



ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ AUGUST 2020

Quarantine has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told 'no' if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.

Our Wonderful Supporters to the Rescue AGAIN!!

Kathy Bandy held a birthday fundraiser on Facebook to benefit FOCAS and raised \$475! That is so awesome – thank you Kathy!

And Sarah Corley-Signorello held a yard sale two weekends in a row, with all proceeds going to FOCAS. Her mom, Marion Wendholt Corley assisted her and as the temps were over 100 degrees, we are especially thankful to both for their generosity in doing this to benefit FOCAS. They raised \$477!!! Thank you both so much.

And last, but certainly not least, Sharon Romano gave us a brand-new pop-up tent! Just what is

needed for the drive through rabies clinics! Thank you, Sharon, – it is very much appreciated.

First Drive through Rabies Clinic a Success

FOCAS held a drive through rabies clinic July 25 at the Government Center. This was our first drive through and they did a whopping 144 vaccinations!

A huge shout out of thanks to the volunteers and Calaveras Animal Services with extra special thanks to Dr. Cathy Gatlin, D.V.M.

The next drive through clinic will be held at Spence Ranch on 9/19 (see last page). Because of the difficulty of having a location that will accommodate the traffic as well as provide an enclosed place for the cats, all future rabies clinics will be held at the government center.



We look forward – as does the rest of the world – to a return to normal, hopefully at some point. Until then, we are happy that we have a way to provide this much needed service to the community.

Dog Stats

(by Ed and Dolores Ransom)

Month	Volunteer Hours	Adoptions
May	48.75	1
June	29.75	
July	129.5	
Totals	208.0	1

Due to COVID, things have not been normal, and after 1 ½ months of no adoptable dogs, Neely was adopted at the end of May. On a positive note, several pups went to our Rescue partners:

Kira, plus the pups she delivered at Animal Services went to FOAC; Kipper, 6 pups, and Sable went to RSQ209 (and Sable has already been adopted!!); and Pride went to Herd it Through the Grapevine.



Dear Miss Penny Paws

I love to lick my owner, especially if he's been sweating. It's the best thing ever but my owner makes me stop. He doesn't understand the attraction and thinks I might be lacking something in my dog food. Would you please explain to him that it's normal?

Signed,
Mr. Licker

Dear Mr. Licker,

Sweat is mainly water, lactate, and urea-combined with a variety of minerals such as sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, etc. The levels of these minerals are typically low and varies with each individual person and environment.

Most people realize that sweat tastes salty. Sweat is also acidic. Dogs have 5 different taste receptors on their tongue, which include both salt taste and acid taste receptors. Hence, it is likely that your tasting and responding to either or both the sodium and/or the acid sensation of sweat.

This is clearly a pleasurable reaction for you, just like tasting something sweet like candy is pleasurable reaction for your owner. It is not an indication of something lacking in your food. That said, many humans don't like being licked so you may have a tough sell here, convincing your owner to let you lick him.

Best of luck,
Miss Penny Paws

JUST A REMINDER WHEN YOU ARE ADOPTING A PET:

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO MEET
THE SCARED ONES, THE SHY ONES,
THE ONES THAT DON'T STICK OUT TO YOU,
THE ONES WITH THE BORING COLORS
OR MISSING LIMBS,
THE OLDER ONES, THE FRAIL ONES.
THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN UP.
THEY JUST NEED YOU.
AND MAYBE YOU JUST NEED THEM TOO.





Health tips by Doc Hopper

This month Doc Hopper wanted to share a very good article from the July Dogster magazine.

Canine Lumps and Bumps

By Dr. Ernie Ward

Some of the most caring, educated and vigilant pet owners tend to ignore the little lumps until they become colossal catastrophes. Yep, it was going to be one of those days.

Sitting calmly on my exam table was the cutest chihuahua you cradle in two hands. Chloe was “10%” according to her owner, a smartly dressed young woman who couldn’t have been more than a teenager when Chloe was born. The problem was obvious: a dime-sized mass caked in dried blood protruded from Chloe’s left shoulder.

“It was only a tiny bump until a couple of months ago. My groomer has been watching it and said it looked fine. It started bleeding after her last haircut, and now it’s growing like crazy”

I gingerly began feeling around the base of the mass, carefully watching Chloe for any signs of discomfort.

The base of the swelling was hot and inflamed. As I applied pressure, Chloe informed me she’d had enough. I knew what we needed to do next.

Benign or dangerous?

