



ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ FEBRUARY 2020



"I see you have a sammich. I too happen to like sammiches."

It took several months for a judge to officially sign them over to the county, and during that time FOCAS paid for hay and the hauling of the hay, supplies, panels, stall mats, and medical bills. The total spent by FOCAS to date is \$10,132.11. Ten went to rescue organizations, eighteen were adopted, and eight are in foster pending adoption.

We want to give a HUGE thank you to Kathy and Dom Nuccio for hauling hay and panels, Silver Paw Ranch for panels, Roger and Mary Pitto for panels, Amador county fairgrounds for panels, Michele Cody for hauling hay, and Patty Spence for everything she did with stocking hay and stall mats and for giving us such great prices.

And a GIANT thanks to fairgrounds staff for taking care of all the horses and mules. A special thanks to Jessica Cassidy and Nora Warnick and all the volunteers who fed, mucked stalls and gave them love and much needed affection and attention.

Horse Rescue Update

As many of you may know, Calaveras County Animal Services seized thirty-six horses and mules from a hoarding/neglect situation in Valley Springs, in early September 2019. The majority of the horses had been kept in a barren fifty-acre parcel and were thought to be untouched for several years at least. Very little was known about the history of the horses, and for all intents and purposes they were considered feral. The herd was largely thought to be mustang, appaloosa, and quarter horse crosses. Of the thirty-six horses seized, fourteen were intact adult stallions. Some of the mares were pregnant.





In this photo you see two species, a human and a canine. The human has approximately 1 billion neurons in their brain while the canine has approximately 500 million.

Now let me explain why all of us in the dog industry become extremely agitated on a daily basis. This is a comparison of the two species and the silly expectations people place on canines.

- Human- Given two plus years to accomplish potty training.
- Canine- Human wants canine potty trained in two weeks or they will have to rehome the dog....Please take the diaper off your eight month old human and let them crawl around your floor, lets just see the results....
- Human- Gives human babies pain relievers and various numbing agents to help appease the pain of teething.
- Canine- Demands Dog Trainer tells them how to reprimand their dog for chewing.
- Human- Encourages young humans to run and play with endless forms of mental and physical stimulation.
- Canine- "I have got to teach this dog to calm down!!!"
- Human- Given 20 plus years to complete an education and become a productive member of society.

- Canine- Expected to behave flawlessly after 6 weeks of training.
- Human- Given sick and personal days from work and endless excuses for poor performance.
- Canine- Expects to perform perfectly 365 days a year with no questions asked. Canines are also not allowed to feel bad or forget.
- Human- Expects a pay raise annually for the job they perform.
- Canine- Humans demand their dog perform more every year and don't believe they should reward the dog for the work they perform.

Dear human ~ If you don't train, don't complain!
By Judy Parsons, Facebook post



Ironstone Concerts 2019

What a fabulous opportunity these concerts were for FOCAS! Here is the breakdown by concert and we hope 2020 will be just as great! And a big thank you again to Katie Orlopp for making this possible, and to all the volunteers who worked the concerts for FOCAS!

Date	Concert	Per concert
June	Bob Marley	\$978.47
7/28/2019	Ziggy Marley	\$1,278.68
7/4/2019	July 4th	\$499.40
7/22/2019	Billy Idol	\$1,793.34
7/26/2019	Old Dominion	\$2,247.59
8/1/2019	Sugarland	\$2,355.40
8/4/2019	Hank Williams Jr	\$4,392.20
8/11/2019	The B-52s	\$973.35
8/24/2019	Toby Keith	\$3,194.26
8/31/2019	Lost Tigres Del Norte	\$426.36
9/7/2019	Deep Purple	\$763.40

Total Received To Date: \$18,902.45

Just some of our wonderful volunteers!



By Darcy Zimmerman

FREE MONEY! Wait, really??? Well, pretty much. If you walk regularly as part of your job, or with your dog, or whatever, you can help support FOCAS and the shelter animals at Calaveras County Animal Services.

CCAS relies on volunteers (sign up!) and programs funded by FOCAS. I enrolled a few months ago and am inspired to walk every day because the miles add up! I have over 100 miles logged in and all for charity and my health! You just have to install the app on your phone, and remember to turn it on (!!!) when you are in motion. FOCAS has so many awesome programs, from rabies clinics to spay/neuter and adoption help.

Please try WOOFTRAX!

<https://www.wooftrax.com/>



THE BARK ADVICE COLUMN

How to Train Your Dog For the Hiking Trail

RECALL TRAINING TIPS FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS

By Karen B. London PhD, October 2019

Dear Bark: I'm excited about taking my new dog, a pointer mix, for long trail hikes. She has pretty good recall at the fenced-in dog park, but what are the best tips for getting her to be reliable in the great outdoors, including recall and not chasing or interfering with wildlife? Thanks for any help you can give us.

