer has been removed (the part that doesn't shed), the undercoat is allowed to grow uninhibited which can lead to more shedding.

There Are Better Ways to Manage Your Dogs Coat

Double coated breeds require regular grooming. In the spring and fall they go through their shedding process which can be a lot to handle if you're not prepared. Hair will **get everywhere** — not just little bits and pieces either, huge tufts at a time will come out.

Maintaining a regular **grooming schedule** for double coated dogs is necessary. You can get a de-shedding tool like the **Furminator** (which is great for my German Shepherd mix, but it may not be the best choice for some breeds since it can pull *too* much hair), or you can take a trip to the groomer and let them do the heavy work.

Regular brushing does more than just remove extra fur. It helps keep your dog's hair in good condition by removing dirt, preventing tangles, and keeping their skin clean and irritant free.

Please Don't Shave Your Double Coated Dog

Shaving a double coated dog does not help cool them down, it will not decrease shedding, it will not prevent allergies, and it permanently damages their coat. Shaving your dog in the summer seems like common sense, why wouldn't it help keep them cool? That's probably why I didn't think twice before paying a groomer to shave my dog. But that one shave damaged his coat forever.

His top coat never grew back. He had to endure long grooming sessions as I tried to manage his unruly wool like fur. It's something I'll always regret. Lots of us make this assumption about a nice summer shave for our pets. It's so easy to do, and it's hard to imagine that it could do any harm. But please think twice before shaving your dog, don't make the same mistake I did.

If you have a double coated breed remember that his outer layer of fur is there for a purpose. It serves as your dog's **heating and cooling** system, developed and designed by mother nature herself. Please think twice before shaving your dog — in this case **nature knows best**.

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)
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**In order to function properly
a paper shredder needs to
rest for 18 hours per day**



Next FOCAS Meeting

The next FOCAS Meeting will be Wednesday June 6th, 12:00 noon at the Cat House.

The Public is always welcome to attend our meetings.



**The Friends of Calaveras Animal
Services (FOCAS),
Calaveras County Animal Services,
Jules Wurzler, DVM and
West Point Fire
are offering**

FREE RABIES VACCINATIONS

**Saturday ~ June 23, 2018 ~ 9am
to 12 noon at
West Point Fire Station 195 Spink
Road West Point 95255**

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus. We live in an area where the rabies virus can be found in wildlife and transmitted to your pet and you through a bite that punctures the skin. To protect your dog, other pets, yourself and your family, you need to vaccinate your companion. And for the protection of the greater public, the law requires you to vaccinate and license all dogs 4 months of age or older.

Questions?

**Contact Animal Services at
754-6509**

For Calaveras County residents only;
All dogs must be on leash and all cats must be
in carriers.