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City of
SACRAMENTO
Front Street Animal Shelter

August 2014

Volunteers

focus

TEAM FRONT STREET: WORKING TOGETHER
TO SAVE LIVES!

Paws to Party - August 22nd!

Come party for the animals! Join us at the hottest party of the year—Paws to Party! Our second annual Paws to Party event will be on Friday, August 22nd 6-9pm at the California Auto Museum, 2200 Front Street (right across the street from the shelter).



Guests will enjoy food, wine, and beer from local establishments—while dancing to the musical stylings of our very own Roni and the Flight. Don't forget the huge silent auction and raffle!

Tickets are \$45 each or \$40 for two or more. Tickets at the door will be \$45 each with no discount. All monies raised will go to benefit the animals here at Front Street. Tickets purchases are online through Eventbrite—you can purchase yours from our website www.sacpetsearch.com. Hope to see you all there!





KeepYourPet.com



HELPING PETS AND THEIR PEOPLE STAY TOGETHER

Sacramento Shelters Partner to Help People Keep Their Pets

The Front Street Animal Shelter, Bradshaw Animal Shelter, Sacramento SPCA, and Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary are proud to announce a new resource to help Sacramento area residents keep their pets rather than surrender them to local shelters. Many people surrender their pets to shelters because they don't have resources to help. It may be the result of moving and not knowing how to find a pet-friendly place. Or there may be behavioral or medical issues that they don't have the resources to deal with. Sacramento is looking to be proactive in helping our community keep their pets. We now have a fully integrated website at www.keepyourpet.com to help pets and their people stay together. Check it out & pass it on to anyone you might know who needs some help!

Did You Know You Could?

Many thanks to those of you who are faithfully signing up through your MyVolunteerPage profile and logging your hours! But did you know you could split your hours between different activities? If you come in to work for three hours with our dogs and end up also helping with shelter chores for an hour—you can log both of these activities! This helps keep our reports accurate so we know where our volunteers are spending the most time—and where we need more help!

It's easy: Log in to your profile, go to your Hours Log tab, make your first entry of two hours for working with the dogs and then make a second entry for one hour of shelter chores. It's that easy! If you have any questions—don't hesitate to ask. Thanks for all of your help!!



Congratulations Kitty! Kitty Harvey was this month's training checklist winner! Each month I draw the name of a volunteer who has completed their training checklist for a special prize. Who will be next month's lucky winner?

Happy Beginnings—Tails of True Love!

This is what it's all about! **ADOPTIONS, Rescues, and "Fur-ever Homes!"**

Dear Front Street,

We recently lost two cats and we love animals. We were looking for a gentle laid back dog that would be good around our other animals. I saw your post the other day about being way over capacity and knew that we had to h...elp. I saw Cowboy online and read comments about how sweet he was. I liked that he was an older, experienced dog so we came to see him the next morning. As you can see from the picture it was love at first sight. We brought him home and he fit right in. He's great around the other animals and my 3yo daughter. She just loves him and his name. We are very happy!



A note from a recent adopter...just goes to show you...there is a kitty for everyone.

So happy with our precious new kitty from you guys just wanted to share. Adopted today our 4 month baby Maria was shy and fractious and hissed at people who tried to pet her.. By the time we were signing our adoption papers the woman who brought her out said we must have worked some magic because for the first time she didn't hiss at her. She likes hiding in dark spaces but she has warmed up so much we knew she was a diamond in the rough. Once feral and now found. Thanks Front Street for all that you do! And thanks for giving us opportunity to give this baby a new life! (:



Shelter Stats:

	July 2014	July 2013
Cats Adopted	322	133
Cats to Rescue or Transfer	48	42
Cats Returned to Owner	2	8
Dogs Adopted	180	173
Dogs to Rescue or Transfer	69	42
Dogs Returned to Owner	107	105
# of Volunteers who logged hours	228	157
Volunteer Hours	3706	3477



Key Crisis!

We have had several days lately where we did not have enough volunteer keys to efficiently do our work. PLEASE return the shelter keys before you leave!!

Here are some KEY concepts:

- ◆ The Quarantine (Heart) Keys are now located in Janice's office
- ◆ Only Shelter Greeters should need the Quarantine Keys - for those of you who have been using them for dog training, the back of the M building is being re-keyed to the regular Blue Bone keys

If you have inadvertently taken the keys home—please return them ASAP. Thank you!!



Filling the Pit

Dr. Emily Weiss shares evidence pointing to the fact that pit bull-type dogs are increasing in popularity.

