



# ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ MAY 2019

## Critter Corner



### Captain Hook

Covering the cost of emergency medical procedures is just one of the things that FOCAS does, and we've had a number of animals needing this assistance lately. From a dog with a leg amputation – to this little pup who swallowed a fish hook! Yep, you read that correctly, a fish hook!



The original size of the hook was larger before the tail broke off. Fortunately, for the puppy, the fishing line was "hanging out" which alerted staff at the shelter that there was an issue needing attention.

The surgery was successful, and our own Debra Beaufort took on the task of nursing this energetic puppy for several days. That alone deserves a reward!

And last, but certainly not least, this lucky boy has been adopted by a country employee without ever spending even one night at the shelter! They have kids who are all active and will include this boy in their activities.



We can't wait to hear how he does in his new home. This one is certainly a WIN-WIN situation!

**This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat, it was obvious that she thought her cat understood her... I came to my house, I told my dog ... we laughed a lot.**



## Return To Field Has Been Funded!!!!

With the addition of the Return to Field program coming under FOCAS for funding, we applied for a grant from the Calaveras Community Foundation and and we are THRILLED to announce that we have received funding in the amount of \$10,000!!!!

This grant will not allow us to spay and neuter more cats, but also provides funding for emergency medical treatment, which is a component that can be very costly and one we weren't sure we would have funds to do much medically. Now we can!

The program has taken off with a huge bang, and I believe we have had 11 cats participate to date. We are so thankful that CCF chose FOCAS as one of their recipients this year. Here is the link to the story at [mymotherlode.com](http://mymotherlode.com) and be sure to check out the last page in this newsletter!

A HUGE thank you to the Calaveras Community Foundation for funding the RFT program through FOCAS

<https://www.mymotherlode.com/news/local/633137/friends-fill-animal-services-funding-gaps.html>



## Dear Miss Penny Paws



Dear Miss Pennypaws,

I love people! I get very excited when I see people, especially little kids. I want to lick their sticky little faces and hands. They're just the right size and height for my tongue to reach.

My owner says I need to learn NOT to lick. Doesn't she understand how tempting those food traces are on their hands?

Signed,  
Sticky Licker

Dear Sticky,

Your owner is absolutely right to teach you NOT to lick. While little hands and faces may be tempting, you could not only easily knock a child over by accident, you don't know for sure that whatever is on their hands isn't toxic for dogs! And not everyone wants to be licked. Many humans think licking is a very rude behavior.

Your owner should teach you the LEAVE IT command. It's not only helpful to stop your licking of humans, but it can be invaluable for other instances. Maybe your owner is walking you and there is something dangerous on the ground. Or maybe your owner is getting out her daily medication and drops a pill on the floor. LEAVE IT not only makes you much more enjoyable for the munchkins, it can literally save your life – or at least save an expensive vet visit and possible surgery if you swallow something dangerous.

Keep your tongue to yourself & be safe!  
Miss Pennypaws



*"He's in pretty good shape considering you've been walking him backward."*

## Happy Tails Helpful Training Tips

By Sheri Logan

**"I am not sure if I like you....GRRRR"**



This might be all too familiar to you. You take your dog for a walk and he goes crazy when he sees another dog approaching. Why is this and how can I stop it?

Well, dogs communicate primarily with their bodies. When they see a dog across the way or approaching, the other dog might be giving off signals to your dog that is causing him stress or the need to react. So, how can I avoid another dog while on a walk OR what can I do alleviate the reaction of my dog?

Here are some tips on what you can do:

- First off, be proactive. If you have a dog that is reactive when seeing other dogs on a walk, try to avoid close encounters with the other dogs.

Make an effort to cross the street to avoid a potential confrontation.

