



# ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ AUGUST 2018

## There's a New Dog in Town!



### New Boss Notes~

FOCAS welcomes new Animal Services Manager, Evan Jacobs. Evan comes to us from Bastrop, Texas, where he was the Manager at the Bastrop County Animal Services. Evan has an extensive background perfect for this position, as detailed below:

- Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice
- Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration
- Certificate as an Animal Cruelty Investigator from the University of Missouri
- Certificate from ACTS Basic Animal Control Officer course
- Certificates for FEMA Incident Command System Nos. 100, 200, and 700
- 832 PC Powers of Arrest and Firearms
- Experience with working with people in a variety of settings
- Known for his work ethic and willingness to get his hands dirty doing all kinds of work

Here he is on TV:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cECKRMnu1jl>

Evan's first day was June 25, and he has already attended two FOCAS board meetings. He has some wonderful ideas and we are so excited to work with him towards the betterment of the animals.

Here are a few words from Evan ~

As the new manager of Calaveras County Animal Services, I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve the animals and citizens of Calaveras County. My first experience dealing with animals was when I was a police explorer. A family friend was an animal control officer. I participated in ride-a-longs with him. I learned every facet of his job and saw how much he enjoyed helping both animals and people.

After I graduated from college, I got a job working as an animal control officer in Southern California. My hope was to become a police officer, but I truly enjoyed helping animals that had no voice. During my career as an animal control officer, I fell in love with investigating animal cruelty cases. I was fortunate enough to attend the National Animal Cruelty Investigations School by Missouri State University. This program helped me tremendously investigate cruelty cases and gave me the tools to be successful in winning cases.

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I have been with Calaveras County eight weeks now and have learned a great deal. My goals are to implement policies and procedures that will ensure the health and safety of the animals in our care and provide quality service to the public.

## Second Chances for Cats with Oregon Humane Society!

Since December 2015, FOCAS has partnered with the Oregon Humane Society (OHS) Second Chances program to find homes for well over 200 homeless cats and kittens in the Sierra foothills. Prior to transport into Oregon, FOCAS provides basic vet care, vaccination and testing for these homeless animals. They are then transported into OHS facilities for additional procedures such as spay or neuter, microchipped and receive any other additional care. Soon after, they are placed at various OHS adoption facilities. Once there, they are typically adopted within a few days to a week.

OHS has been in existence for 150 years. The headquarters is located in Portland, Oregon. Its mission is to foster an environment of respect, responsibility and compassion for all animals through education, leadership and legislation. To care for the homeless, to defend the abused and to fight with unrelenting diligence for recognition of the integrity of all animals.

Second Chances program came into existence in 1997 to help overcrowded shelters in surrounding states. Last year, OHS staff found homes for 6,000 animals brought to the OHS from the Second Chances program. To date, 100% of kitties brought to them through FOCAS have been placed in loving homes.

Focas has received \$17,500 in funding for this program and has expended \$6,361.67 to date.

This program is sponsored and fully funded by Kathleen Morse and Jeremy Zawodny.



## Help Wanted!

*I just can't go to the shelter...I'd bring them all home.*

*It would make me too sad to see all those homeless animals.*

*By Cynthia Pino, cat volunteer*

Those are the comments I hear most frequently when I tell someone I volunteer at the shelter. Yes, you do want to bring all the cats and dogs home with you, but your better judgment eventually kicks in and you realize that is not realistic. Yes, it is sad to see so many healthy, beautiful, people-loving dogs and cats without homes—but at least the animals are being well cared for and are a lot better off than roaming the countryside, fending for themselves.

Actually, volunteering at the shelter is mostly a lot of fun. You get a chance to play with some wonderful four-legged critters and are surrounded and supported by an amazing group of like-minded humans. There is a tremendous feeling of joy and satisfaction when one of “our” dogs or cats is adopted by someone who is head over heels in love with their new companion and friend. Like the other volunteers, every time I

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am at the shelter—just before I open the door to see who awaits me—I remind myself that I am there to make that day the very best day I can for each of the animals I care for.

**Animal Services desperately needs shelter volunteers—especially cat volunteers.** For a variety of reasons—new employment, health problems, moving from the area, going back to school—we have lost several volunteers over the past year. While there is a myriad of ways one can help our shelter residents, volunteering at the shelter is one of the most direct ways someone can improve the quality of life for our homeless animals.

Cat volunteers are responsible for cleaning the cat cages and feeding the kitties. However, being a cat volunteer is much more than scooping poop, making sure the water and food bowls are filled and cleaning cages and communal rooms. One of the most important things cat volunteers do is making sure each of our kitties has attention and affection every day so they remain people-friendly and, therefore, adoptable. Giving extra special attention to the kitties who seem a little lonely, a little shy, or who have been at the shelter a long time really helps them keep their sweet personalities.

