



ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ MAY 2022



Melissa Hamre and Christine Albertine did an excellent job representing FOCAS and accepting the awards.

🥁🥁🥁 Drum Roll, Please... 🥁🥁🥁

- By Kathy Geizler Campbell

We are beyond excited to have FOCAS be awarded 2021 Non-Profit of the Year Saturday night by the [Calaveras County Chamber of Commerce](#)! We also were acknowledged with a California Legislature Certificate of Recognition and a Congressional Recognition! 🏆🏆

FOCAS couldn't have won these awards and accolades without the undying support and dedication from a small but mighty group of volunteers! We thank you all! 🍷🍷🍷

Care to join in supporting the unfilled needs of [Calaveras County Animal Services](#)?

Check out how you can get involved here: <https://focasweb.com/>



And a HUGE thank you to Kathy Geizler Campbell for nominating FOCAS for this award AND buying the tickets so Christine and Melissa could attend the dinner!! Your generosity is so very much appreciated.

Be sure to check out page 12 (bottom right) for some more exciting news!!!



Dog Stats

(By Ed and Dolores Ransom)

Month	Volunteer Hours	Adoptions
February	322.0	12
March	276.5	6
April	460	4
Total	1,058.5	22



**Thank You
Moke Hill Nuts**

In the February issue I told you that Moke Hill Nuts and Candies was donating 15% of their sales to FOCAS.

Well, to my astonishment, I picked up a check for \$1,250.00!!! WOW!!!

Thank you, Susan Weatherby for your extreme generosity – we are so appreciative!



What wonderful honors these awards are and we are very appreciative of the acknowledgment of our efforts.

We are small but mighty!!!



Should you let dogs sniff your hand?

Answer: NO!!!

Why:

- Rude behavior by the human!
- They do not want to smell you!
- If the dog doesn't step into your space and make some sort of contact -do not greet!
- Best practice is to ignore, and let the dog come to you on their own.

This is NOT the way to make friends. This myth has been around for decades. This information is inaccurate, outdated, and a good way for a dog to bite you. When offering your hand, we bend over which also invades their space and makes it scarier.

Let's break this MYTH of greeting dogs this way. It is UNSAFE!!




PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT!

Just a reminder for those that think their small dogs or cats are safe in their backyard (even during the day).

Right now, is coyote mating season, then comes pup season in the spring. Coyotes will be more aggressive, and will be teaching the pups how to hunt. Keep your pets safe, they're depending on you. 🐾🐾.



Health tips

by Doc Hopper



What's So Dangerous About Xylitol Poisoning in Dogs?

- [Dogs Naturally \(dogsnaturallymagazine.com\)](http://Dogs Naturally (dogsnaturallymagazine.com))

Xylitol is a sugar substitute that you can find in many foods and products. But while it's OK for humans, xylitol is extremely toxic to dogs.

Even small amounts of xylitol can cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), seizures, liver failure or even death in dogs. The higher the amount your dog eats, the greater the risk of liver failure complications.

So today I want to talk about xylitol poisoning in dogs. Why is xylitol so bad for your dog and what can you do if your dog eats it?

Where Xylitol Is Hiding

Xylitol's popularity has increased dramatically in the last few years. Manufacturers usually extract xylitol, (also called birch sugar) from birch trees, corn fiber, hardwoods and other vegetable matter. It's then made into a white powder that looks and tastes like sugar. It's about as sweet as sucrose but contains about half the calories, and it doesn't cause blood sugar spikes.

The most common source of xylitol poisoning reported to the [Pet Poison Helpline](#) is sugar-free gum. But as xylitol is becoming more popular and is in more and more foods, we all have to be on alert. Many dogs find these foods appetizing and many of our best friends practice the art of stealth food burglary.

