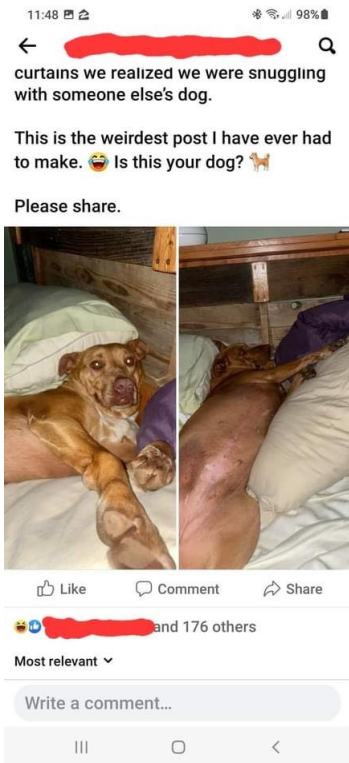




A Definite Example of Why to Microchip!

Our overly friendly pup, Nala, has hit an all-time record for ignoring personal space and added yet another trick to her long list of Houdini acts. She slipped her collar yesterday, ran down the street to a neighbor’s house, somehow managed to get IN their house, and climbed into bed with them in the middle of the night.

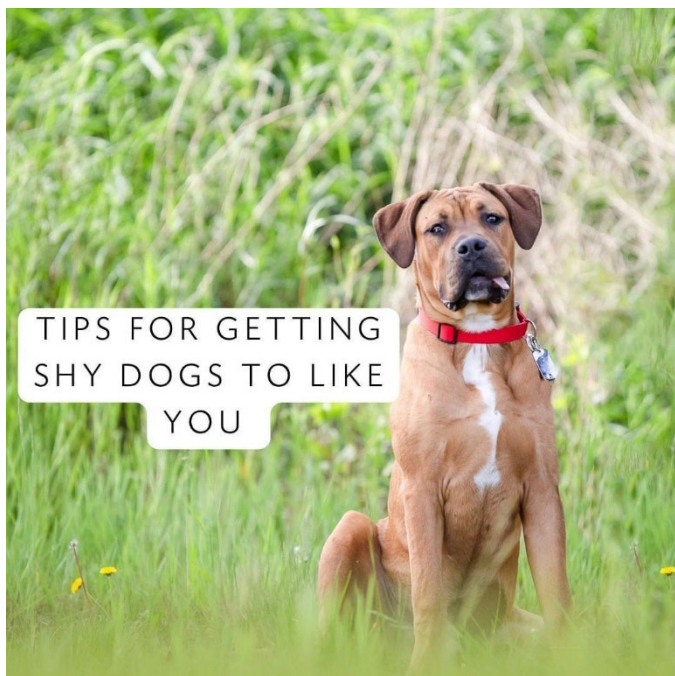
The woman and her husband have 3 dogs of their own that all sleep-in bed with them. None of their dogs reacted to a random dog climbing into bed with them and the couple didn't even realize that it wasn't their dog in bed with them, until the sun started to come up 😂😂



Shame, Nala, for somehow breaking into a stranger’s house and invading their personal space. Thankfully, the couple thought it was hilarious and they aren't even mad about it

Side note: They live quite a few houses down so I'm using the term 'neighbor' loosely 🤪🤪

Thank you, Julie Thornton Johnson, for keeping her safe, treating Nala like your own, and making sure you got the word out for us to find her!



I see it all the time. A dog is shy, so a stranger leans over the dog and shoves their hand in their nose for them to “get their scent” or bribe with a cookie - it’s in kindness but it is probably the absolute worst way to win the dog’s trust.

So, because I KNOW you want to help dogs and I know you WANT dogs to like you, here are some tips for dealing with fearful dogs.

