



# ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ FEBRUARY 2024

From Calaveras County Animal Services

CCAS friends, it's only the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, and yet we have a Christmas miracle to report! And it's thanks to you, our wonderful community, for sharing our (admittedly rather frantic) post, seeking a home for our beautiful Husky girl, Freckles.

Because, wow, we called and you answered. And how! The post was viewed hundreds of times and shared far and wide and within 24 hours. As a result, this lovely family saw the post and knew they had to take Freckles into their pack. She now has a Husky brother and sister to romp with! How cool is that?

Please accept our gratitude, everyone, and **CELEBRATE WITH US!!** Woohoo! Congratulations, Freckles and family!



Well, shelter friends, our eyes are stinging with happy tears for our girl Freckles, who hit the jackpot with her new family! Please enjoy this sweet report from Freckles' new mama, Kristie:

"I am happy to report that Freckles is adjusting nicely to her forever home.....YAY! We just LOVE her!

The first day when we got home, she ran for two hours straight. She was so tired she could barely hold her head up...lol

She climbed in my recliner, lay in my lap and rested her head on my chest and fell asleep. BEST THING EVER!!

Day two, she played outside while we were decorating, running, wrestling and having fun. She is the sweetest, most lovable dog.

I can't imagine how someone would give her up. She also loves snuggling on the bed with us. She's not afraid to jump right in the middle of the pack for cuddles.

Thank you to all for taking care of her, fighting for her and just helping her to find us. She is finally HOME."

How fabulous is that?? We can't imagine a happier new beginning for Freckles. It was a loooooong wait, but so worth it. And isn't it interesting that Freckles happens to be one of those doggos who doesn't "show well" in the shelter kennels? As with many shelter dogs, her anxious antics while penned up in the stressful environment made it hard for visitors to see her beautiful personality. Yet they all missed out because here she is, the star of this lovely adoption story!

Thank you so much to Kristie and her family for opening their hearts and home to a shelter pet.

## Helping FOCAS while shopping

Last August, I told you about the E-script program through MarVal in Valley Springs. And now there is a "Community Card" program that works the same way for shoppers at **Angels Food, Sierra Hills Food** and **Sierra Hills Health**.

This is the easiest way to raise funds for the organizations you want to support. After you've signed up, earning is easy - just shop at MarVal and use your e-script, or Sierra Hills Food, Sierra Hills Health and Angels Food, and use community card each time to register your purchases.

The stores then pay it forward by contributing funds to the organizations you care about most. Just ask them for an e-script or community card the next time you're in the store and tell them you want to support FOCAS.

You should be able to link the card to your phone number and just give that number to the checker when you are paying for your groceries. **They don't seem to ask you if you have a card, so I always mention it to them and have them put in the phone number so FOCAS gets the credit.**

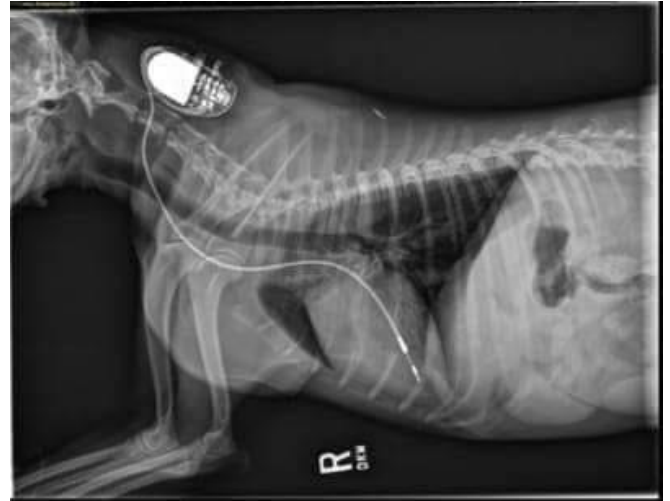
The next time you're in one of those stores, tell the store you want to sign up for their E-Script or Community Card and that you want to support FOCAS. They contribute a whopping 5% of your purchase to the charity you choose!

Then when you shop at those stores, FOCAS will benefit!



## How Wonderful is This?

Did you know that if you have a pacemaker, you can put it in your Will to have your pacemaker donated to a dog in need after you pass. Pacemakers cannot be donated to another human, but they can be donated to dogs with cardiac issues who would depend on it to stay alive.



You can have the pacemaker brought to a vet of your choice. So many of those get thrown away and dogs die because people don't know they can do this. It even saves the new recipient the cost of the actual pacemaker which sometimes means the difference in being able to afford lifesaving treatment or not.