- Make sure you let your dog know you are in control. That means you must remain calm and have a good hold of your dog. Make sure you have a collar or harness that is properly fitted. This avoids your dog getting out of the collar and helps avoid the worse situation to occur. DOG ON DOG contact!
- Teach your dog to "focus" on you while on the walk. Reward the dog every time he looks at you. This is showing you that he knows "YOU" are on the other end of the leash and watching your lead.
- It is a good idea to teach your dog a cue, such as "WATCH" so when you are about to approach another dog, your dog will automatically stop, look at you on cue and even sit. In the beginning stages of training, you want it to be simple for your dog to be able to succeed with looking at you on cue, so practice with NO distractions until he knows what is expected of him. Start by food luring your dog to look at your face on this cue, eventually getting the behavior by simply giving the cue "WATCH". Then over time, you can add mild to moderate distractions with giving the cue. Remember you must reward ALL behavior that your dog is giving you that is correct response! Dogs are motivated by food so use it to your advantage whenever training a new behavior!
- If all else fails and you are approaching another dog unexpectedly that is causing your dog to react, call out the cue "WATCH" to get his attention, then QUICKLY make a U-turn and head the other direction. Take a deep breath and reward your dog when things are back in control.
- Lastly, be patient with yourself and your dog whenever you are teaching a new behavior. Your dog's ultimate goal is to please you!



FINAL NOTE: If you happen to see a “yellow” leash on a dog, this could mean that the owner is letting you know their dog is reactive. So take the necessary steps to avoid close contact with the other dog and keep a safe and comfortable distance.

- **R** – Retreat away from the other dog so you can get the attention of your dog and in control.
- **E** – Evaluate the situation. How can I be better prepared next time this happens?
- **A** – Adjust how you walk the dog. Try walking your dog where there are fewer distractions (lesser chance of coming across another dog).
- **C** – Click train or give verbal “GOOD” every time your dog gives you the correct behavior
- **T** – Treat your dog with treats he loves the most! SUPER, SUPER YUMMY treats. Especially when training a new and difficult behavior!

Happy Training!

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



## Rescued



Seven is the number of years I serve my owner, trotting, walking, loping, quiet, and gentle. I carry her children, husband, friends, neighbors. I have plenty of hay, horse friends, and time to myself. Green pastures, blue skies, I am at peace.

Six is the number of months I carry on in pain after falling. I do it for her, anything for her. She is impatient with me. I try hard to keep up, but the pain slows me down. Every step hurts. No one wants to ride me, and a new horse arrives to carry on in my place. I do not know this word: "useless."

Five is the number of hours I stand in the small pen at the auction. I hurt, I do not know these horses, I do not know these people. I'm far from my pasture. I search for comfort, switching weight off my painful leg, the people notice. I do not know this word: "lame."

Four is the number of times my value is calculated by my weight. I don't understand their words but I can read their eyes. Hard stares. I try to be invisible, but they see me. I do not know this word: "slaughter."

Three is the number of sniffs I take of your face through the pen before deciding you are kind and safe. I like your eyes, they are soft. I like your hands they are gentle. Please don't leave me here. I try to pick my feet up for you, it hurts. I try hard. I rest my muzzle in your hand.

Two is the number of minutes it takes for me to pass through another pen. I am scared, I am trapped, I am alone, people are shouting, it hurts to walk. A man is talking, his voice echo's all around me, there are so

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many people watching me, hard stares. Suddenly it's over. I do not know this word: "sold."

One is the number of hours it takes before I walk onto a trailer. I am alone, I am scared, it is moving. The door opens, I hold my breath and brace at the light. It's you!! I stand still and breathe slow. Kind hands, soft words, I'm not afraid now. I do not know this word: "rescued."

Two is the number of x-rays the vet takes while I stand quietly for you, anything for you. Many days have passed. I have energy now, and my pain is less. I like my new pasture, I like my new stall, I like my new hay. I don't know why we have a vet but I stand still for his visits. So many visits. I do not know this word: "rehabilitation."

Three is the number of months before the pain is all the way gone. I am relaxed with you, and we start to ride together. I'm afraid the pain will come back, but you are gentle, so I try. I try hard for you, anything for you.

Four is the number of weeks I learn a new way of riding. Another person rides me every day. I'm becoming strong, I understand my lessons, I am proud to work, I feel you are happy with me, visiting me and learning together. I do not know this word: "training."

Five is the number of years I work hard for you. We travel to shows, we work cows, we ride with friends. We do hundreds and hundreds of miles together. You trust me and I trust you, I give you everything I have, everything for you, anything for you. I memorize your rhythm, your looks, your moods. I know when to be wild and when to be still. We are a team.

Six is the number of minutes I try to hide the pain after a fall, but you see through me. I stand for the vet, still as a stone. The pain leaves but I sense your sadness. I remember a word from before when I had pain, "useless", but you never say that word. You no longer ride me but I see you every day, for carrots and treats and long walks. I relax again, you will not abandon me. This is a new way of being together. I do not know this word: "retired."

