



# ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ NOVEMBER 2023

## Senator Alvarado Gil Delivers Check to Calaveras Animal Shelter



San Andreas, CA — \$200,000 in one-time state funding is going to the Calaveras Animal Shelter to make facility enhancements and help it keep pace with current demands.

Senator Marie Alvarado Gil paid a visit to the shelter last week to meet with staff, volunteers and District Three Calaveras Supervisor Martin Huberty. She toured the facility and observed the needs (in addition to bringing an enlarged check).

The funding is from the recently approved state budget.

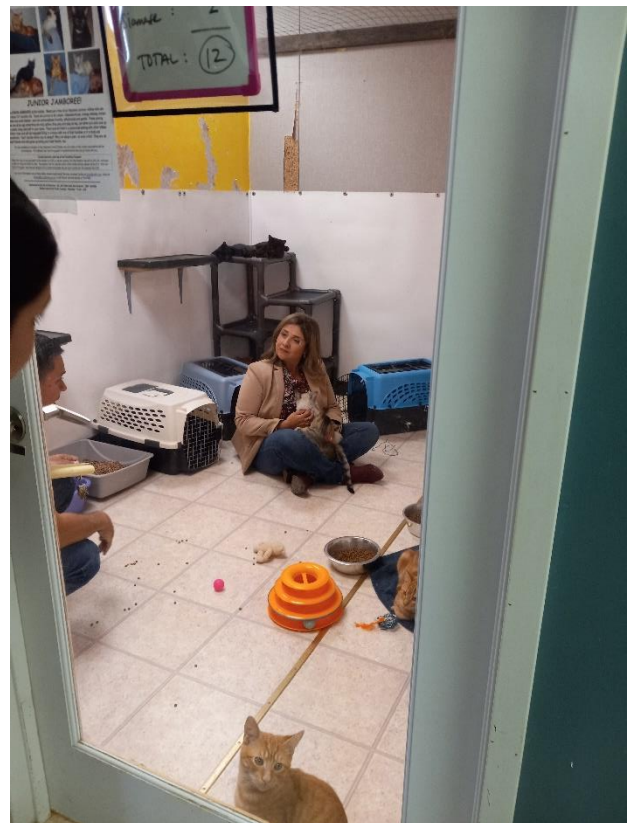
The Senator's office provided a statement from Supervisor Huberty, noting, "I was so happy to get the opportunity to meet the Senator at our annual Frog Jump Jubilee this past May. She was incredibly affable, attentive and a great listener. We spoke about the needs of our outdated County Animal Shelter. She immediately gave me the confidence she could help and that she

wanted to visit. True to her word she showed up last Friday and toured our shelter facility. Not only did she show up but she brought a huge check that's kicked off our fundraising in a big way! She's true to her word and has injected a lot of hope into our community."

The shelter dedicates over 600 hours every month towards the care and service of dogs and an additional 100 hours for cats. Staff and volunteers provide a safe haven for animals as they await their permanent homes.

Written by [BJ Hansen](#). MyMotherlode.com

We love that Senator Alvarado got down with the cats too!



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## Health tips

by Doc Hopper



### Are Acorns Bad for Dogs?

by Lauren Krouse

Reviewed by Hanie Elfenbein, DVM on 10/21/2022.  
Published on 10/21/2022



Sometimes, you may hardly notice you have acorn-producing trees in your neighborhood. But every two to five years—during what’s called “mast” years—oak trees release abundant showers of acorns in the fall. When they ping-pong off your roof, scatter across your backyard, and stain your driveway and sidewalks, you know it’s acorn season. With so many interesting new treats around, some dogs might try to eat them.

If you’ve been triggered by that classic dog-got-into-something crunch, you’re probably wondering if a dog eating acorns is something to worry about. As it turns out, these tree nuts are not a safe snack for dogs. In some cases, they can even cause serious health complications. That’s why if there’s any indication your dog has been eating acorns, you should listen to your gut and call your veterinarian ASAP to figure out next steps. Read on to find out whether acorns are bad for dogs, what to do if your dog eats acorns, and how to prevent this risky behavior.

### Are Acorns Bad for Dogs?

A common feature of fall decor, acorns look pretty harmless. But these bitter-tasting tree nuts can be bad for our canine companions. “Some dogs can have gastrointestinal upset from eating acorns like vomiting, diarrhea, or an upset stomach,” says Dr. Erin Ray, a clinical assistant professor of primary care and general surgery at Texas A&M University Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

### Are Acorns Poisonous to Dogs?

Acorns don’t just turn your dog’s stomach. You might be surprised to learn that acorns can also make dogs dangerously sick.

