



ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ NOVEMBER 2021

This Is How You Do It!!! Pima County Does It Right!

We wanted to take a minute to truly thank everyone who made Snip 'N' Tip such a big success!

Trappers:

We processed 553 cats in our first mega TNR weekend event ever. We are so grateful to everyone who was able to help trap cats for this event!

PACC staff and volunteers:

In addition to all 4 PACC vets jumping into surgery when needed, EVERY PACC clinic employee was scheduled and worked over the weekend to support PACC's largest TNR effort ever.

There were also Long-term clinic volunteers like David, Sharon, and Maggie who helped with anesthesia monitoring, recovery, transport, education, and more.

Other folks:

1. Nine outside volunteer Veterinarians monitored TNR S/N and trained vet students on perioperative exams, anesthesia, surgery, recovery: Drs. Chantelle Khambholja, Karen Wesley, Kenneth Compton, Anna Yoshino, Kelly Hamp, Katrina Paredes, Victoria Olsen-Miki, Leesa Rostrom, Charlotte Begaye, Erin O'Donnell's techs from Northwest/VCA Pet Clinic.

2. 52 U of AZ Shelter Med vet students participated in neuter Surgery and anesthesia support and recovery.

3. PMI: 3 CVT instructors oversaw 3 senior Veterinary tech students and 14 tech students who powered anesthetic recovery, parasite treatment, ear and general care for Hundreds of TNR cats.

4. JTED: 2 CVT instructors, 2 technician lab managers oversaw ~12 JTED high school students who cleaned, transported cats from induction to surgery, and recovered cats from anesthesia with observation.



Rescues:

Saving Animals from Euthanasia
Lifeline Oro Valley Animal Rescue
Southern AZ Cat Rescue
Saving At Risk Animals
Spay and Neuter Solutions
Pawsitively Cats
Paws Patrol of Green Valley
Hermitage No Kill Cat Sanctuary

Here were the top rescue groups who raised the most money:

- #4 Moon & Stars Animal Rescue
- #3 No-Kill Pima County
- #2 Humane Society of Southern AZ
- #1 Friends of PACC

Donors:

This event was made possible by Friends of Pima Animal Care Center, Petco Love, Clara Lee Arnold, Melinda Correll, and Bonnie Kay.

Pima Animal Care Center is a division of Pima County Health Dept in Tucson, AZ

Definitely something to strive to accomplish!

Dog Stats

(By Ed and Dolores Ransom)

Month	Volunteer Hours	Adoptions
August	294.5	6
September	290.5	9
October	372.5	17
Total	957.5	32



Health tips

by Doc Hopper



PLEASE DO NOT BUY THESE ITEMS!!!

From [Glenbrae Veterinary Clinics Ltd](#)



As the time of year is upon us and we start the festive shopping. The awful pet Christmas line is in all the shops... Please don't get these for your pets this Christmas, as you can see this is rawhide and it has been artificially dyed red and green and glued into different shapes.

The vast majority of these rawhide products and treats come from China.

Their journey starts with the hides being soaked in a toxic sodium sulphide to remove the hair and fat. More chemicals are used in order to split the hide into layers which is then washed with hydrogen peroxide to give the white "pure" look and remove the rancid smell.

Now comes the pretty festive colors and the glue to form cute shapes.

They regularly cause intestinal blockages and choking. The chews go slippery when wet and are near impossible to get hold of to save a choking dog.

Please be safe this Christmas and pick a much nicer alternative for your pooches ❤️