It sounds like her recall is already well on its way to being solid in at least one tough context (the dog park), and that's great. The better you can get her recall, the more freedom she can enjoy on those hikes, so I'm glad you are focused on this training goal

Great recalls are the result of dogs learning that heading toward you after hearing "Come!" is worth doing because something good always happens. Any time you have something to offer that will make her happy (dinner, a walk, a new toy, treats, something to chew on), call her to come. If you call her to come and the reinforcement you offer is so good that she is glad that she came to you, she will be more likely to come in the future. The goal is to make her think that "Come!" is the word that means she has an opportunity to run to you for something worth her while.

To develop a really solid recall, dogs need to be taught to come when called in lots of different contexts, so continue to work on it in as many situations as possible. That means asking her to come in the house, in the yard, at other people's houses, while on leash walks, when she sees a squirrel through the front window, when you have visitors over etc.

You are wise to be concerned about encounters with wildlife as they can lead to trouble—either

directly if your dog engages with a wild animal, or indirectly if her chasing takes her onto a road. Most dogs who run after animals are having an absolutely glorious time doing it. Chasing is normal behavior for dogs, so the best way to deal with it is to give dogs an opportunity to chase something appropriate whenever wildlife is around.

"Appropriate" means toys, not animals. Teach your dog that if she sees an animal (deer, crow, squirrel etc.), she should expect that you will throw a toy for her to chase. It's easier to teach a dog, "chase this, not that" than it is to teach a dog not to chase at all. Many dogs are more likely to chase a toy instead of an animal if you use a squeaky toy and give it a quick squeeze or two to make it squeak before you toss it.

Plan ahead to make your dog less likely to chase wildlife on hikes. Hiking with other people and other dogs makes wildlife encounters less likely as many animals will steer clear of large groups. Avoid heading out at dawn or dusk when many wild animals are especially active. At the beginning of your hike, call her to come a few times and offer her something really special such as a new toy to chase or delicious treats like pieces of chicken or real steak. Practicing recalls early on during each trail hike and reinforcing your dog's response with high-quality items will improve her recall and make her more likely to come later on in the hike. Be on the lookout for wildlife and call her before she notices them whenever possible. Once a dog has already started running after something, it is so much harder to call them to come than it is before they have started to give chase.

Congratulations on your new dog, and good for you for getting her out for lots of fun, exercise and adventures. She is a very lucky dog and I wish you both many happy trails!

—Karen



Health tips by Doc Hopper



Hard to Hear: The Facts of Canine Ear Infections

By Jennifer Gauntt Texas A&M University, January 2020 – The Bark Magazine

While ear infections are pesky conditions that affect many species, dogs are especially at risk for ear infections because of the shape of their ear canals.

Dr. Lori Teller, a clinical associate professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says that diagnosis and treatment should always be handled by a veterinarian, but dog owners should still be informed on the nature of this condition to keep their furry friend in tip-top shape.

“There are multiple causes of ear infections (otitis externa), including allergies (most common), ear mites, a foreign body (this can include polyps or neoplasia), excess hair in the ear canal, anatomic changes in the ear canal, excess moisture in the ear canal, injury, immune-mediated diseases, endocrine disease, and excessive cleaning,” Teller said. “Any of these causes allow for bacteria and/or yeast to overgrow in the ear, leading to the infection.”

Symptoms of canine ear infections include head shaking, scratching at or rubbing the affected ear, discharge, bad odor, redness inside the ear, swelling of the ear canal, pain, itchiness, and crusts or scabs inside the ear or along the ear margin. Owners who suspect that their dog may be suffering from an ear infection should seek veterinary help immediately, as these infections can become more severe if left untreated.

Once diagnosed, your dog’s treatment plan will depend on what caused the ear infection in the first place.

Teller said that topical ointments may be used to treat bacteria and yeast present in the canal. Severe infections or those involving the middle or inner ear canal may be treated with oral antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs. Medicated ear cleansers to clear away discharge and debris from the infected canal may also be prescribed.

“Dogs that develop ear infections frequently will need to have the underlying cause addressed,” Teller said. “Some may require therapies to control allergies. If a food allergy is a cause of the problem, then switching to a hypoallergenic or limited-ingredient diet may prevent future problems. It is very important to work with your veterinarian before switching your dog’s diet.”

Dogs that swim frequently are also more prone to ear infections, and special care should be taken by owners to appropriately clean and dry their pet’s ears after being in the water. Cotton swabs should never be used in the inner canal of a dog’s ear. Teller also advised that dog owners should not allow other dogs to lick their pet’s ears.