Interestingly, acorns are especially toxic to cattle and horses. This is likely due to high amounts of harmful compounds called tannins, which are made of tiny bits of poisonous particles. Fortunately, tannins are very bitter, which makes most dogs think twice about taking a second bite.

While there have been more reports of serious complications in larger animals, research suggests toxic compounds found in acorns seem to impact dogs in similar ways. As such, no matter the size of your pup, it’s best to keep acorns off the menu.

Mature acorns—the brown ones that fall from trees—contain toxins that are bad for dogs. But buds and immature green acorns actually contain the highest concentration of toxins. So be sure to keep acorns of all types away from your pup throughout the year.

### Dangers of Acorns for Dogs

While plenty of dogs aren’t interested in munching on acorns, it’s worth knowing what may happen if your dog eats some and what to do. Keep in mind that there are very few reports of dogs who get sick from acorns, despite how widespread acorns are and how many dogs have access to them. Here are a few potential health hazards to know:

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## 1. Acorn poisoning

Within hours, toxins found in acorns can disrupt your dog's ability to digest food as they're released inside the GI tract. Over time, they can also cause serious damage to organs like the kidneys and liver.

Although this does not happen often, there have been a handful of reports of sick dogs showing up at the veterinarian's office with a belly full of acorns. In one case, a pesky Labrador allowed to run free in his parents' yard gobbled up around 10 to 15 acorns. He later became lethargic and eventually suffered from a bout of vomiting and diarrhea. Thankfully, with supportive treatment from a veterinarian, he was able to get out of the danger zone and recover.

While extreme, this is one clear example of why pet parents shouldn't ignore acorn-related health problems. "If you're concerned a dog has eaten acorns, you need to go to the veterinarian," says **Dr. Nancy Welborn**, an assistant professor of veterinary clinical sciences at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine in Baton Rouge.

With next steps like a physical exam, abdominal palpation, bloodwork, and imaging, your veterinarian can determine the best course of action to protect your pet.

## 2. Gastrointestinal blockage

One of the most common reasons veterinarians see dogs for acorns is obstruction. Acorns can get stuck in part of the GI tract, such as the small intestine, and block it up. Depending on how recently the acorns were eaten and the size of the dog, veterinarians can palpate or feel around the belly for the presence of acorns. If the dog ate the acorns within the past few hours and they are still in the stomach, your veterinarian may be able to induce vomiting to get rid of them or go in with an endoscopy (a tool to see inside the body) to remove them, says Dr. Welborn.

## 3. Choking hazard

In general, it's clear that you don't want your dog eating acorns. But if yours is gobbling them up, there's also the potential danger that they could choke on pieces of acorn or a whole nut, Dr. Ray says.

Rough pieces of acorns can be irritating to the esophagus even if they don't cause choking. This can lead to pain, decreased appetite, and even hacking up small amounts of blood.

## 4. Dental damage

Another worry: "Acorns can cause dental trauma if they're hard enough when chewed on," says Dr. Ray. Very hard objects from nuts to chew toys can break a dog's teeth. If left untreated, tooth fractures can cause a lot of pain and open the mouth up to a potential infection.

The good news is, many dogs aren't interested in eating acorns anyway. But if yours is on the curious side or tends to gobble down just about anything when he's hungry, there are ways to keep him from getting into acorns or manage an exposure.

### **What to Do If Your Dog Eats an Acorn**

If you catch your dog with an acorn, step one is to stop him from eating it. "It would be best to try to gently remove the acorn from your dog's mouth if you're able to do so safely," says Dr. Ray.

Often, it's tempting to just watch and wait if your dog gets into something you suspect might not be good for him. When it comes to acorns, though, put your dog's health and well-being first. Dr. Welborn recommends reaching out to your veterinarian for their advice no matter what.

"We always err on the side of safety because there's really no known dose per dog, so it depends on the dog, what they've eaten, and the amount they've eaten," she says. For these reasons, at the



very least you want to call your veterinarian to talk it out.

Early signs to look out for that could indicate acorn poisoning in dogs include a dip in energy, loss of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea.

### How to Prevent Dogs from Eating Acorns

Clearly, prevention is the best medicine when it comes to dogs and acorns. To keep your dog from eating acorns, follow these tips:

**Brush up on basic training cues.** If your dog seems to have no interest in eating acorns, it's okay to let him be around them. But if he goes for them, start training him with "leave it" or "**drop it**" commands to teach that acorns are always off-limits.

**Rake up acorns.** Clearing your yard of acorns can be a major headache. But if your dog has a penchant for eating acorns and you haven't been able to train him out of the habit, it's your best bet to keep him safe—especially if he's an outdoorsy boy.