FOCAS Board Changes

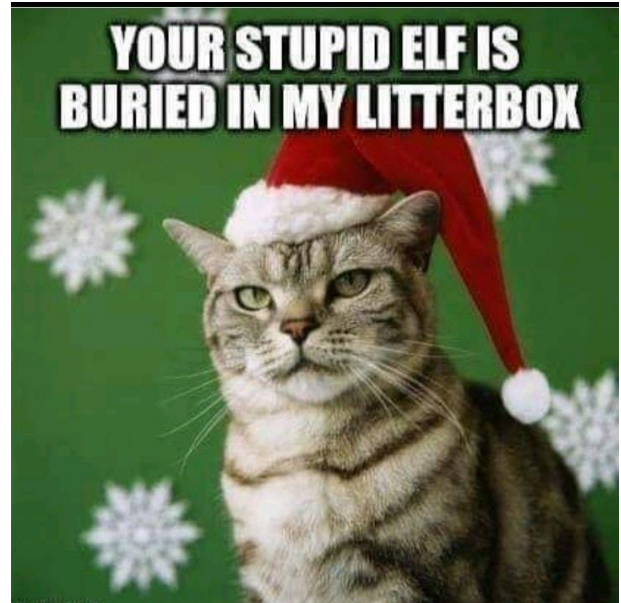
And a few more new editions to the board! Sara Corley has joined our merry band and will take over the responsibility of sending out the *Thank You* correspondence. Melissa Hamre is handling our promotional needs and developed a fabulous new brochure for FOCAS.

Elections were held for the 2022 year and here are the results:

Chair -Deborah Beaufort
Secretary – Christine Albertine
Treasurer – Kim deArrillaga

To help relive Debby of the big burden she’s been carrying forever, Kathy Nuccio will take on the duties of RTF a co-chair with Debby, assisted by Kathy Arentz

Christine will assist Debby with the rabies clinics.



Bits and Pieces

Thank you!

FOCAS would like to give a HUGE shout out to Kathy Campbell, Chief Creative Officer of Buzz Marketing for her awesome offer to donate her time skills to FOCAS.

Kathy is doing all sorts of promotional posts on our Facebook page, increased public engagement over ten-fold, added a donation button and is increasing our face in the community more than we could have even dreamed!

We are so thankful to Kathy’s “giving back” through FOCAS!

Rabies Recap

And from our fearless leader, Debby:

Here are gazillion trillion thanks and hugs to the very, very best Rabies/Microchip crew in the whole wide world. You are the cream of the crop, the tip top and today, the final clinic of 2021(December is cancelled), Drs. Cathy and Steve Gatlin did 105 vaccinations and Michelle and Ian did 71 microchips and Herman and Hector collected \$597.25.

The entire crew did a smashing job, working themselves super hard. Dr Cathy said she would do two next year. I was so tired I went to Rolling dough Pizza so I did not have to cook and there was Dr. Ginnie and her parents and she too committed to 2 clinics so we have four clinics already covered for 2022.

Ta da! The grand totals for 2021 (drum roll please) 584 vaccines 338 microchips and Herman & Hector collected \$2479.03. Pretty cool!

Know it is a tad bit early but a very happy holidays to all of you from all of the Calaveras County animals that you have helped this year.

Again, thanks to all of you for a fab year.

Cheers, Debby and the FOCAS Board



An Incredible Story



Life Magazine named the filly in the photo as one of the Top 100 Heroes in American History.

She was a former Korean race horse who was purchased by a Marine at a Seoul race track in 1953 for \$250, and she served in the Korean War with such distinction she was awarded the rank of Staff Sergeant USMC. Her name would become SSgt Reckless.

One of her battles.... the Battle of Vegas was hopeless. Chinese troops outnumbered the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Marines by ten to one. It seemed there was no chance for a victory other than to withdraw the Marines and regroup for a counter attack, but the troops at Vegas were nearly cut off. Escape was almost impossible.

The Battalion determined the best tactic for escape was to protect the movements of the Marines with cover fire, and a heavy "wall of fire" was to be provided by launching continuous rounds from recoilless rifles...otherwise known as reckless

rifles. High ground was chosen for the gun placements, but the needed ammunition was heavy. The rugged winding trails leading to their placements were 45 degrees up-hill. Supplying ammo would be difficult, but constant re-arming of the guns was needed in order for the plan to succeed. The “wall of fire” could not stop until the Marines were safe.

Reckless had been trained to supply these “reckless rifles” on the front lines with ammo while avoiding enemy fire as much as possible. Her learning had been swift, and she did her task without assistance from a human.