Seven is the number of breaths I take in your arms. It has been many years, and we have grown old and wise and slow together. I lay down like so many times before but could not rise. You came right away. I tried for you, but I could not stand. You say its ok, sink down next to me. I breathe slow. You are very close, holding my head, weeping, I feel your sadness so I put my muzzle in your hand one last time to comfort you, anything for you. I breathe out. Green pastures, blue skies, I am at peace. I know this word: "loved."

The End

\*\*Shared from a friend's page...author unknown to me....



## Paying it Forward Really Paid Back!

As some of you may know, when we held our yard sale last October, we received two "duck stamp" prints, donated from Mr. John Raine. At the time, Mr. Raine estimated the value of each print to be at least \$150, so the yard sale itself was not the best venue to realize the appropriate price.



I checked on EBay (there were a huge number of duck stamp prints, not many selling), tried listing them on all the local sale groups on Facebook, I even contacted

Ducks Unlimited for assistance, but nothing provided an avenue for selling these prints.

When I saw the notice for the Mokelumne Hill Veterans Memorial District crab feed in March, I contacted them to see if they might be willing to hold an auction for these two prints, and said we would split the money between FOCAS and the Veterans. I figured even if we received a little money, it was better than having the pictures sit on a shelf.

The Veterans agreed and we thought it best to auction the prints separately, in the hopes of raising more money.

The Auctioneer started off asking for a \$50 bid on the first print. A gentleman in the audience (Richard Kingsmill) said \$500 for the pair! Well, no problem – together they will be sold. I was ecstatic! Then Chris Ferrara (trustee of the Juanita Newell trust, of which we have so generously benefited from multiple donations!) said \$600. Kingsmill said \$625 and when the auctioneer asked for \$650, Chris said \$1,000! SOLD!!! I was jumping up and down inside, let me tell you, as we never expected to realize that high of a selling price.



But, as Paul Harvey used to say, “And now, the rest of the story!”

After the auction ended, I noticed Mr. Kingsmill talking with Chris for a bit, and then off he went with the prints. I asked Chris if he purchased the prints from her. She said “well, I don’t have any wall space, and he really wanted them, so he is paying \$500 and I’m still giving the \$1,000 so the actual total the prints raised was \$1,500, which means \$750 for each organization!!!

**WIN-WIN!!!!**

## **NEW FOCAS FUNDRAISER!**

FOCAS is doing a fundraiser this month that is not only an excellent value for your money, but oh, so easy! We are doing an online Pampered Chef party. They have so many new and innovative products that even if you’re a long-time Pampered Chef fan (as I am), it’s worth checking out the online catalog.

Think you have enough kitchen gadgets? Then consider this:

- Early Christmas shopping
- Wedding or shower gifts
- Birthdays
- Students going off to college
- Graduation gifts
- Treat yourself anyway – you know you want to!

A separate flyer is being sent with this newsletter – please share the information with your friends or post the link on your Facebook page. The following link will take you directly to the FOCAS fundraiser. Thank you!

<https://pamperedchef.com/party/helpFOCAS>

The link will also be on the FOCAS Facebook page for those that want to participate in the Facebook party for the fun games, recipes, and prizes. Just check our page for the party invite to join in the fun.



The Friends of Calaveras Animal Services (FOCAS),  
 Calaveras County Animal Services,  
 Cathy Gatlin, DVM and the West Point Fire District  
 are offering

## FREE RABIES & MICRO-CHIPPING

Saturday ~ May 18, 2019 ~ 9am to 12 noon  
 at the West Point Fire Station  
 195 Spink Road, West Point, CA 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 209-754-6509

For Calaveras County residents only:

All dogs must be on leash and all cats must be in carriers.

## Volunteers Needed for Next Rabies Clinic

Our first rabies clinic of the year was a giant success. There were 100 rabies vaccinations given, plus 76 microchips by RSQ209. The May 18 clinic in West Point and it looks like we may have enough volunteers for that clinic, but more volunteers are always needed so if you want to be on the list to help out at future rabies clinics – or anything else! – please give Debra Beaufort a call at 209-200-0653. Thanks!



## Kibbles and Bits

Barn cats are now available! Contact Missie McBride at the Calaveras Animals Services shelter (or Kathy at the front desk) and save a life.