1. No social pressure. Do not talk to the dog or stare at them. Just act normally engaging with your environment at a distance that isn’t threatening. Also, if there is no reason for you to have a relationship with that specific dog keep moving.
2. Recognize that the first few times the dog does approach you. They are NOT seeking attention they are getting information. Do NOT pet. The telltale sign of this is the dog has tense body language and they are stretched out almost on the tip toes of their hind legs.
3. Do NOT lure them over with food. Many Dogs will put themselves precarious situations to get food. Putting themselves closer to the trigger (you)

then they feel unsure which can lead to poor outcomes.

4. If you ARE to feed do so by tossing the treat away from you. You can make you = food without the additional pressure. (Only do this when requested by the owner).
5. Become an expert in dog body language and move away of the dog is showing signs of discomfort.
6. Be patient for some dogs it takes several meetings to be comfortable.
7. Respect owners’ boundaries. If the owner says the dog is uncomfortable do not reply with “but I’m great with dogs”. It’s a jerk move. If you’re just passing, keep passing. Dogs will feel more comfortable with people if they learn that random people won’t violate their boundaries.
8. If the dog is seeming like that want to associate with you and engage in contact implore PAT-PET-PAUSE

PAT your leg gently and invite your dog in for a pet.

PET For only a few seconds on the body (not the top of the head).

PAUSE and see if the dog leans in for more or walks away.

REPECT the dogs right to say no at any time by disengagement or signs of discomfort.

Reminder you are not owed a relationship with anyone’s dog..

WELCOME TO THE BOARD

New to the Board – We welcome Joanne Elliott to our group – we are very happy to have you join us!

Dog Stats

(By Ed and Dolores Ransom)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Volunteer Hours</u>	<u>Adoptions</u>
May	404.0	12
June	414.0	8
July	366.8	7*
Total	1184.8	20

*4 dogs went to East Bay SPCA, 3 of those adopted. 4 dogs went to SF PD, possibly all of those were adopted.

My very first pure bread dog. He just loafes around the house all day. Maybe he has a yeast infection. I have no dough left to spend on him. At first I thought he was the greatest thing since sliced bread., but he's so kneady. Can't get him to rise in the morning. If he doesn't smarten up, he's toast.



A HUGE SHOUTOUT TO THE BOCCE BUDDIES O FMURPHYS



As announced in the May issue, the Bocce Club in Murphys chose FOCAS to benefit from the proceeds of their Bocce Tournament held May 14.



Christine and Vivian represented FOCAS on the Bocce court and I think a great time was had by all.

FOCAS had our information booth set up and collected some additional funds to be included for the event's total income.



FOCAS received a net profit of \$2,165 (we paid for advertising and flyers) and that's a VERY nice gift indeed! We are so appreciative to have been chosen to benefit by this great group of folks.



TWO SUCCESSFUL RABIES CLINICS!

There have been two rabies clinics since the last newsletter. The first was held the same day as the Bocce tournament and we provided 112 free rabies vaccinations and 54 free microchips.

A huge thank you to Dr. Mike Hayes, Haley, and Gia from the Angels Camp Veterinary Clinic!



And thank you to our wonderful volunteers! Hector & Herman and Dicky & Dolly collected \$488.57!



A second clinic was held June 11, and we provided 153 free rabies vaccinations and 53 free microchips. Hector & Herman and Dicky & Dolly collected \$792.00! A huge shout out and thank you to Cathy and Steve Gatlin for providing their veterinary services this day.

R&R Hot Rods and Kustoms

A big thank you to the R&R Hot Rods and Kustoms of Valley Springs for donating the proceeds from their second annual car show, held on June 12, to FOCAS!

Debby and Christine represented FOCAS at the event, and despite extremely high temps that day, I heard Debby liked the music so much, she held a one-person dance party!!



Dicky and Dolly grabbed \$47.00 and we received another \$180 from the fundraiser, for a grand total of \$227.00 Debby said “they want to do this again next year so we think they liked us.”