The battle lasted for five days. In one 24-hour period alone, while under heavy fire, the little sorrel mare made over fifty trips up the rugged winding trails of the forty-five-degree hill. On that day she traveled over 35 miles, and carried more than 4 tons of ammo to the gun emplacements with no human assistance. She stopped only once: to put herself between three trapped Marines and enemy fire while “shielding” them to safety. Twice wounded, she was undaunted. She knew the importance of her task, and every Marine in the Battalion knew it, too. They gave her water and food, and cleaned blood from her eyes as she passed them by.

In the end the plan worked, and constant fire never ceased. The fire curtain held, and protected the Marines as they regrouped, and then re-took the territory. The battle was won.

At the end of the battle, Sgt Reckless was given a rub down and special treats. She drank water, beer, and soda from the helmets of grateful Marines. The next day she awoke with lameness. She walked around constantly until the limp went away. After she “shook it off,” she returned to the munitions depot on her own accord.... ready to carry ammo up the hill again. It’s what she wanted to do. There would be other battles to fight.... this had been just one of many.

On November 10, 1960 she was given the rank of Staff Sergeant, USMC in a ceremony held for her at her Camp Pendleton, Ca. home. In attendance at the ceremony were her comrades in arms from Korea, her two foals whom she had given to the United States Marines and Marine Corp Commandant Gen Randolph Pate whom had fought side by side with her in Korea. Gen. Pate personally presented the stripes to her.

In May of 1968 SSgt Reckless, USMC died. Please never forget her....and don’t let history forget her, either.

Her Facebook page is here: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sgt-Reckless/168429476628917?ref=ts&fref=ts>

Her website is here: <http://www.sgtreckless.com/>

Both links were instrumental in providing information for this post.



Another Trip to Washington

Another load of kitties, including some from Calaveras, made the long trek to Washington in hopes of increased adoption opportunities.

Nicole Pratt, niece of transporter April Wilcox, made this sign for the back of the vehicle – so darn cute.



And they even outfitted themselves in some very cool sweatshirts! Talk about advertising!! I want one too.



They had quite the load and the cats arrived the 12th or 13th, and one was adopted by the 14th!



All loaded up and, on their way,

Thank you, Kathleen Morse, April & Ty Wilcox and all your helpers! We are most appreciative of your efforts and including some of our cats in the trip.



How to Care for Your Senior dog From The Bark

Learn how to make their senior years as comfortable as possible.

BY KATHY EWING

JULY 8, 2021

Your dog can't hear you call their name; their back legs are stiff; they've developed a fear of thunderstorms they once slept through; their muzzle long ago turned gray. As time goes by, these signs of aging become more dramatic, and the nighttime wandering, disorientation, difficulty with stairs, and indoor accidents begin.

At this point, your dog is entering a twilight time. You can see the horizon — a last illness or last visit to the vet — but you're not ready to give up. With a little effort, you can provide your senior dog the care and comfort they need during the last bit of time you share.

Recently, we nursed our smallish, mixed-breed dog, Shucks, through his last illness — near the end of his almost 16-year life. Given his age, we made

more frequent visits to our veterinarian, Dr. Arthur Wohlfeiler, and we made it through thanks to his moral support, as well some great tips and helpful products from Dr. Nicholas Dodman's book, *Good Old Dog: Expert Advice for Keeping Your Aging Dog Happy, Healthy, and Comfortable*. Here's what we learned.

How to Nourish a Senior Dog

Keep them hydrated.

If your old dog loses track of their water dish or is physically unable to get to it, it's up to you to make sure they drink. Bring the water to them. You may have to hold the dish in front of them and wet their mouth so they get the idea. You can also make the water more interesting by dissolving sodium-free chicken bouillon in it, Dr. Dodman suggests. Both the aroma and the flavor will encourage drinking. Adding a half-cup or so of water to food (both dry and canned) will help hydrate them as well — they won't mind the soupiness.

As with people, dogs' dietary needs and preferences usually change as they age. If that's the case for your dog, try adjusting their feeding schedule. Reluctant eaters can often be tempted by small portions throughout the day. Continue to feed their regular food as long as they like it. Switching from dry food to canned, however, may help a dog whose teeth are worn or damaged, and its stronger smell may encourage appetite.