Dog walkers can choose to enjoy the great outdoors with long, leisurely walks with appreciative companions who can't wait to stretch their legs or can spend their time socializing the puppies in the fenced play areas. Socializing and training our canine residents is so important because the better behaved the dog, the more likely it will find its forever home.

We can never have too many shelter volunteers. More dog walkers mean longer walks and more play time for our dogs and pups. More cat volunteers mean more time for socializing our cats and kittens.

If you have friends, neighbors, or family members (including children over 18) who would like to volunteer at the shelter, as a regular or a substitute, all you need to do to get started is complete the *Calaveras County Volunteer Application* and the *Animal Services Supplemental Questionnaire* and return them to the Calaveras County Animal Services office, located at 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas. You can obtain the applications at the shelter office or download them at:

- <http://focasweb.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/P-9-2017Volunteer-app.pdf>
- <http://humanresources.co.calaveras.ca.us/Portals/HumanResources/Documents/Applications/Animal%20Services%20Supplemental.pdf>.

No experience, no problem! Training for new volunteers is provided—all you need is a little time and the desire to help our doggies and kitties. Hope to see you at 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)  
Carol Cook, Director (San Andreas)  
Nancy Cohen, Director (Murphys)  
Diane Finnegan, Director (Valley Springs)  
Sheri Logan, Director (Valley Springs)

As always, past issues of our newsletters are always available on our website: [Focasweb.com](http://Focasweb.com)



## A “Thank you” From a Shelter Dog Adopter...By Sheri Logan

In the May 2018 newsletter, I was happy to announce a free service that is being offered to all families who adopt a dog from the Calaveras County Animal Shelter. I wanted to share a success story from one adopter who used this valuable service after bringing her precious dog home.

Let me introduce Lacy. She is a young Pit Bull mix that was adopted back in March of this year. When bringing Lacy home, her new mom Kiss, called me to come to her home and help her with some issues she was having with her.

### Here is her story:

*“After adopting a young female, Pitt Bull mix, named Lacy at the animal shelter, I was a little apprehensive about taking on this new responsibility. Never having had dogs inside the home before and always letting the older dogs take care of training the pups outside; I was surprised when I was contacted by a young woman by the name of Sheri. She told me that she was a “Certified Dog Trainer” and if I had some questions about this new experience with a young dog, she would be happy to come to my home and answer any questions I had, explaining that this “Home Consultation” was a free service.*

*I already had some concerns about Lacy’s behavior, mainly because she wanted to bite and seemed overly excited all the time. She did not*

*listen well at all, totally ignoring my “addressing” her in the house and when taking her outside on a leash.*

*When Sheri came to my home her first questions was, “How can I help?” I told her of my concerns and in her calm, relaxed way, she explained that to work with Lacy I should be “prepared” to play with her and avoid any play that would make Lacy want to bite me. “Also”, she said, “be prepared to reward her for good behavior and to let Lacy know that she hurt you and turn away from her.” Sheri also explained how to reward Lacy for good behavior with the toys she likes to play with.*

*It is now about 4 months since Miss Lacy joined me and I am happy to report that she is doing very well. She runs all over the property, playing with the other family dog, Cocoa, a male Pitt Bull, and she comes to the house when I whistle. She loves to be petted and even though she still is somewhat excited, she has improved a lot and I love her. I know that if it was not for Sheri’s visit and encouragement, I may have given up this wonderful dog and I thank her for that. Her free service to people like me, who for the first time encounter a problem with an adopted dog, is very valuable.*

*Thank You Sheri.  
Kiss Anderson from Burson.*

### One Final Note...

I hope this story encourages other families to utilize this free service. After all, a “happily ever after” is when a shelter dog gets adopted and remains adopted and loved by their new forever family! ❤️

Sheri Logan, ABCDT – Certified Dog Trainer  
Logan’s Happy Tails  
[www.sherilogan.thedogtrainer.org](http://www.sherilogan.thedogtrainer.org)



## Dear Miss Penny Paws



Dear Miss Penny Paws,

My mom always makes me ride in a crate in the car or behind a barrier. Why doesn't she let me sit on the front seat like other dogs I see sometimes – doesn't she know I like the wind blowing in my face and that I want to sit next to her? I'm don't take up all that much space!

Signed,  
Whiskers in the Wind

Dear Whiskers,

Your mom is really smart to keep you confined in the car. Not only is there the risk of a young pup crawling by the driver's feet or being a distraction to the driver, there are two things that kill dogs in cars quicker than anything else – airbags and traveling unrestrained!

Tell your mom, if she has a passenger side airbag fitted in the car, don't travel with the dog on the front seat. Airbags can kill a child (hence the car seat in the back seat) and most certainly a dog! And it's not safe on the floor in front of the passenger seat either, because side airbags expand rapidly downwards (approx. 250 mph) and that would certainly end the life of the poor dog. Automotive mechanics have even been killed because they failed to disable the airbag before working under the dash.