**Take leashed walks.** If removing acorns is too tall an order, that's perfectly understandable. In some places, an acorn-free yard is all but impossible. In this case, try to stick with leashed walks and be on acorn alert as you go.

## Dog Stats

(By Ed and Dolores Ransom)

Month	Volunteer Hours	Adoptions
August	668.0	16
September	663.0	10
October	632.0	2
Total	1,963.0	28

### ATTENTION ALL DOG LOVERS!

BENADRYL GEL CAPS has XYLITOL in it's ingredients, which is poisonous to dogs.

The regular pink tabs are safe.

Do Benadryl gel caps contain xylitol?

Benadryl gel-caps now contain xylitol which is a huge "no-no" for our beloved canines. Capsules do not contain xylitol, just the gel caps, but to be safe, be sure to read the label before administering Benadryl to your dogs! - Jun 7, 2023



## A Letter From the Heart

It breaks my heart to write this....but I'm looking to rehome my children, ages 16 and 19. Honestly, I didn't do enough research about having kids before making this commitment & they just don't fit into mine & my dog's schedules anymore. The dogs and I are so busy. Also, the kids are starting to have behavioral issues that they never had as newborns & we've tried everything to work through these issues but it's not improving & we just can't have this much of a liability in our home anymore. They are ruining my marriage due to stress, waking me up early & tearing up my house, ruining my furniture, my walls, everything. They are potty trained and extremely treat motivated, but neither one listens to commands very well. Also, we're moving & have found a home with a lot of room for the dogs but just couldn't find one with enough bedrooms for these kids.

It saddens me (please no judging or negative comments) and I am aware of how much emotional damage this will be on them & probably never fully recover from being abandoned but it's just the circumstance we're dealing with but please PM me if interested. There is a re-homing fee because I want to make sure that they get a good home!

Yours Sincerely,  
Every Animal Rescue on the planet.



## Beware of Diffusers – Caution Cat Owners in Particular

I wanted to share the horrors we went through for the past 3 weeks.

We first noticed drainage coming out of her right nostril. It was mostly clear in nature and she was sneezing quite a bit. We took her to our vet and they thought she had an upper respiratory infection. We gave her antibiotics and went on our way.

One week later, the drainage had increased and turned bloody and her appetite was starting to decrease. We called the vet again and they had us come in and pick up another antibiotic/immune boost to add to her food.



That Sunday, she stopped eating, stopped drinking, was isolating herself and I noticed she wasn't going to the bathroom as much.

At this point, nothing was helping. She was dying and we knew it. All day Friday I cried and kept thinking about what we had done differently around the house and that's when it hit me.

About a month ago Adam found these really good smelling plug in fragrance wall diffusers. I immediately unplugged them, opened windows and turned on fans. By Friday evening Mit Meow was able to walk to us. Saturday morning, she woke me up at 4:45 am meowing and hungry. Her nasal drainage had stopped, she was eating, her balance was improving and she wanted attention.

After further investigation we learned that several of these diffusers are toxic to animals and that they have more severe reactions to cats because they are at nose level to them.

Audrey Van Dyne Tucker & Adam Scott Tucker.  
September 18 at 12:49 PM

My army is ready, we attack at nightfall



## Beware Overworking Your Dog

[Canine Insights, LLC](#)

July 5 ·

As your dog retrieves the first...second...third...maybe fifth or sixth ball, his muscles start to tire and soon they reach overload, where they no longer can fully control and support your dog's movements. Now, when your dog does those amazing athletic maneuvers to snag the ball, soft tissues like the cranial cruciate ligament, iliopsoas muscle and tendon, and the muscles and ligaments that support the vertebrae are overstretching. Minor tears are occurring. Now the ball is thrown 10, 12 times or more and ultimately your dog lies down, exhausted.

That period between when your dog's muscles are in overload, and when your dog lies down exhausted, is the injury zone (Figure 1). But

remember, with all that adrenaline, your dog doesn't feel the injuries happening, so you have no idea that the tissues are being used beyond their capacity.

When this game is repeated day after day, month after month, the small tissue tears become large ones, and suddenly it becomes evident that your dog is in pain and has an injury. Of course, it hasn't been sudden at all-what seemed sudden is just the final result of repeated stress and strain until the tissues gave way.

Chris Zink DVM  
Discovering Your Dog



## Rabies & Chip Recap 2023

Hello All

I would like to send a special shout out of tons and tons of thanks to Ms Kathy Bandy for hiring the Ice Cream truck for the volunteers at the rabies clinic. As you can tell from attached photo it was totally enjoyed.