Dog Texting Codes

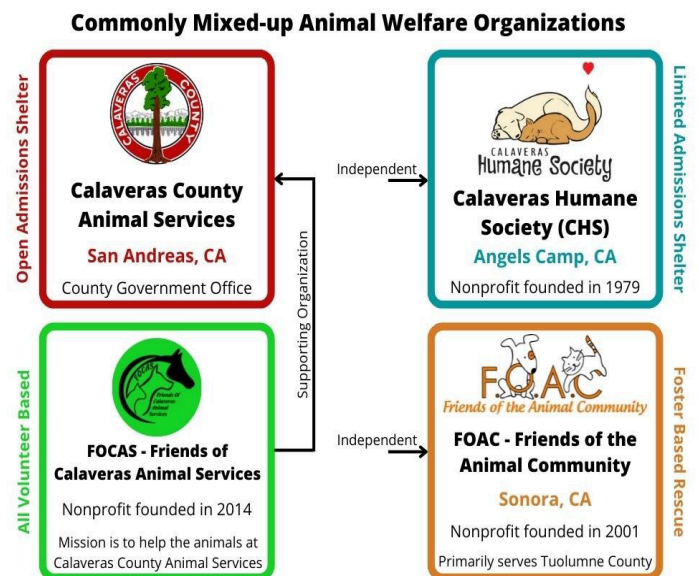


BOL – Bark Out Loud
 OMDT – Over My Dead Toy
 HAW – Humans Are Watching
 OMD – Oh My Dog
 TTTP – Talk To The Paw
 ROFB – Rolling On Floor Barking
 SMB – Smell My Butt



Clarification on Organizations

Melissa Hamre developed this great chart – it has been posted on Facebook in numerous places and everyone expressed their thanks for the clarification! Excellent job Melissa!!





Is It a Kiss or a Dismiss?

Jennifer Shryock BA, CDBC

Aggressivedog.com

November 23, 2021

“WE JUST DON’T UNDERSTAND WHY HE BIT HER OUT OF THE BLUE! HE ALWAYS GIVES HER KISSES! HE LOVES OUR DAUGHTER!”

These are the very words I heard repeated over and over through our Family Paws Dog & Baby Support line that led me to dig deeper. So frequent is this type of call and situation that over time I began to pay attention to the pattern of the description “kisses.” I wondered why so many bite calls included the mention of a dog licking or “kissing the child.” I became curious if there was a correlation and if so, I wanted to understand more. Was a lick a “kiss?” Or was it possibly a “dismiss?” Licking can be many things. Grooming, care taking,

self-soothing, appeasement — but what about distance increasing or a cut off cue?

I began asking questions like: “Can you describe a situation where you notice your dog licks your child? Would you describe the lick as fast? Slow? Hard? Soft? Frantic? Have you ever felt that this interaction was too intense? If so, can you tell me more?”

In gathering more information, I found that the children were often newly crawling and that they had been able to approach the dog. When approaching the dog, the dog would lick them. The parent would see this as kisses and affectionate. They were excited by it and may even have encouraged the child to approach the dog at times. They viewed it as cute and affectionate and were pleased to see this bond. I began thinking of this differently.

When a dog licks me in the face, I move away. This decreases the tension of direct frontal eye contact. Essentially the licking of my face works well for the dog to break the tension of direct frontal eye contact. Dog licks and I turn away. It works. Might this be the same thing happening between the newly crawling babies but with more intensity especially if it happens often?

In a common example, the dog is in a resting spot, the baby approaches, the dog licks their lips, turns away, the baby continues to approach, the dog may check in with a trusted adult, lick lips again, turn away, and yet the baby continues approaching. Once the baby is close, the dog may stretch their neck to reach the child to lick them, often followed by looking at the adult. The baby may continue to approach or try to interact with the dog and the dog’s face indicates stress (whale eye, tight muscles). The dog’s licks become harder and more intense, more pushing the child away. This is what I refer to as “Kiss to dismiss.” If the child continues to approach and/or has

approached the dog numerous times, the dog's licks likely will become more intense and eventually may escalate to a bite. This licking pattern is not a quick flick, it is usually a lick with many other facial stress indicators observed. Often this is a lick parents feel uncomfortable with and intervene to stop the dog from continuing. It feels more intense.

WHEN DOES THIS BECOME A PROBLEM?