Traveling loose in the back seat is another way to not only cause severe injury to the dog, but also to the driver and/or passengers in the car. Imagine a 60-pound dog traveling at 50 mph hitting you in the back of the head in a collision!

So, stay in the crate or behind a protective barrier. There is also a great array of dog seat belts, just be sure they are fastened in the back seat, they fit appropriately, and the dog is comfortable with that method.

If your dog must be loose, then on the floor in the back seat is the safest place. If you have a pup under the age of 4 months, then BORROW a crate for traveling – those little ones can get wedged in the strangest places! It really is the safest for your dog and you – and if you place the crate sideways on the back seat, you can even seatbelt it in for added safety.

Happy and safe travels,  
Miss Penny Paws

## Next FOCAS Meeting

The next FOCAS Meeting will be Wednesday September 5th, 12:00 noon at the Cat House.

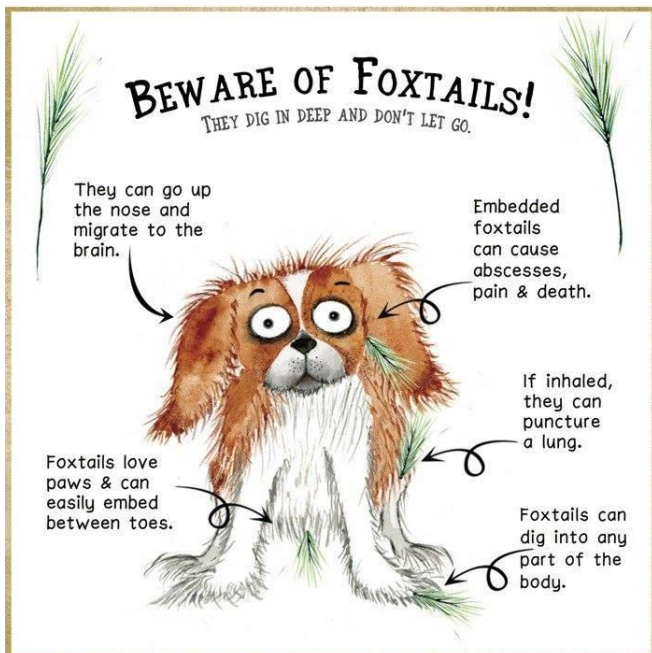
The Public is always welcome to attend our meetings.



## Health tips by Doc Hopper



Doc Hopper would like to share the following important information he saw on the Calaveras Humane Society Facebook page – he couldn't have said it better himself!



*We'll be blunt: Foxtails suck. And foxtail season is just beginning here in Northern California.*

*If your pet has mingled with foxtails, make sure to do a thorough inspection afterward: Brush her coat, feel every part of the body with your hands, and look closely at ears, nose, eyes, underbelly, between toe pads, and underneath the collar. Also check inside the mouth and around the lips.*

**BE AWARE OF THESE EMBEDDED FOXTAIL**

*SYMPTOMS in your dogs and cats:  
Continuous sneezing, pawing at and licking an infected area, violent shaking of head, frequently tilting head to the side, scratching at an ear incessantly, sores or abscesses, swelling, discharge, coughing, and limping.*

*Seek veterinary help if your pet displays one or more of these. If you wait, the consequences can be deadly; there have been pets killed by foxtails working into their bloodstream, brain, or other vital areas.*

## Kibbles and Bits

I received an update on Mr. Blue, now known as Walter. He is the one that liked to act like a tough guy in the kennel but then was timid outside of the kennel. He was adopted by one of our Sheriff Sargent's family and they absolutely adore him!! He has learned how to be a spoiled dog and has really enjoys living in a home with his dog siblings.



Rebecca Andahl  
Calaveras County Animal Services  
Animal Control Officer II

Hi Debby,

Please convey my thanks to the FOCAS board for the much needed 20 oz. stainless steel bowls and holders. During Kitten Season, we run short and have had to hand wash bowls daily or use inappropriate sized bowls in the cages while we are cleaning—we didn't have time to wait for the bowls to be washed in the dishwasher. The new bowls and holders take care of that inconvenience.

The bowls you just ordered fit into the bowl holders we currently use and are of very good quality. The bowl holder brackets from this vendor appear to be stainless steel, not the black painted ones we currently use, which tend to chip after continued use and washing. The bowls and holders for the two cat houses and feral room you ordered will be sufficient for a long time.

Thank you on behalf of the kitties, AS staff and cat volunteers.

Cynthia  
>^..^<

*And then we received a 2<sup>nd</sup> message!*

Debbie, please share this message with the FOCAS Board.