Other Places Xylitol Is Hiding in Your Home

- Drink powders
- Cough drops and syrups
- Instant coffee
- BBQ sauce and ketchup
- Vitamins
- Candy and chocolates
- Toothpaste and mouthwash
- Chewing gum and mints
- Peanut butter, jam, pancake syrup
- Pudding

Here's a list of more than 700 [products that contain xylitol ...](#)

Read ingredient labels carefully and don't leave products with xylitol in your dog's reach. Xylitol may also show on ingredient labels as birch sugar, so look out for that too.

Why Xylitol Is Bad for Your Dog

Xylitol doesn't stimulate the release of insulin from the pancreas in humans. But in dogs it's a different story.

When a dog eats something containing xylitol, it's quickly absorbed into the bloodstream. This causes a potent release of insulin from the pancreas. This

rapid release of insulin results in a profound drop in the level of blood sugar (hypoglycemia). And it can happen within 10 to 60 minutes of ingestion. Untreated, this hypoglycemia is often life-threatening.

Worst of all ... there's no antidote for xylitol toxicity.

Can A Dog Recover from Xylitol Poisoning?

A dog's ability to recover from xylitol poisoning depends on how long it takes to treat him. The prognosis is good if you treat your dog before symptoms develop. It's also good for dogs who develop uncomplicated hypoglycemia that's reversed rapidly. But if liver failure or a bleeding disorder develops, the prognosis is generally poor. Most dogs who develop liver problems don't make it.

Symptoms Of Xylitol Poisoning in Dogs

Signs of xylitol poisoning in dogs include:

- Vomiting
- Lethargy
- Depression
- Weakness
- Staggering
- Loss of Coordination
- Seizures

Glutathione To the Rescue

The first and most important thing to do is get your dog to the vet for glutathione. I'll discuss that in more detail in a bit. But first, what is glutathione?

Glutathione is an antioxidant that exists in every cell. It protects the cell's tiny but important engines called mitochondria. This little protein contains three amino acids and is the king of all antioxidants in the body. Without it, cells would disintegrate from unrestrained oxidation.

Glutathione is the most important, abundant, active and powerful of the antioxidants. Doctors call it the master antioxidant. That's because *all*

other antioxidants depend on glutathione to function properly.

Over-the-counter antioxidants wouldn't work without the glutathione created in your dog's cells. More familiar antioxidants, such as vitamin C and E, have short life spans. Glutathione has the ability to bring back spent antioxidants from the dead and even recharge itself.

The body's organs can heal themselves with a little help from their friends (in this case, glutathione).

When your dog is poisoned with xylitol, glutathione can help protect the liver. (If you remember, liver failure is a major contributor to poor prognoses.) The highest level of glutathione exists in the liver. It's no accident that the liver is the major organ of detoxification and desperately needs its glutathione to stay healthy.

The Way You Deliver Glutathione Matters

As I said earlier, you need to get your dog to the vet for glutathione. But the thing about glutathione is that it's very poorly absorbed when taken orally. And when there's no time to waste, that's a huge problem.

Case Example

A dog was disintegrating from unrestrained oxidation. He had to get glutathione to quickly protect and regenerate his necrotic liver. The dog's owner ran to a compounding pharmacist. They made up a form of glutathione to give to the dog by intramuscular injection. The emergency service in the hospital agreed to give it.

The change was dramatic. The patient perked up and his liver enzymes began to go down. We also put him on several homeopathic remedies for the liver, including ...

- *Aesculus*
- *Ptelia*
- *Chelidonium*
- *Phosphorus*

Caution: It's important to note that this patient was initially given glutathione orally, as is standard treatment. But there was a strong possibility it wouldn't have worked. That's because the precursors convert into glutathione in the liver.

But his liver was in a double bind because its own cells were rotting and dying. The liver needed glutathione to repair itself but the liver was too sick. It wouldn't have been able to convert the precursors the dog had orally. That's why your dog needs glutathione intramuscularly. It can also be administered intravenously, but the dose was all the way in California ... and there was no time to wait for shipment!

After The Treatment for Xylitol Poisoning

Soon after treatment, the patient went home and was eating on his own and beginning to enjoy his walks again.