If the child is repeatedly approaching the dog and entering their personal space. Crawling, cruising and newly walking babies are completely unpredictable. This is a huge change for dogs to adapt to.

Our dogs rely on observations of body language (watching the humans around them) and an unpredictable baby can be conflicting for even the most confident and comfortable dog. In response, dogs offer many signals that parents can become familiar with. Increasing the adults' Dog Aware skills can empower parents and allow them to make safer choices through Dog Aware understanding.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO PREVENT A KISS TO DISMISS?

I discourage parents from allowing their baby to crawl towards and into the space of their family dog. "Invites decrease bites" is a phrase I say often as it helps families remember to not allow the child to move into the dog's space. Inviting the dog over while holding your baby or toddler allows the dog an opportunity to make a different choice instead of a child moving into and entering the dog's space, essentially forcing the dog to move or respond. Another phrase I say often is "a dog and baby on the scene, a parent in-between." This is super important to prevent speedy crawlers from approaching a resting or unsure dog. Another phrase Family Paws suggests is "give space, not face to face." These catchy rhymes

stick with kids and parents! That is what matters! Finding ways to help families remember what to do is important!

Dogs are constantly communicating in subtle ways. It is up to us to learn what they are communicating and do our best to help them feel comfortable. The more we receive the subtle signals, the less our dogs will resort to escalating to growls and bites. So, the next time you observe your dog lick someone in the face, ask yourself, is it a kiss or might it be a dismiss?

There are two very good videos on the web page but it won't let me link them. Please go to <https://aggressivedog.com/contact/> (hold down the CONTROL button and then click the link). The page will say they are not taking new clients but right above that, you will see a number of selections – choose ARTICLES and scroll down to IS IT A KISS OR DISMISS.

I know it's more work than just clicking here, but I think this is very important information to share!

How it feels sharing the bed with my cat.



*Life without a dog is like an unsharpened pencil.
It has no point*

Farmer's Market

Sara Corley has been making the FOCAS presence noticeable at the Angels Camp Farmer Market and has had some great interest from the public.



And a HUGE shout out to **Bob and Bobbi Pyle**, who created this amazing display board for us



Huge thanks to Val & Cindi Garringer

Many of you might remember that Val and Cindi created our wonder Hector and Herman. They recently not only gave them a fresh coat of paint, but they created a smaller pair (for when we have multiple events) named Dicky and Dolly.

They have already been very successful in collecting funds at a variety of events!



What a great pair! Thank you, Val and Cindi!



July 4th Parade in Mokelumne Hill

Wow! Has FOCAS been busy these past three months! Yet another event and it's so great that our name is getting out to the public so much these days.

Moke Hill is always a fun parade and hometown at it's best. Getting our face in the public is so important – plus a lot of fun!

Christine Albertine reported: *Michele, Melissa, Kathy, and I rode the red truck, driven by Vivian, along with Hector, Herman, and an assortment of bunnies (puppets). Mari decided to stroll the parade with her pup (one of the cutest dogs you'll ever see). He had the best ride in his stroller with his shade overhang.*



We had great fun throwing out candy and Frisbee (can lids). The parade route was short but packed with people. Someone spotted Kathy Bandy in the crowd. And unexpectedly several kids came and made donations for a total of \$12.00.

I know it was a very hot day and we thank our wonderful volunteers for always being up for whatever is happening!

Mutt March ~ Murphys

Last but not least, we also had a booth at the Murphy's Mutt March!



Again, THANK YOU to all of the wonderful volunteers who take time out of their busy schedules to represent FOCAS at all these events! We couldn't do what we do without your help!



All the little cat spirits were crossing the rainbow bridge when one of them looked back and saw some cats' souls laying on the other side of the bridge, not moving.

"Who are they?" he asked the cat next to him. "Oh, don't you know they are the souls who had no owner in life and knew no love like we did."

"So, what are they laying there for?" he asked "Why don't they cross over like us?" "They can't." replied his new friend "Only pets with owners can cross."