Skin tumors and growths come in a tremendous variety of types: from deadly cancers, such as malignant melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma and mast cell tumors to benign warts, skin tags, cysts, abscesses and hair follicle tumors. The

challenge is distinguishing a relatively harmless bump from a lethal lump – they can look the same.

To tell the difference, you need to study the cells inside the mass using a fine needle aspiration (FNA) or a surgical biopsy. If you’re female, you’ve heard the importance of having any lump or bump in your breast or underarm area aspirated immediately. For over 30 years, this quick and safe procedure has saved innumerable lives and spared countless women surgery. FNA is also essential in dogs, but many owners aren’t aware. Chloe was a reminder of the importance of “Don’t delay, FNA today.”

How FNA works

I explained to Chloe’s mom that I wanted to numb the area surrounding the mass and insert a needle into the swelling. I’d aspirate some cells and examine them under a microscope.

Based on our findings, we’d either remove the mass or submit the cells for a pathologist to review. It’s critical to determine if the mass is malignant or benign before proceeding with the surgery. If the tumor is cancerous, the key to successful treatment and reducing the risk of spreading (metastasis) is to excise the malignancy with a wide, deep margin. If it’s a benign cyst or growth, you can be quicker and more cosmetic by only removing the mass.

Chloe’s mom agreed, and I got work. After anesthetizing the area around the bloody mass using bupivacaine and buprenorphine, I carefully began my FNA. I chose this combination because I was hoping it would be a benign growth and that combination was perfect for a quick surgery. I’d also been a veterinarian long enough to have been fooled more than once when guessing the origin of a skin tumor.

As I collected the aspirate, I began to feel more optimistic. The mass contained fluid and pus, which I confirmed under the microscope. I continued scanning for any sign of suspicious or

malignant cells and found none. I relayed my observations to the owner, and we elected to remove the mass and submit it for a full biopsy. Forty minutes later Chloe was back in her mom's arms with a neat row of "cute little baby stitches."

The next day the pathologist confirmed the mass was an infected benign follicular tumor. Chloe would be fine.

"Dr. Ward, thank you so much" said the owner. "I feel terrible for ignoring the bump until it grew so big. I promise I'll never wait again!" And that's a promise all of us should make.

Don't ignore those bumps

Too many times in my career I've had to inform a loving dog owner that the little "freckle" or "cyst that's been there forever" was actually an aggressive malignant cancer. Too many times I've wished I could go back in time and take an FNA that could have saved a life.

Too many times I've had to clutch a paw as a grieving pet owner sobbed, knowing things could have turned out differently if only they'd acted sooner. Dogster family, help share this important message. If you or someone you know notices an unusual skin discoloration (especially "dark and domed"), any lump or bump (no matter how small or insignificant) or just plain "weird skin" on any pet, have it checked by a veterinarian ASAP. Together we can save lives.

Dr. Ernie Ward is an internationally recognized veterinarian known for innovations in general small-animal practice, long-term medication monitoring, special needs of senior dogs and cats, and pet obesity. Author of The Clean Pet Food Revolution, he has been a frequent guest on numerous TV programs.



Kibbles and Bits...

Here is a pretty inventive idea! One of the kitten fosters was bottle feeding motherless kittens. She came up with this idea to allow her very own cats to "hide" from the little babies in the new cattery.



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We are sorry to announce that Nancy Cohen is resigning from the FOCAS board but she isn't in the area often enough to make the meetings. Hopefully Nancy will stop in at a meeting when she is in the area. On a happy note, we are very pleased to announce that Sharon Romano will be joining the board and we are looking forward to all that Sharon will bring to our group!

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Return to Field Update

As most of you are aware, FOCAS received a grant from the Calaveras Community Foundation in May 2019, so that we could take on the Return to Field program.

We have had great success with the program and were able to spay/neuter 141 cats, with 5 needing additional medical services, from May 7, 2019 through July 24, 2020. The cats came from a variety of locations throughout the county:

<u>Location</u>	<u># of Cats</u>
San Andreas	25
Mountain Ranch	17
Copperopolis	7
Angels Camp	15
Wilseyville	2
Valley Springs	40
Mokelumne Hill	6
Murphys	5
Burson	2
Milton	1
Vallecito	1
Barn/other	20
Total	141

We faced some extreme difficulties due to the COVID-19 shut down, as the shelter was closed for approximately 3 months. Additionally, once the shelter reopened, we experienced great problems getting veterinary appointments for any RTF cats from any vet.