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 Be sure to come to the Government Center on Tuesday, May 14 at 11:30 and cheer on our own Michelle Cody at the Government Center Frog Jump! Michelle will be jumping Frogmorton for FOCAS.

The county frog jump is especially awesome because all the participants' entry fees go to either FOCAS or the Calaveras Humane Society, depending on the participant's preference. What a great way to help support these two local non-profits!

## Protect your Pets Health (& their feet!)

**TRACY EST. 1910 CALIFORNIA POLICE**

**CAR TEMPERATURE PET SAFETY CHART**  
**YOUR CAR HEATS UP FAST!**  
 80% of temperature rise occurs within the first half hour!

| Temp OUTSIDE | Temperature IN YOUR CAR |       |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------|
|              | 10min                   | 30min |
| 75°          | 94°                     | 109°  |
| 80°          | 99°                     | 114°  |
| 85°          | 104°                    | 119°  |
| 90°          | 109°                    | 124°  |
| 95°          | 114°                    | 129°  |

Although Mother Nature has been teasing us, warmer weather IS coming. Even now, on 70 degree days, the inside of a car can become dangerously hot for your animals. PLEASE, don't take your pets with you on errands if the temperature is above 65. Those "I'll only be in the store for 5 minutes" can turn into 20 minutes or longer when you run into a friend and start to chat. Your dog will be so much more comfortable – and safer -at home!

And with the nicer weather, it's a great time to take your pet for more walks – but be sure to check the pavement temperature with your own hand or foot before you take Fido for that walk, especially if it's in the afternoon!



## Health tips by Doc Hopper

### My dog ate my plants!



*This is a fairly long article, but it has some great information so I thought it was worth sharing!*

As pet owners, it's our responsibility to keep our dogs safe and provide them with a safe environment to live in. Many of us keep household plants – they're good for indoor air after all. Maybe you even have a garden in your yard.

But are the plants you've chosen hazardous to your dog's health? There are some very common poisonous plants for dogs found in our homes or gardens. Many pet owners are unaware that such common plants can cause severe illnesses to dogs.

So, which ones are safe and which ones should you get rid of? Here are 5 common plants that are poisonous to dogs (plus 4 you can replace them with).

#### 5 Common Poisonous Plants For Dogs

##### 1. Aloe Vera (*Aloaceae*)

Aloe Vera is probably one of the most common household plants. These plants don't require much maintenance. They CAN be very beneficial for us as pet owners.



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Externally, aloe has many [benefits to dogs](#). These benefits include:

- Anti-inflammatory
- Promotes healing
- Alleviates allergic reactions

However, aloe contains certain properties that can be a problem. These exist in the aloe latex, the yellow sappy part under the rind. This latex contains a natural chemical called aloin. In large enough quantities, aloin can irritate the intestines and cause electrolyte loss.

- **Toxicity Level**
  - Mild to Moderate
- **Warning signs to look for:**
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Depression
  - Changes in color of urine
  - Tremors (which is rare)
  - Anorexia (or loss of appetite)

## 2. Elephant Ear (*Araceae*)

Elephant ears belong to the *Araceae* family. These plants are filled with calcium oxalate crystals that are insoluble. Any time this plant is chewed on or bitten into, crystals are released.

These crystals get into tissue and will irritate the mouth and gastrointestinal tract. In rare cases, the upper airway will become swollen. This makes breathing extremely difficult.

- **Toxicity Level**
  - Mild to moderate
- **Warning signs to look for:**
  - Drooling
  - Pawing or messing with their mouth
  - Oral pain
  - Loss of appetite
  - Vomiting

## 3. Poinsettias (*Euphorbia Pulcherrima*)

Poinsettias are a popular plant, especially during the holiday season. Their lush, red leaves make the perfect decoration. But these plants have a bad reputation, and when it comes to our dogs, it isn't undeserved.

If your dog eats them, poinsettias can give generally mild signs of illness. When exposed to the skin, the milky sap of this plant can cause irritation, swelling and itchiness.

- **Toxicity Level**
  - Mild
- **Warning signs to look for:**
  - Drooling
  - Licking lip
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Skin irritation, redness, swelling or itchiness
  - Eye irritation

## 4. Tomatoes (*Solanaceae*)

Yes, tomatoes! Many of us like to grow our own plants, herbs and vegetables. And that usually includes tomatoes.