Make food enticing.

Although your dog's sight and hearing may decline, their sense of smell won't. If they can smell dinner, they're more likely to gobble it. So, warm the food slightly in the microwave and add bouillon or some other flavorful treat to pique interest. Don't automatically switch to a "senior dog" diet, either. The term is really unregulated, and, depending on an individual dog's specific health issues, some of those formulations can compromise their health. (Be sure to talk to your vet about any dietary changes you're considering.)

You can also encourage eating by feeding from one of your own dinner plates. For whatever reason, food from a “human” plate is sometimes more appealing than food from a dog bowl. While you’re eating, keep their plate on the table next to yours, and as soon as you’re finished, give your dog dinner.

Elevate the food bowl.

Some dogs find it difficult to lower their head to their bowl. Raising the bowl in an elevated feeder or even on a low bench helps.

Try a dog buffet.

In a casserole-type dish, arrange an assortment of foods in small piles and let your dog graze. After they’ve eaten the things that strike their fancy, combine the leftovers in a small ball or two and hand-feed it, if necessary.

Most importantly, remember not to force the issue of feeding. A lack of interest in food and water is, of course, a sign your dog is near the end. Respect the message they’re sending.

How to Help a Senior Dog Get Around

Go on brief walks.

Don’t stop taking your dog for walks just because they’re old and slow. Dogs need the exercise, mental stimulation, and sense of belonging those walks give them. Just make sure you don’t overdo it. In warm weather, stop when they slow down, and in cold weather, dress them in suitable outdoor garments — a snug sweater or coat. Revise your definition of a walk. Sometimes, a slow turn down the driveway can be a perfectly good outing.

Make DIY traction pads.

Improve traction by tacking a piece of outdoor carpet to slippery stairs and using non-slip rugs inside. If you have a neglected yoga mat rolled up in your closet, it can also be used both inside and

out as a traction aid — it’s easy to cut to size if you don’t need the entire length or width.

Rearrange the house for optimal mobility.

Move your furniture, as much as you’re able, to facilitate your dog’s movement around your home. Keep debris off the floor, as even a stray magazine or slipper can trip up an arthritic dog. Block areas where they might get stuck.

Buy a ramp or stairs.

Steps and ramps made especially for dogs are available online and in pet stores. Be aware, however, that many older dogs are reluctant to change their habits, and high steps and ramps might scare them. Never force their use.

Take advantage of towels.

You can use them to wrap your smaller dog up when you carry him outside. Or, if your dog is big with mobility issues, you can use a large towel as a sling. (Dog slings are also available online and at pet stores.)

How to Keep a Senior Dog Clean

Rinse and repeat.

During our dog’s last summer, we kept a plastic storage bin filled with water in our yard. The sun warmed the water, and it was always there to rinse him off if he soiled himself. That being said, keep in mind that your old dog is susceptible to changes in temperature. If you get them wet, dry and warm them as quickly as possible.

Rags, rags, and more rags.

Keep rags handy at all times and check out your local pet store for special drying towels. Your elderly dog can’t shake off the water like he used to and these thirsty towels are a great help.

Diaper up if needed.

Believe it or not, there are such things as doggie diapers, and you might want to try them. Other products intended for housebreaking puppies can also help with your elderly dog. For example, pee

pads provide a comfortable bed if they're having accidents in their sleep. Washable waterproof pads (often carried at medical supply stores and children's bedding outlets) are also good for this use — just get several so you always have one or two clean. Odor removers will help keep your house livable.

Although it's often emotionally draining, caring for senior dogs can also be a gift. It's an opportunity for you to reach a consensus on hard final decisions, and to share your feelings about the approaching loss. Even more importantly, the experience gives you one last chance to show the best dog in the world just how much they mean to you.

I am not a toy

I am not a
Christmas Present

I am not disposable
once the holidays
are over



I am a 15 - 20
year commitment



I am family.

It's Not Just Dogs and Cats

As many of you know, Animal Services gets a variety of animals at times, including horses, goats and other critters.