The vets all say that with people sheltering at home, they are paying more attention to their own animas and bringing them in for services for which the vets normally wouldn't have seen them, and therefore have no available appointments for feral

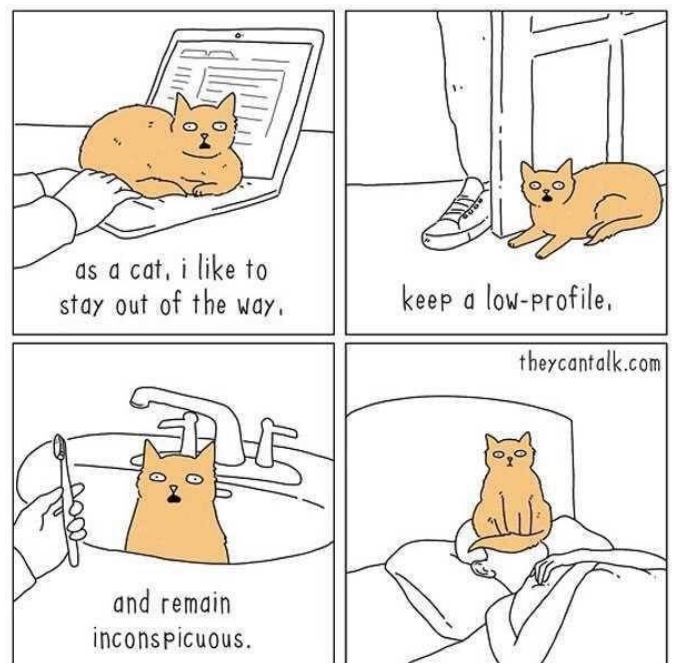
spays and neuters. Calaveras Humane Society has experienced the same difficulty with their TNR program.

The situation has become so difficult that FOCAS has made the decision to suspend the RTF program until we can obtain a mobile vet to perform these services. We were unable to fully expend the \$10,000 grant funds, and will be returning \$288.64 to the Calaveras Community Foundation.

We are teaming with the Calaveras Humane Society in the hopes that if each group can provide a full day of work, a mobile vet might be more willing to come to Calaveras

We are very appreciative of the Calaveras Community Foundation for their generosity in providing grant funds that allowed us to get this program up and running.

And of course, we couldn't have made this program work without our wonderful volunteers. Thank you all so very much!



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. Of course, with COVID-19, our meetings are temporarily postponed, but we'd love to have you join us once we are able to resume our monthly meetings.

Missing Dog. If anyone sees her, lettuce know.



Shoo Fly! A Recipe for Bug Spray

From Dogs Naturally

Nobody likes a mosquito bite. They're itchy and uncomfortable! But when it comes to your dog, mosquitos can lead to an even bigger problem ... heartworm.

Unfortunately, many commercial repellents and heartworm meds aren't safe for your dog. Preventatives are full of chemicals that can damage your dog's brain and nervous system. And every year they work less and less because mosquitoes are becoming resistant.

To top it all off, they don't stop the bugs from biting ... so your dog will still have to deal with that

annoying itch. Luckily there are natural solutions you can choose that are safe and effective.

Homemade Bug Spray

If you like making your own products, here's a homemade natural bug spray recipe you can try ...

- 1 glass spray bottle
- 15 drops lemon eucalyptus essential oil
- 2 oz witch hazel or another carrier oil like MCT or almond oil (use oil if your dog will be going in the water)

You can also experiment with 1 or more of these additional ingredients ...

- 1 tsp real vanilla extract
- OR 6 drops peppermint essential oil
- OR 3 drops [lavender essential oil](#) or atlas cedarwood essential oil

Directions

1. Mix the ingredients together in your glass spray bottle.
2. Shake well before applying.
3. Spray your dog all over, taking care not to spray his eyes.



The Friends of Calaveras Animal Services (FOCAS),
Dr. Ginnie Ringuette, DVM
Calaveras County Animal Services,
Spence Ranch Feed & Supply

FREE DRIVE-THRU RABIES VACCINATIONS

Saturday - September 19, 2020 9:00am to 12:00pm

Spence Ranch Feed & Supply
1291 CA-49 Angles Camp, CA 95222



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

Donations greatly appreciated

All dogs must be on leash and all cats must be in carriers. Please be advised all COVID-19 guidelines/requirements shall be followed by all participants.