Now, let me be clear when I state that the tomato itself is not poisonous to your dog.

However, those beautiful green, leafy vines that the tomatoes grow on are. Those contain a property called *solanine*. This is found in many other plants from the *Solanaceae* family.

Solanine is only found in the green parts of the plant. For this to cause severe poisoning for your dog, she would need to ingest a lot of it. But even some ingestion of this plant can cause severe gastrointestinal issues.

- **Toxicity Level**
  - Moderate
- **Warning signs to look for:**
  - Lethargy

- Confusion
- Weakness
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting

**[RELATED]** [You should stay away from tomatoes, but these fruits and veggies are great to add to your dog's diet.](#)

### 5. Iris (*Iridaceae*)

Iris is a common plant used in household gardens. It's also known as the bearded iris, snake lily, yellow flag, yellow water iris or Western blue flag.

And although they're not likely to cause death, they can cause issues if they're eaten or touched. Irritation can occur just from handling or touching these plants.

Most of the compounds that cause irritation are the most potent in the bulb of the plant.

- **Toxicity Level**
  - Mild to moderate
- **Warning signs to look for:**
  - Lethargy
  - Drooling
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhea

### **Four Dog-Friendly Plants**

Just as there are many poisonous plants for dogs, there are a few alternatives that are completely safe! If you want to avoid the ones above, here are a few good ones that not only look beautiful, they have some great benefits.

#### 1. Purple Basil

Not only is it pretty to look at, this plant is completely harmless to your dog. In fact, this plant has many health benefits. If your dog happens to eat them, she'll reap the benefits!

Here are just a few of the benefits of basil:

- Anti-inflammatory properties
- Antioxidant
- Pain and fever reducer
- Fights cancer
- Prevents diabetes
- Protects the liver
- Immune boosting
- Anti-stress

**[Related]** [There are several herbs that you can add to your dog's diet to boost her health.](#)

#### 2. African Daisy

This flower is part of the sunflower/daisy family (*Asteraceae*). If you enjoy flowers in your garden and around your house, the African daisy is a safe alternative. These flowers are bright and yellow in color. They pose zero threat to your dog if she decides to eat them for a snack.

#### 3. Canna Lily

This is another low maintenance plant which is very easy to grow. They offer perennial color without potentially threatening your dog's health.

Just pay attention when you're shopping for lilies. There are MANY types of lilies that are highly toxic to dogs and cause serious danger for cats, including:

- Peace lily
- Calla lily
- Lily of the valley
- Autumn crocus
- Amaryllis
- Palm lily

#### 4. Spider Plant

One great thing about the spider plant is it's safe for ALL PETS. We all know dogs love to eat things, whether they're harmful or not. The spider plant is no exception to this rule.

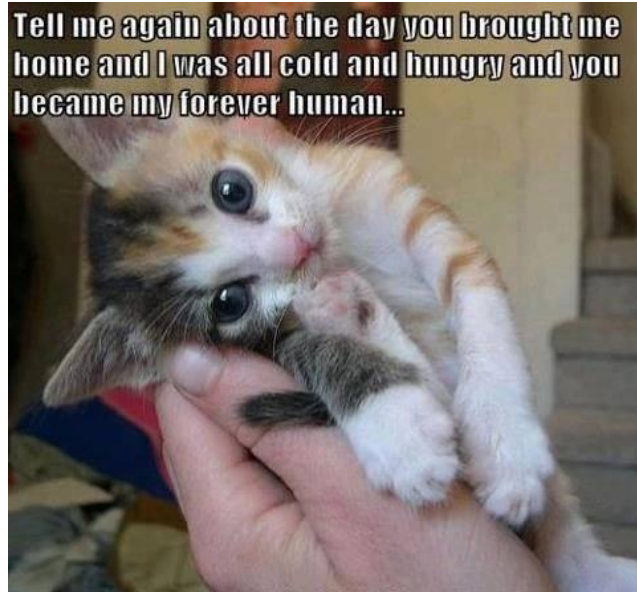
Dogs tend to be very fond of the taste of these plants and are likely to chew or eat them. However, this is a better alternative because of their non-toxicity.