To diagnose your pet, a veterinarian might sample ear discharge or look through the ear canal to observe the state of the eardrum. Your dog may need to be sedated for this procedure, depending on the situation.

Although the prospect of a canine ear infection may be daunting, timely veterinary intervention can prevent permanent damage from occurring. Proper care will have your pooch back to their super-hearing self in no time!



In late January, several of the FOCAS board members enjoyed a most memorable visit to a local non-profit that many local folks are unaware exists in our county! I'm talking about Pig Luv Co. in Valley Springs. FOCAS is aware of them because they actually took Ivy the pig from Calaveras County Animal Services back in September 2018 – and she's still with them!

They rescue, rehabilitate, rehome if possible, and provide a long-term home for those not rehomed. There are roughly 30+ pigs in residence at this time (I lost count!) plus two donkeys, a Sulcata Tortoise, and four dogs. Maggie and Kim are their caretakers and you can see at a glance that these critters are extremely lucky to be under their care. Maggie and Kim are so engaging, funny, and passionate about these animals and it was the most enjoyable experience I've had in a long time.



Mr. Jim



They have a beautiful property and the pigs have multiple areas they can roam or sleep.



They have a couple of pigs that came to them immensely overweight, like Sophia, who arrived in January of 2019, weighing in at approximated 400 pounds! She is currently 225 pounds and well on her way to an appropriate size.

Check out their website at <https://www.pigluvco.org/> and please consider making a donation - as you can quite imagine, this is a very expensive endeavor. You can also sponsor a pig - see program sponsorship details on the website.

This little critter is Ms. Harley Pig Pig who was an unwanted Christmas present so ended up at the sanctuary. She has since bonded to rescue dog Spot, and they even sleep together.



They welcome you to contact them for a tour and if you've ever considered getting a pig, I highly recommend you go talk to them so you can make a truly informed decision. So many pigs end up in rescue because the people had no idea what they were getting into, how large pot-belly pigs become when full grown, and all the care and expense of having one of these wonderful animals. Even if you just want to check out the rescue, you won't regret your visit – it's amazing!



Rosie

LOVE THE SNOOUT!

Dear Miss Penny Paws



My mom wants me to drink out of the water dish instead of out of the bigger bowl, she calls a toilet. The bigger bowl is, well, bigger! And I think the water tastes fresher. My mom and I have a dog bone bet about this – what do you recommend?

Signed,
Toilet Water Connoisseur

Dear Connoisseur,

Your mom is correct about wanting you to drink out of your water dish instead of the toilet. Not only is the porcelain bowl full of germs, but chemicals too! Your mom may use those “drop in” tablets that contain bleach and since they're clear, you wouldn't know there was bleach in the water.

If your mom takes you out somewhere, public toilets may have harsher chemicals in the water, plus things you don't even want to think about!

Besides, even if you could ensure the water in every toilet was pure, dogs on a whole, are not the neatest drinkers in the world – imagine how uncomfortable a wet seat would be for the next human to use that room.

It's not only good manners not to partake from the porcelain bowl, it's much safer for you!

Signed,
Miss Penny Paws



Kibbles and Bits....

A HUGE thank you to our own Darcy Zimmerman for getting Petfinder up and running for us – check it out!

<https://www.petfinder.com/member/us/ca/san-andreas/calaveras-county-animal-services-ca362/>

The Public is always welcome to attend our meetings, which are generally held the first Wednesday of the month at noon, at the building next to the Animal Services building.



We would like to extend a BIG “Thank you” to our website technician, Robert Gelman with BGA media, BG & Associates, for all his assistance over the years to help us keep our FOCAS website up and running! Your continued support is greatly appreciated and the animals thank you!

Dog Stats (by Ed and Dolores Ransom)

Month	Volunteer Hours	Adoptions
Nov	264.5	5
Dec	332.5	15
Jan	381.5	6
Total	978.5	26





From Calaveras County Animal Services

Thank you to FOAC for making this possible!

Some of you may remember Lancelot in his cute Christmas get-up, trying to get attention to find a forever home. That didn't happen, but THIS did! He is now Tater, and is in the PUPP program, being trained by inmates at our local prison. If you are not familiar with this program, please check it out...they do a great service for these dogs. Good luck, Tater!



Team PUPP- Prisoners Uniting People and Puppies

February 4 at 12:21 PM ·

AVAILABLE

MEET TATER! This sweet, silly boy was on the euthanasia list 🐕 Not anymore! Tater is a happy-go-lucky boy who has an instinct for when you feel down. He is showing an amazing aptitude towards therapy work. He is great with people and other dogs. For adoption information go to FOAC.US to fill out an application.

Photo credit: [MW Fidography](#)