His liver levels were normal but he still had elevated kidney levels, meaning he was too acidic. Both the kidneys and liver work much more efficiently in an alkaline environment (up to 40 times more efficiently). The patient went on a vitamin C Intravenous drip to create alkalinity in his body ... and his kidneys responded and healed.

Xylitol is becoming more and more common in foods. We should all remember glutathione in case of emergency. Most compounding pharmacies can prepare this for you as an intramuscular solution that you can take to your vet.

But because prevention is the best medicine, I recommend storing items made with xylitol (or birch sugar) in a dog-proof location. After all, our canine friends love a delicious cupcake just as much as we do!

Sharon M Gwaltney-Brent DVM PhD, DABVT, DABT. Xylitol Toxicosis in Dogs. *Merck Vet Manual*, July 2021. Piscitelli CM, Dunayer EK, Aumann M. Xylitol toxicity in dogs. *Compend Contin Educ Vet.* 2010 Feb;32(2):E1-4; quiz E4.

Miss Mabel Gray!

By Kathleen Morse

We have many success stories of rehoming homeless kitties by collaborating with our out of state adoption partners. In the fall of 2021, we started working with the Progressive Animal Welfare Society near Seattle, Washington. We highlight the success story of Miss Mabel Gray.

Mabel (originally known as little Gray) was a kitten from a semi-feral mother Onyx. She was rescued off a ranch in the Sierra foothills. The kittens were generally healthy but needed socialization.

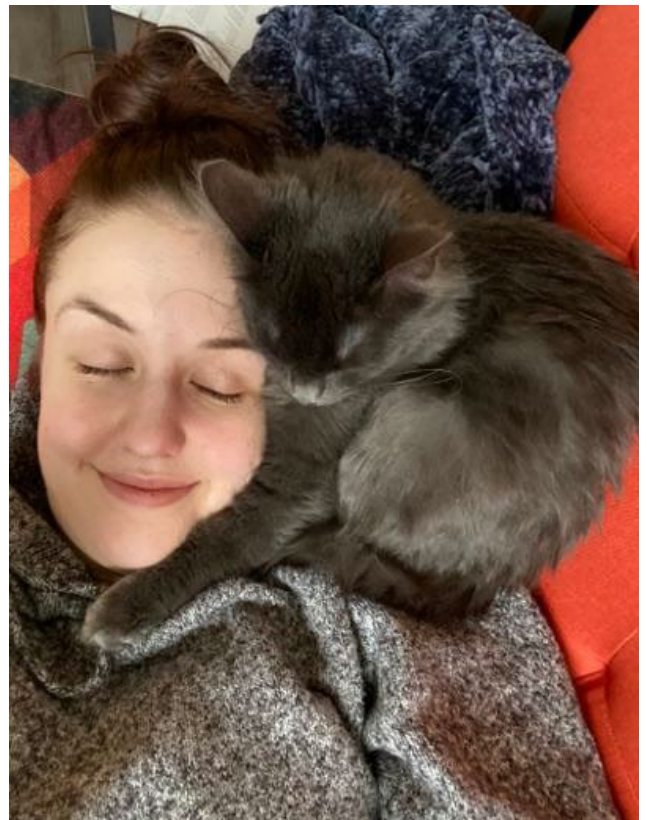
At the age of 10 weeks, Mabel was ready for adoption. She was transported via the FOCAS vehicle to PAWS. Upon receiving her, she was found to have a complicating health condition – an entangled heart. Other than a loud murmur, she seemed to be healthy.

Through our transfer partner, Mabel was sent to another rescue with a cardiologist. There, she was able to be safely spayed. Her foster person (one of the employees at the shelter) fell in love and ...it was all over!



‘Our one-month update for Miss Mabel Grey!’