"All these damn deer on the highway"  
"Those are people Margaret, and you're on the sidewalk"



## Dog Stats

(By Ed and Dolores Ransom)

Month	Volunteer Hours	Adoptions
November	721	12
December	718.5	14
January	630.0	6
Total	2,069.5	32

(plus 9 transferred to CHS were adopted in 16 days and another from Margaret Blair's 2nd chance program!!)

## CAT Stats

(By Cynthia Pino and Anne Dasch)

Month	Volunteer Hours	Adoptions
November	137.25	14
December	154	4
January	122.15	17
Total	413.10	35



## Health tips

by Doc Hopper



I ran across this post in more than one location and thought it well worth sharing.

Arthur Unknown

PSA: We adopted our dog, Rowdy, from the shelter 5 years ago. He was already an adult dog, so we estimate he is about 11 or 12 years old at this point. I love this dog. He is the sweetest soul and my BFF. For the past week or so he hasn't been acting like himself.

He licked a raw spot on his foot. He was panting constantly. He was pacing. Sunday morning, the pacing and panting got so bad, and I was REALLY nervous that there was something seriously wrong with him. For 45 minutes, he panted like crazy and constantly paced back and forth. He was keeping his tail tucked down all the time. His ears were pinned back. He would not settle down and he wouldn't eat.

We tried everything. I ended up giving him a trazadone that he takes sometimes when he goes to the groomer. It seemed to take a little bit of the edge off, but not much. He still wouldn't eat and still wouldn't settle. I took off work on Monday so I could take him to the vet. We did bloodwork and x-rays.

Knowing he is a senior dog, I was trying to prepare myself for the worst-case scenario. I was glad to see his bloodwork was great except for some elevated liver enzymes. The x-rays showed he was a little backed up but no major issues. He got an anti-nausea injection and some Gabapentin to help with some tenderness in his back and to hopefully help keep him calm.

When we got home, he was ok for a little bit, but eventually started pacing and panting again. We walked around the neighborhood for a long time and he used the bathroom a lot. He seemed pretty happy about that and was in good spirits until we got home and he refused to come back in the house.

Every time I took him out that evening, he would hunker down like he didn't want to come back in the house. When my vet called and I gave her the update, she suggested there may be some new electronic device in the house that was emitting a high frequency noise that is hurting his ears. We had just put new smart outlets in the house about a week ago.

His pacing and panting were worse when the lamps were on, so I unplugged all the smart outlets.



He stopped panting, stopped pacing, and ate his food. His tail was even up and wagging again. When I plugged the smart outlets all back in and asked Alexa to turn on the lamps, he immediately started panting and pacing again.

My husband used an app to test the frequency of the smart outlets. It was off the charts. We've left the outlets unplugged for two days and have

confirmed that it is definitely the smart outlets that are causing his stress and discomfort.

He's back to being a totally normal dog now. I really thought this was the end for Rowdy based on the way he was acting. I am so thankful for Dr. Newell at Boones Creek Animal Hospital for figuring out this simple solution. If your pets are exhibiting similar symptoms, you may want to consider checking your electronics first. I cannot express how relieved I am that he is ok now. 🙏❤️🙏

## Don't Hurt Me!

Hi there, I am a little bat, I do not suck your blood, I definitely don't want to get stuck in your hair that's just gross. If I should accidentally fly into your house, please don't hit me with cricket bats and brooms, it really hurts and I am so scared. It was an accident I didn't mean to scare you. I am just as scared as you are. I am fighting for my life and you are just scared it is not a fair fight. Should I land on the floor I can't get up again, I will need your help. Just use a towel and take me outside, I will fly away immediately I promise. I eat mosquitos and a lot of other pests that can harm your garden. Our homes are being broken down for more buildings and we have limited place to go. So, if I do accidentally fly into yours, switch off your light and leave the outside light on with the door open, I promise, I will be out in a flash. Kind regards your tiny little harmless bat xxx



## THE REAL REASON WILDLIFE REHABBERS ASK YOU NOT TO FEED THAT BABY...

From Newhouse Wildlife Rescue

It's not because we want to hog all the fun for ourselves, I promise. It's because wild orphans aren't typically healthy enough to digest food, when they are found.

Many are hypothermic. The body can't even handle water when its temperature is too low. All energy is going to crucial body functions in that state. If the body has to divert energy to digesting, it will likely be fatal.

Many are very dehydrated. Animals can't digest properly when they are dehydrated. The body pulls water into the intestines to aid with digestion. If there isn't any water to pull from, this could cause a domino effect of problems.

All wild baby animals require a specific diet and that diet generally isn't available in local stores. Feeding the wrong milk could cause an upset stomach or worse.

All baby animals need specific amounts of formula calculated by their body weight. The percentage differs depending on the species.

Not every animal can drink from a bottle. The correct instrument must be used to prevent aspiration and over feeding.