Now another shout out of tons and tons of thanks to all of you rabies/microchip volunteers for another successful season. Saturday, we did 151 rabies and 103 microchips.

Dr. Brookely, who was Saturdays, veterinarian, (her first time), told Christine that she would work one next year for us. Hopefully we can get 6 vets for next year and get back to 6 clinics a year. Also, our most fav wooden kids Herman and Hector and Dolly and Dicky collected \$651.25.

Again, thanks a million to all of you for a fab year. Never will be able to thank you enough because you are the very best volunteers in the entire world.

See you next year!  
Cheers, Debby

2023	Rabies	Microchips	Donations
4/8/2023	166	140	\$639.34
6/10/2023	177	102	\$535.00
9/9 - Spence	96	---	\$312.00
10/14/2023	151	103	\$651.25
Totals	590	345	\$2,137.59

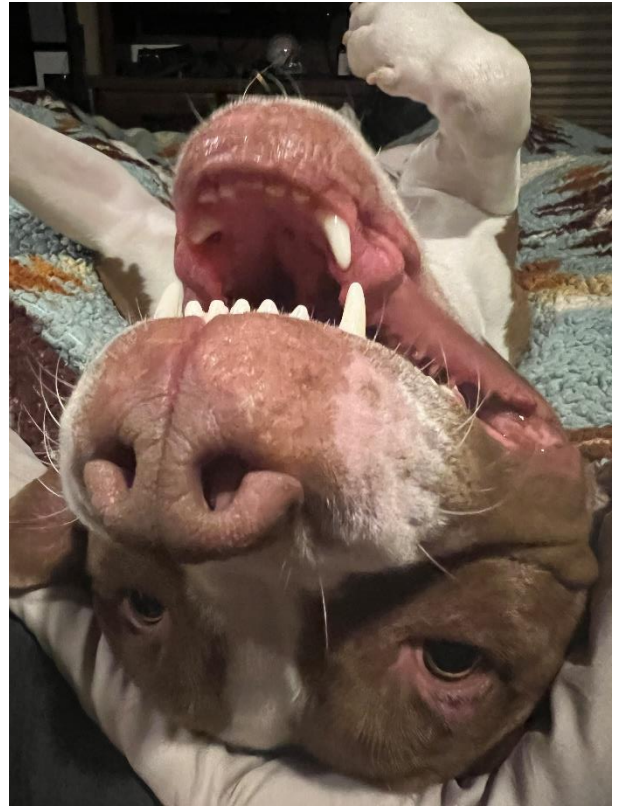


## Cowboy Update

Many of you saw the awesome photo of adopted dog Cowboy, on his way home with his new owners after 154 days in the shelter. No question he knew he'd been rescued!



I just got an update from his new mom, Audrey, who said "Cowboy, since coming home, has completely opened up. He loves going on walks and adventuring around our property. He loves his morning cuddles, and especially belly rubs. We could not be more in love with Cowboy.



Now that is one happy, very lucky boy!

**"You didn't tell me we had a pool!"**





And speaking of adoptions, Phoebe was adopted after a whopping **354 days** at the shelter.

The following is written by Holly Croydon, one of our fabulous volunteer dog walkers and Phoebe's greatest champion.



Phoebe looked as if she knew she hit pay dirt 🍀 the minute she set eyes 😍 on her wonderful adoptive doggo dad, walking sweetly right up to him and giving him kisses. 🍷 We think maybe he thought the same, as he didn't seem to mind any of her goofball behavior at all. 🤪 A match seemingly made in heaven. 🙏 Though a long time coming, it's soooooo worth waiting for! 🤔 🤔

A huge THANK YOU 🙏 ❤️ to all the shelter staff and volunteers who never gave up on Phoebe, who worked with her and ❤️ loved ❤️ her seven days a week over the past year, trusting that her perfect adopter would one day come forward. During that time our dedicated team of 🧑 animal caregivers 🐾 helped her transform from a shut-down, fear-aggressive, abandoned basket case 🤪 into a pampered, beloved best friend in a loving home. We don't always get knock it out of the park 🏆 quite as dramatically as this, 🤪 but happy new beginnings for animals are what we are all about here at your Calaveras County Animal Shelter.



Congratulations, Phoebe, on finally finding your awesome forever home! 🤪 🍷 🙏 🏠



DOWNTON TABBY



### Phoebe and Holly

(By Holly Croydon)

📣 August 8<sup>th</sup> was a banner day, shelter friends, a day for 🍷 CELEBRATION 🍷 at CCAS!! 🤪 Please join us in doing many goof-tacular, ri-dog-lulous happy dances for our girl Phoebe!!!