Mable’s new family reports: I really can't quite express how much we adore this little peanut. She is constantly making us laugh with her crazy zooms, scratchy voice, and fearless antics. She and Remy are absolutely attached at the hip and wrestle all hours of the day and night - She even gets grumpy old Marlo to play and he tolerates her launching onto him like a backpack. Most of all, she's my perfect little shadow who follows me EVERYWHERE and curls up on me no matter where I stop or for how long. She sleeps right up against my face or on top of my head and is honestly the cuddle cat of my dreams. She is the reigning queen of the window seat where she likes to stash my socks and slippers (four feet in the air). She couldn't be more perfect for our family!’



Thanks to the intervention of FOCAS volunteers, Miss Mabel Gray and her new family will have a happy, long, health life together!

Speaking of transporting cats, Kathleen reports that the Sprinter is getting more professional looking. I'd say so indeed!!!



That's THIRTY kitties!!!!



Please do not hurt me!



“Please do not hurt me or my mom. We just temporarily moved to the neighborhood so we could be safe.”

If you have suddenly seen a fox in the yard near your home, there is a good reason for this. It is denning season. Between the end of March and early April, a mother fox will give birth to between 4 and 5 kits (a baby fox is called a kit).

A coyote will often find a fox den, dig out the babies, and kill them. A mother fox knows this and will frequently choose a den site close to people, away from where coyotes generally go. A fox will often den under a porch, shed, garage, barn, or side of a hill, trying to keep her little family safe. Please offer them a short-term rental because this is not a permanent situation.

If you are lucky enough to see how beautiful an adult fox is, or witness the kits playing (at a distance of course), you will be glad you did! It is not uncommon for Red Foxes to change dens several times during the season, so you may not see them for long. Kits are slow to develop and will not leave the den until they are about a month old.

Foxes do not live in a den year-round, only when a mother has babies. During the summer as the kits grow older, you will see less and less of them, and by September everyone will have packed up and moved on. Please do not call a service to “relocate

them”, they will often be killed. If you see a fox during the day, it does not mean she is rabid. A mother fox works tirelessly to feed her kits and will often be out during daylight hours foraging for food. Foxes are omnivores, generally feeding on berries, grasses, and small rodents. They are solitary and prefer to be left alone. They do not want to hunt and eat your children, mate with your dog, or kill your cat. A fox just wants a place to raise her family safely, please allow her to do that.

March & April Rabies Clinic An Overwhelming Success!!

By Debby Beaufort

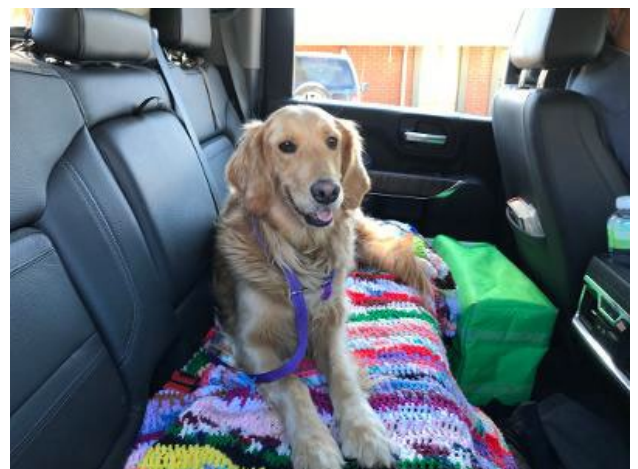


Wow Wow Wow. The March 12 clinic was totally crazy and both Dr. Cathy and Dr. Steve Gatlin were super fab and did 220 rabies vaccines and the dynamic duo of Michelle Tallman and Bobbi Pile did 98 microchips.