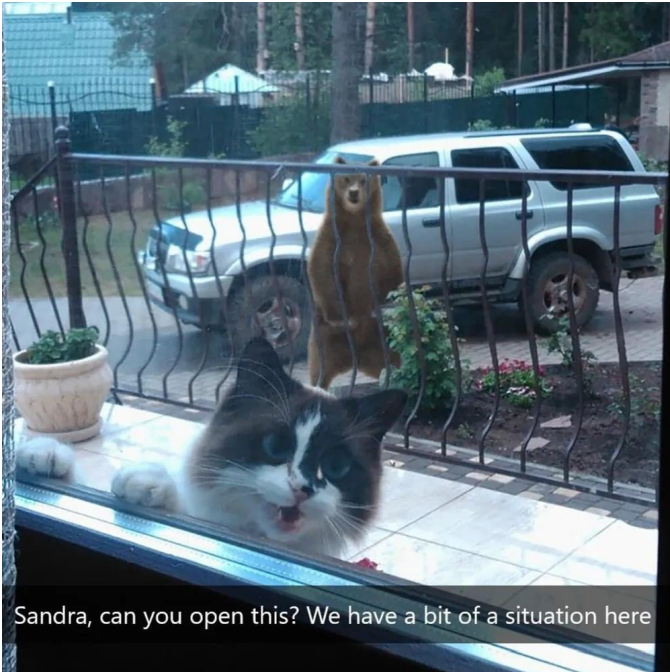
Just then all the souls on the other side of the bridge sat up and looked down the road. "What's happening?" asked the little cat. "Watch!" replied his friend.

Whereupon a woman was seen walking towards the bridge. She looked to her left and then to her right then opened her arms wide and all the patiently waiting souls got up and went to her.

She knelt and touched each and every spirit in turn. They then all proceeded to cross the bridge together.

"Who is that?" he asked his friend. "That is someone special." replied his friend "She is a rescuer."

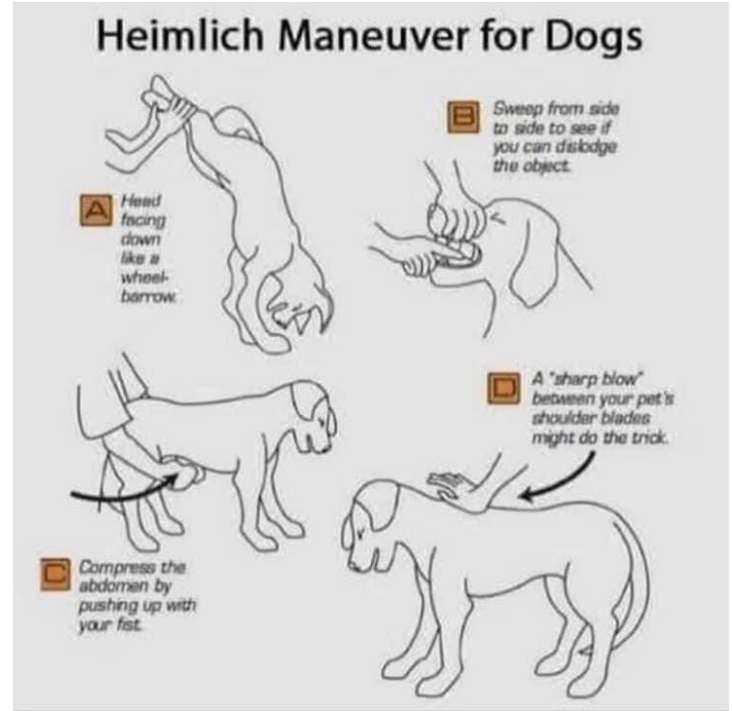
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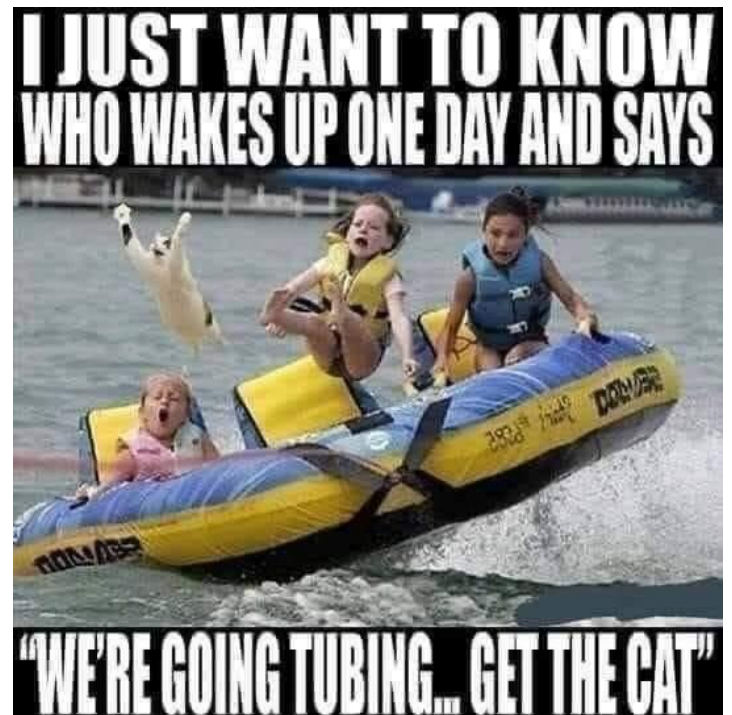
Just for Fun!