🧑 She went home this morning with her perfect papa! 🤪 Talk about a come-from-behind success story, wow! 🤪



## And God created Cat

**On the first day of creation, God created the cat.**

**On the second day, God created man to serve the cat.**

**On the third day, God created tuna, mice, and all the animals of the earth to serve as potential food for the cat.**

**On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labor for the good of the cat.**

**On the fifth day, God created the ball of yarn, the feather thingie on a string, and the catnip mouse so that the cat might or might not be amused.**

**On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the cat healthy and the man broke.**

**On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but the cat woke him up at 5:00 AM.**

## FOCAS VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

Our (now annual) Volunteer Luncheon was held on 11/4 at The Pickle Patch, and we had 43 attendees. They did a great job with the food (although next year I'll ask for extra vegetarian) and I think a good time was had by all.

I did hear that a number of folks said they didn't get the invite – even though I sent it out 4 separate times! I suspect the issue is I sent them from my personal email and either some people didn't open the email (although the subject tile was FOCAS Volunteer Lunch) because they didn't recognize my address, or it went in to their junk folder. To avoid this issue next year, I've set up a new email for FOCAS and hopefully that will work better next year – [Focascalaveras@gmail.com](mailto:Focascalaveras@gmail.com).

Here are some photos the lunch, and of course, Annie Elliott was the official greeter! I think she needs to be our official mascot.





This was posted on Facebook by the Calaveras Humane Society and I thought it worth sharing. Very well written and so true.



**Calaveras Humane Society**

11h · 🌐

Longtime followers of our page will confirm that we never use the phrase “forever home” (or the cringeworthy “FURever home”) to describe our adoptions.

We have reasons for this. Sure, it’s cute (though we’ll be honest, “furever” makes us gag a bit). But we always keep in mind one important truth: there are no certainties in life.

Pets are surrendered to shelters and rescues for oodles of reasons, and many of them are absolutely legitimate. People lose homes, go bankrupt, get divorced, and die.

In this brutal rental and home-buying market, secure and stable housing can be uncertain for many. It’s not okay to flippantly say, “I’d live in my car before I’d give up my pets,” unless you have actually been in that situation and made that choice. Many folks have other considerations, such as their children, that would prevent this from being an option.

Sometimes the dog or cat someone chose simply isn’t a good match, or isn’t the right fit any longer. Adopting is like getting married to someone you just met that very day. When viewed through that lens, it’s quite impressive that many pets remain in their original homes at all.

If your friends announce they’re getting a divorce, is your first response to ask them if they tried hard enough? Got marriage counseling? Tell them they don’t deserve love ever again? Or are you supportive and kind? (We bet that you are.)

Sure, there some surrenders that make us sad, or even angry. But in those cases, we see an opportunity to help that pet find a better situation.

So, we don’t say “forever” in our posts or on our website. It creates an unrealistic expectation and can cause people to feel shame if they have a very real need to surrender.

Everyone adopts with the very best of intentions. Sometimes life takes an unexpected turn. We and many other shelters and rescues are here to help as much as we can. ❤️🐾

Mad that a skunk dug around in your yard? Don’t be— she likely did you a big favor! It takes one brave animal to raid the nests of wasps and ground hornets, but striped skunks are up to the task. A digging skunk is often in the middle of chomping up the larvae of stinging insects that dwell in the ground, often saving property owners from an upsetting surprise. Skunks are vital to our ecosystem and a treasure to have around!



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE! See you next year!!**

# PET HOLIDAY FOODS LIST

## **Naughty**

Chicken/Turkey Skin,  
Bones, Drippings,  
Gravy

Ham, Ham Bones

Fat Trimmings,  
Fatty Foods

Sage, Nutmeg,  
Garlic, Onion  
(or Powders)

Corn on the Cob,  
Mushrooms

Raisins, Grapes,  
Apple Seeds

Macadamia Nuts,  
Walnuts

Alcohol, Coffee

Chocolate/Xylitol,  
Artificial Sweeteners

Bread Dough (Yeast)

## **Nice**

Skinless/Boneless:  
White Meat Chicken/  
Turkey

Small Cubes of  
Cooked (Without  
Butter/Seasonings)  
Sweet Potatoes,  
Yams, Pumpkin

Raw or Steamed:  
Green Beans,  
Carrots, Broccoli,  
Peas, Zucchini

Seedless Apple Slices,  
Bananas,  
Cranberries,  
Blueberries,  
Strawberries

Natural (Xylitol-Free):  
Peanut Butter,  
Almond Butter

Oatmeal, Quinoa,  
White/Brown Rice