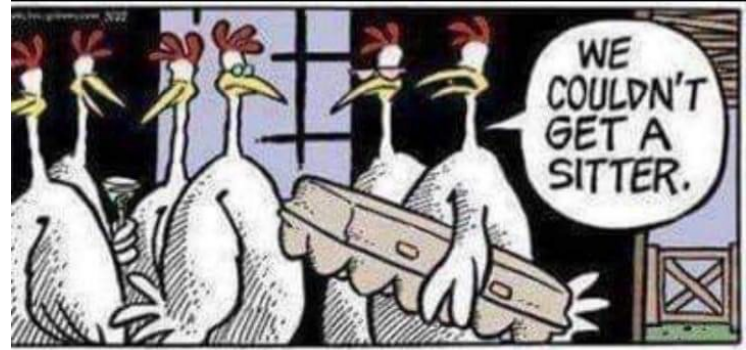
What a fab day and Hector & Herman brought in \$6,017 in donations. [this did include one \$5,000 check but still, the balance of \$1,017 is the most cash ever donated a clinic!] When we asked where they found out about the event, the majority said The Mountain Merchant, so thanks very much to all of the staff there...you rock!

This was our bestest clinic ever. I want to thank all the stupendous volunteers who gave their all because was like, just a mad house. If it is going to be like this each clinic in 2022, we should have all the Calaveras dogs done by the end of the year.

Hehehehehe – and we will have all collapsed and lost weight from being so busy! Thanks to all.



And then they turned around and did another clinic on April 9th! It wasn't as crazy as the March clinic, we did 163 rabies and 89 microchips. Dr. Ginnie Ringuette performed the honors at this clinic.



Watch out Godzilla! Giant Kitties taking over Japan!

Stray Cats Save Osaka Restaurant from Going Out of Business During Pandemic

<https://www.spoon-tamago.com>

JANUARY 13, 2022

Submitted by Kathleen Morse



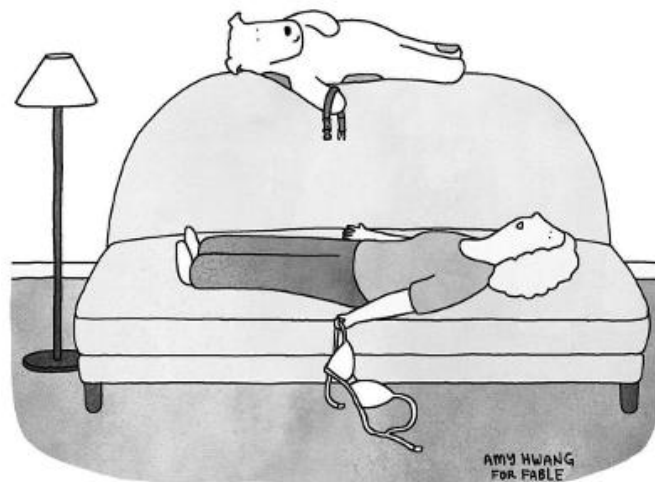
Railway model enthusiast Naoki Teraoka has operated miniature model-themed ramen restaurants and eateries in Japan since 2005. His latest was the Diorama Restaurant in Osaka, which he opened in 2018. But when the global pandemic struck two years later, business went south and Teraoka was pushed to the brink of shutting down his business. But an unlikely savior—a stray cat that Teraoka rescued—would turn things around.



During the pandemic, Teraoka rescued an emaciated stray kitten that had found its way to the restaurant. Later, the kitten's mother and siblings also showed up and before Teraoka knew it, he had a family of cats climbing, lounging and sleeping on his miniature models.

It was like the set of a monster cat movie so the owner began photographing and posting pictures to the restaurant's Instagram account. Before long, people began showing up from all over Japan to see the cats and business took off.

Feeling grateful and in debt to his feline friends, Teraoka opened a cat shelter on the 2nd floor of his restaurant and now devotes a significant amount of time to helping stray cats get off the street and into homes. Here is the Diorama Restaurant website where you can make reservations to visit, learn about their rescue cats or donate to help support their activities.



Murphys BOCCE Club Tournament to Benefit FOCAS

The wonderful Bocce Club in Murphys has chosen FOCAS to benefit from the proceeds of their tournament to be held May 14th!

We will have a booth at the event and I'm sure it will be a fun and successful day. Please share this tournament as much as you can – our only job is promotion! The more people that attend, the greater the donations.