*Note: If your dog ingests enough of the spider plant, it can cause vomiting. However, this is more of an upset stomach issue rather than a toxic reaction.*

### Research Before Bringing New Plants Home

If you happen to have one of these poisonous plants for dogs in your house, it's best to rehome it.

Also, when you visit your local plant nursery, keep in mind that certain plants are toxic to your dog. Ask the staff if the ones you're looking at are safe for your dog. Or, do a quick Google search from your phone. When it comes to plants that may be toxic, it's better to be prepared and safe.



### Changes to the FOCAS Board

Our Board has had a few changes recently. Peggy Morley has left Animal Services for a position with the Calaveras Humane Society and wish her the best in her new adventure. I'm sure the kitties there will be very happy.

And as reported last newsletter, Michele Rugo has resigned (but will still be an active part when she is able) and Viktoria Martinez is our new secretary. Also new to the board are Darcy Zimmerman and Michele Cody. We are thrilled to have them all join the team!

### CURRENT FOCAS BOARD

Debra Beaufort, Chair (Mokelumne Hill)  
Viktoria Martinez, Secretary (Sonora)  
Kim deArrillaga, Treasurer (Mokelumne Hill)  
Michelle Cody, Director (Burson)  
Darcy Zimmerman, Director (Vallecito)  
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, which are generally held the first Wednesday of the month at the portable next to Animal Service at 12:00 noon. Meetings last approximately 1 hour.





**Calaveras County Animal Services**  
901 Jeff Tuttle Dr., San Andreas, CA 95249



## **RETURN TO FIELD**

### **COEXISTING WITH COMMUNITY CATS**

#### **WHAT IS RTF?**



Calaveras County Animal Services, in collaboration with FOCAS (Friends of Calaveras Animal Services), has implemented a Return to Field (RTF) program to deal with unwanted cats brought to the shelter that are not suitable for adoption as household pets.

RTF has been highly successful in other communities. A non-lethal alternative to the trap-and-kill method of controlling cat populations, RTF involves the humane trapping of homeless, free-roaming cats. These cats are then brought to the shelter where they are evaluated, altered, vaccinated against rabies and returned to their original outdoor homes. *Only cats who are unadoptable because they are feral or semi-feral will be returned to their original outdoor homes; adoptable cats will remain at the shelter.* The focus is on allowing these stray community cats—now unable to reproduce—to continue to live and thrive where they were found, rather than occupying space at the shelter where they are unlikely to be adopted and often euthanized.

#### **WHY RTF?**

Trapping and killing unwanted cats to control cat populations does not work. Trapping and removing cats from a given area does little more than ensure that the cat population will rebound to its original level, necessitating more trapping and killing. Removing all cats through lethal control may rid an area of cats temporarily, but it is not an effective long-term solution because it creates a vacuum. New cats will quickly fill the vacated area and breed, resulting in a perpetual cycle of trapping and killing.

#### **HOW DOES RTF WORK?**

After healthy, unadoptable stray cats at the shelter have been spayed or neutered, given a rabies shot and eartipped, they are returned to the area where they have been trapped. Eartipping is the surgical removal of a small portion of one of a cat's ears while the cat is under anesthesia for spay or neuter surgery. Eartips are readily visible from a distance, making it easy for caretakers, trappers and animal services personnel to immediately identify that a cat is altered.



#### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF RTF?**

- Altering cats is the only effective and humane way to stabilize community cat populations and reduce the number of cats over time. When altered cats are returned to their place of origin, the population is stabilized and will decline through natural attrition. Because cats are territorial, having altered cats in the area is critical to keeping out newcomers.
- When altered cats are returned, they are ready and willing to provide both organic rodent and snake control in exchange for water, food and a safe living and working environment.
- When males are neutered and returned, they are no longer compelled to maintain a large territory or fight over mates. Aggression toward other cats—including household pets—is often eliminated right away. The behaviors and stresses associated with mating—such as yowling and fighting—stop.
- No more kittens! When females are spayed and returned, they are no longer forced to endure the physical and mental demands of giving birth and fending for their young.

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**Need help? Want to volunteer?**  
Call Animal Services at 209-754-6509

**Your support helps us continue this vital program!**

Please mail your donation to FOCAS, PO Box 22 Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245 [www.FOCASweb.com](http://www.FOCASweb.com)  
*FOCAS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization making your donation 100% tax deductible EIN#36-4790746*

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