Bring me a thin, dehydrated, hypothermic animal and I can probably save it. Feed that same animal before you bring it to me...there's likely nothing I can do to bring it back.

So please, don't feed any wild orphans that you have found this baby season. Keeping them warm is a huge help until you find a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Picture: Baby otter, Emmet.



## KURANDA LOVE...

Our shelter animals love and benefit greatly from Kuranda beds! You can make a big difference in their lives by donating one! See the wish list here: <https://shelterbeds.org/donate/390871> 🐾🐾

A promotional graphic for Kuranda beds. At the top, it says "SPREAD THE (PUPPY) LOVE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY" in a curved font, with "Donate a Kuranda bed" below it. In the center, there is a photo of a brown dog lying on a Kuranda bed. Surrounding the photo are four text prompts, each with a red heart icon: "SHOP FROM THE SHELTER'S WISH LIST", "BEDS SHIP TO THE ANIMALS FOR FREE!", "DISCOUNTED PRICING ON DONATIONS", and "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!".

# Happy Valentines Day

For those that did not see the Valley Springs Press

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## Cost for animal shelter hits \$10 million

By Nick Baptista

Efforts to build a new animal shelter in Calaveras County took another step forward Tuesday but there are concerns there will not be enough money to fund construction.

The Board of Supervisors received a presentation from the firm that received a contract last year to do initial design work on the proposed facility.

Eric Wohle of LDA Partners, Inc. of Stockton made the presentation and shared two options – one for the new facility to be located at its present site off Jeff Tuttle Drive and the other where larger animals – such as horses - are



**Cover of a PowerPoint presentation made Tuesday to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors about the initial design for a new animal services facility.**

kept west of the Superior Courthouse. Cost to place the new facility where the larger animals are kept would be

more expensive due to additional grading and extending infrastructure to the site, he added. In both instances, the county

is looking at a price tag of \$10 million or more for full build out of a 10,000-square-foot shelter. Options to complete the (See Page 2)

Continued new page

# Shelter

From Page 1

project in phases were also outlined by Wohle.

The most immediate need, he said, was to complete new housing for the dogs because that part of the existing facility is in the most disrepair.

The cost to do that phase of the project would be nearly \$7 million.

The problem is the county has only \$4 million set aside for a new animal shelter.

A majority of the board was in favor of spending an estimated \$800,000 to begin the design phase of the project and look at how to fund the rest when budget talks begin later this year.

Board Chairman Jack Garamendi was in the minority and argued in favor of seeing what work the county could get done on the shelter for the \$4 million.

The state's budget woes were also a topic of the discussion. The state is looking at a \$38 billion deficit.

District 3 Supervisor Martin Huberty said it is unlikely the county will receive a \$200,000 state grant State Sen. Marie Alvarado-Gil, D-Jackson, had secured last year for shelter improvements.

It will not be until May or June when the county knows how much money it will get back in property tax revenue from the state, said District 1 Supervisor Gary Tofanelli, and

whether the county will have to dip into reserves to fund services.

He pushed for design work on the entire project. That would give supervisors a better idea of actual costs, which could go up or down, and also outline ways to reduce costs.

District 4 Supervisor Amanda Folendorf also was in favor of moving forward with the shelter and said some cuts may have to be made elsewhere in the county budget to complete the project.

"It's going to get very uncomfortable in the next couple of months," Folendorf said, in regards to the state's financial situation, how it will affect the county budget and future of the animal shelter.

District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper said he was in favor of moving forward "as much as possible" given any budget constraints.

The design phase will break the project into different portions for bidding, Wohle said.

"That's what we're asking for," Stopper said.

The existing animal shelter has been under grand jury scrutiny for nearly two decades.

The jury's report entitled "Teaching An Old Dog New Tricks" released last June said, "the shelter is understaffed, unsanitary, underfunded, overcrowded, as well as unappealing and in need of replacement."

The county had set a timeline of 2025 to complete the new shelter.

At the Board of Supervisors' meeting on 1/23/2024, the board voted 3 to 2, to spend \$800,000 of the \$4 million approved for the shelter, for detailed building plans on the current plan presentation to them that day by the architect

# FREE FREE FREE

## RABIES VACCINE & MICROCHIP

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## SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

### 9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

with attending veterinarian Cathy Gatlin, DVM

🦴 All dogs 🦴  
🦴 must be 🦴  
🦴 on leash 🦴



🐟 All cats 🐟  
🐟 must be 🐟  
🐟 in secure 🐟  
🐟 carriers 🐟

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

More upcoming 2024 clinics: 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 9/14, 10/12



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[www.focasweb.com](http://www.focasweb.com)

Questions? (209) 754-6509

Calaveras County Animal Services