This is very cool. Go to Google. Type in the word CAT. You will see a paw in the upper right column. Click on the paw, then click anywhere on the screen. Repeat, repeat, repeat. And turn on your sound because you'll hear the meows!

It also works for PUPPY. What people come up with always amazes me. As does how little it takes sometimes to amuse me!



I just want everyone know how to save dogs because i love dogs more than most people ❤️





Scary! But they're dogs. They eat things. Rigby ate some philodendron leaves – those are toxic as well. Fortunately, my vet is great about giving advice over the phone, where applicable, and saved me a trip to the ER plus a whole lot of money!

For Rigby, it was hydrogen peroxide to make him throw it up. That works great – but some things can do more harm coming back up so always check with your vet first. Things like plant leaves, chocolate, soft foods should be fine. And the peroxide MUST be fresh. If it's expired, it doesn't work. And definitely be outside as it works VERY fast!

BEWARE Unbaked Bread Dough

I did not write this and it is not about my dog but I felt it was information worth sharing as it could save your dog's life.

Just a quick reminder about counter-surfing and bread dough. I was making some yeast bread rolls for Shrimp-Po'boys this morning and had set the rolls out to rise. Amos was in the dining area, so I felt pretty safe turning my back to grab the plastic wrap to cover the rolls with.

In less than 10 seconds, he raced around the island and grabbed a roll (unbaked, about 12 oz of dough) and wolfed it down. Called Poison Control; they said go to an emergency vet ASAP. Long story short and about \$2K later, he is being discharged. We were lucky.

Unbaked bread dough is toxic to dogs. It ferments in their digestive system and can lead to ethanol poisoning. I wouldn't have known about this except my sister's dog ate an unbaked frozen croissant last December.

Her recounting of that experience led to our immediate actions that may have saved Amos's life. I need to be much more careful with my baking for sure. I'm thinking that crating the dog when working with dough is the only sure way to keep them safe.



FAMOUS TOPICS IN ART HISTORY:



HERCULES ATTEMPTING TO GIVE HIS CAT A PILL

Mark your calendar!

FREE

RABIES VACCINE DRIVE-THRU CLINIC FOR DOGS AND CATS

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

Saturday, September 10, 2022

9:00 AM to Noon

with attending veterinarian **Sasha Greenlee, DVM**



Spence Ranch Feed & Supply
1291 Hwy 49, Angels Camp

>> 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



Mark your
calendar!

FREE

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

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

Saturday, October 8, 2022

9:00 AM to Noon

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



with attending veterinarian Cathy Gatlin, DVM

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



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