Thank you once again for the cat bowl and bowl holders. On Saturday (7/7), Debbie and Jean delivered the remaining 38 from the order. Anne cleaned all the bowls and bowl holders to make sure there was no residue on them and delivered some to the Feral Room and stored the rest in the Cat Houses.

The quality of the bowl holders in this order is superior to the ones previously ordered because the bowl holders are stainless steel rather than black painted metal, the brackets are straight instead of curved and they install very easily. I went through the cat houses today, took out all

the under- and over-sized bowls in the cages and installed the new bowls and holders.

We have enough cat bowls and bowl holders for a long time!

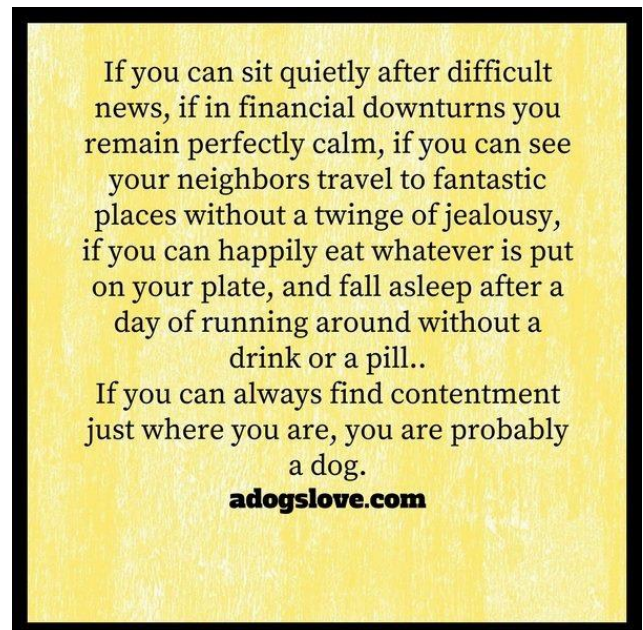
On behalf of the kitties, thank you once again...

Cynthia  
> <^..^<

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You may have heard that starting this month, the latest release of Google Chrome will begin marking all websites without an SSL Security Certificate as "Not Secure." What this means is, that someone visiting your site will see that warning and may decide it's not worth taking a chance to visit. Additionally, Google has already begun ranking sites with the SSL higher in their search results, so there is good reason to pay attention to this notice.

FOCAS has addressed this issue with our trusty Web Master and our security certificate has been upgraded so we are now in compliance and fully secure!





## Critter Corner



### AO48573 Tank Abbot, Chihuahua

Intact Male - est. 1 year, 7.4 pounds, heartworm test pending,



Tank packs a lot of love in his small body.

He will follow you anywhere to give kisses.

He loves to just be with his person, whether for walks or cuddles.

This confident dog is everyone's friend and adapts well to new situations.

Tank displays a moderate activity level and may enjoy agility training.

He wants a person or family who will give him lots of attention.

He enjoyed all handling as well as his grooming session and keeps his kennel clean.

Tank joyfully greets other dogs, male and female, large and small, just wanting to play.

Contact info: Calaveras County Animal Services at 209-754-6509 or

[svavzincak@co.calaveras.ca.us](mailto:svavzincak@co.calaveras.ca.us) or

[pmorley@co.calaveras.ca.us](mailto:pmorley@co.calaveras.ca.us)

Or stop by the shelter and see all the amazing bundles of love, just waiting to be your forever friend!







Now I have arrived at your home,  
Everything is strange, and I don't feel good.

Do not feel impatient  
If I don't sleep in my new bed.  
Yesterday, I slept on the stone floor.

Do not be terrified if I gobble up my food.  
Yesterday, I had to do it to survive.

Do not get angry if I pee on your floor.  
Yesterday, it did not matter.

Do not be sad if I am afraid of your loving hand.  
Yesterday, I did not have one.

Have patience with me, it's your world,  
But not yet mine.

If I trust you, I can give you the greatest  
Gift I have to give...

My HEART! ❤️

Please never forget, I was a shelter dog.  
All I need is a bit of time to adjust.



***The Friends of Calaveras Animal Services (FOCAS)  
Third Annual Yard Sale***

**Saturday, Sunday & Monday, October 6-8  
(Columbus Day Weekend)**

**9 AM to 4 PM**

Household goods and furnishings, sports gear, toys, clothing, framed art,  
vintage farm equipment and tools, fine china, jewelry, holiday decor and more!

Wendell's Restaurant Parking Lot  
Route 49 Mokelumne Hill  
(9036 Center Street)

Need to clean out a few items from your own closet or garage? We can store and pick up donations.

All proceeds to benefit our county shelter animals.

Contact **Peggy at 786-7037** for more info.

Or at [Friend@FOCASweb.com](mailto:Friend@FOCASweb.com)