This is BunBun, who needed to have an eye removed. As scary as that might seem, BunBun is now doing great and his owner, Jessica, reports he's a very happy bunny.



Teaching Your Dog to Take Treats Gently From The Bark

How to protect your fingers from getting snapped at.
BY KAREN B. LONDON, PHDAUGUST 6, 2019

One second your pup is perfectly demonstrating their demure sit, the next second they seem like they're going to gnaw off your hand retrieving the treat you promised them. What's the deal?

Experiences with dogs who chomp enthusiastically are universal. Many pups regularly grab treats without taking the care required when dealing with delicate human skin. On the other hand, some dogs are only "chompy" when revved up, so this can be a good assessment tool; in these cases, the intensity of the alligator-like behavior can indicate a dog's arousal level.

Some dogs are naturally gentle with their mouths, but most need lessons to achieve this skill. They should be taught the cue "Gentle," which simply means to take the treat nicely. Having a dog who does this can relieve much of the conflict-induced frustration that occurs when you want to reinforce your dog's good behavior but also want your fingers to remain intact and connected to your body.

Teach "Gentle" to a Dog

Avoid confusion by teaching the cue "Gentle" as its own behavior rather than during a training session for some other behavior. Commit to the idea that your dog needs to take the treats gently or they don't get them at all. In other words, don't allow the snapping behavior to be rewarded.

To teach your dog what "Gentle" means, hold a treat in your hand, close your fist around it and offer it to your dog. If your dog bites at your hand, keep it closed; this means either toughing it out or wearing gloves, depending on your dog's behavior and your tolerance. When they stop biting and lick your hand (or even nibbles gently and painlessly),

say "Gentle" and open your hand completely to give them the treat.

Keep saying "Gentle" each time you offer your pup a treat to help them associate the word with the behavior. If they have a relapse and return to their former finger-gnawing ways, pull your hand away and then offer the treat again, using the cue "Gentle" to remind them of what you want. This will keep you from dropping the treat in response to the snapping.

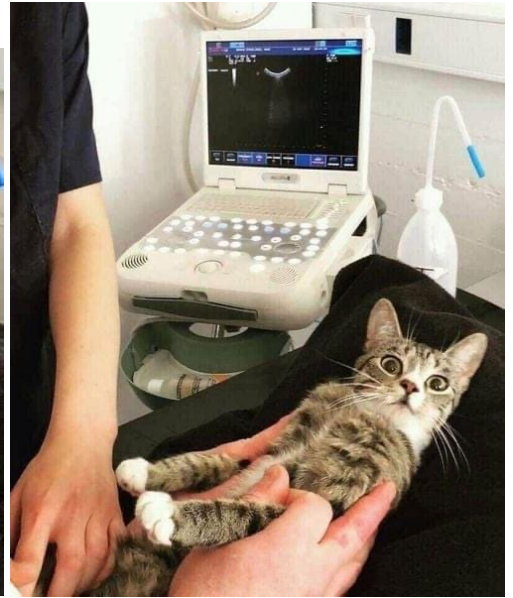
How to Protect Your Fingers

Until your dog knows how to take treats gently, there are a couple of ways to protect your fingers when giving treats outside of training sessions. At home, put cream cheese or peanut butter on a wooden spoon and offer your dog a chance to lick this food a few times. This is a way to reinforce your dog without putting your hands near her mouth.

In a dog park or class setting, offer the treat on your flat palm. Many dogs who will snap at treats held in the fingertips are able to take them properly when they are presented on an open hand. A final option is to drop the treats on the ground rather than giving them directly to the dog.

It takes a lot of repetition for most pups to learn to take treats gently, and the occasional effort to teach someone else's dog by, for example, holding them in your closed hand is unlikely to be effective. Unless a pet parent is teaching this at home, save your fingers by either flat-palming the treats or tossing them on the ground. These techniques won't teach your dog or their dog park friends to take the treats politely, but they do keep your fingers safe!





FOCAS wishes everyone a very safe and happy holiday season.
Thank you for your continued support.