Christine Albertine and Vivian Estrada will be representing FOCAS on the bocce field, which should be a lot of fun to watch as neither has played Bocce before. I have a feeling they will do us proud!

This is the same day as our May rabies clinic so LOTS of volunteers are needed to help us cover both events. Please let us know if you can help out with either event.

Check out the flyer on the last page for more details on the tournament and please, COME WATCH THE FUN AND CHEER US ON!



It Pays to Microchip Your Animals!!



This kitty was found in Folsom today. Sandy Zaboukos-Woodyard was on her way home from the vet and had her kitty in the car. As school was getting out, she saw a bunch of kids petting a kitty. She didn't recognize the kitty and called me to see if I could go scan it. I was grabbing a carrier and heading to scan. Apparently the kitty has been

at the school for about a week. Sandy saw someone shooing the kitty into the road.

Concerned the kitty might get hit by a car with all the parents picking up their kids, she put the kitty in her car. I met her at her house and scanned the kitty. It is very friendly, a little dirty and microchipped!

I went back home and contacted the microchip company. The microchip info has the owners information from Lone. Started the found alert thinking they must have moved or maybe rehomed Raider (altered male).

A couple hours later, I got a call from the registered owner on the microchip. Her kitty went missing 3 weeks ago in Lone and somehow made his way to Folsom. She was so happy to hear that her dear Raider is alive! We can speculate all we want on how he got here but the important thing is that he is found and safe over 30 miles away. He is going home because of a registered microchip. Without his microchip, he would have never have made it back home! Please please please microchip your pets!

#microchipyourpets Our next drive through clinic is May 14th – see flyer on the second to last page.





PLEASE leave your pets at home!

HOW HOT IS YOUR CAR?

SUMMER TEMPERATURES CAN QUICKLY TURN A CAR INTO A DANGEROUS HOT BOX. IF YOU MUST RUN ERRANDS, LEAVE YOUR PETS AT HOME!

OUTSIDE TEMP	INSIDE CAR*
84°	→ 98°
90°	→ 108°
95°	→ 113°
101°	→ 114°
110°	→ 123°
115°	→ 132°

*WITH 4 WINDOWS CRACKED

And Last But Certainly NOT Least!


We're excited to share that FOCAS has earned a 2022 PLATINUM Seal of Transparency on Guidestar, the nation's largest safety rating clearinghouse in the nation. 🏆

Now, people can support our work with trust and confidence. Donate now here:

<https://focasweb.com/ways-to-help/>

HI!


I'M YOUR LOCAL OPOSSUM!



I'M NATURE'S PEST CONTROL & CLEAN-UP CREW

- I'm naturally immune to rabies
- Just one of me eats up to 5,000 ticks per year
- I can't catch or carry Lyme Disease
- I also eat insects, spiders, small rodents, and dead stuff!

IF YOU SEE ME, KINDLY IGNORE ME. I MEAN YOU NO HARM



Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

Mark your calendar!

FREE

RABIES VACCINE & MICROCHIP DRIVE-THRU CLINIC FOR DOGS AND CATS

>>> Open to Calaveras County Residents Only <<<

Saturday, May 14, 2022

9:00 AM to Noon

with attending veterinarian Michael Hayes, DVM



**Calaveras County Government Center
891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas**

>> All dogs must be on leash >> All cats must be in carriers



Brought to you by Friends of Calaveras Animal Services

A 501c3 non-profit supported by community donations - focasweb.com

Questions? (209) 754-6509
Calaveras County Animal Services





TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022

10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

AT THE MURPHYS PARK BOCCE COURTS

This year's tournament benefits



FOCAS - Friends of
Calaveras Animal Services

\$50 donation per team, 40 teams maximum

Please make checks payable to FOCAS

Register by May 10th at

• **The Spice Tin** •

- 457 Algiers St, Murphys
- patty@thespice tin.com
- (209) 728-8225