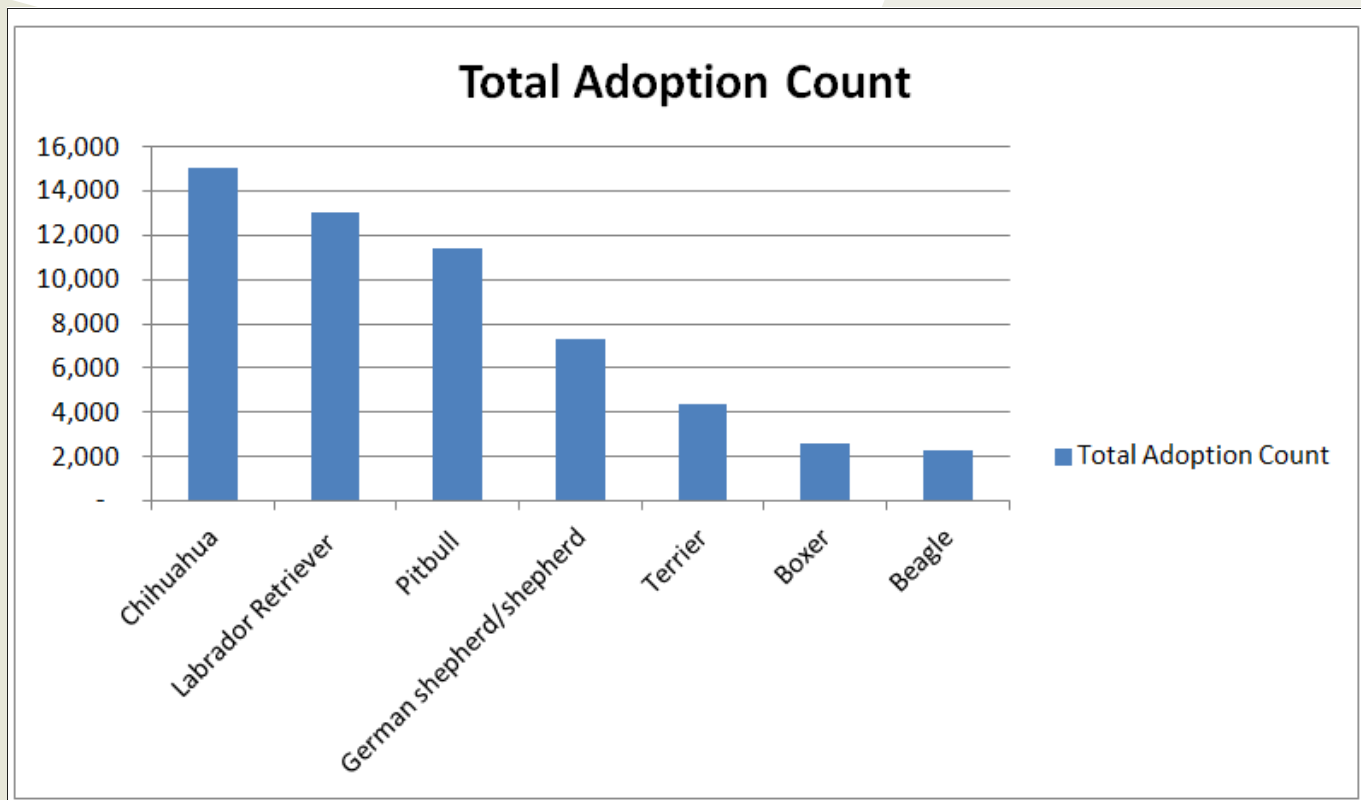
Who is most at risk at your shelter?

One of the most common responses I receive when I ask this question is “pit bull-type dogs.” When I ask why they are at risk, the most common response I receive is that people are not coming in to adopt pit bulls.

Not sure if you read my blog post from last year that noted that pit bull-type dogs are increasing in popularity, but we now have more evidence pointing to the fact that pit bull-type dogs are very popular and wanted, with Banfield’s recent release of its “State of Pet Health™ 2014 Report.” The report is pretty rich, as it represents data on 2.3 million dogs and 470,000 cats coming to the 850 Banfield hospitals around the country. Once again, pit bull-type dogs rated as number 5 in the top ten dog breeds cared for in Banfield hospitals. This trend made me want to learn more...

The ASPCA has a new individual animal database called CARDS (Comprehensive Animal Risk Database) that allows us to dig into data in new and really exciting ways – including an ability to break out breed and outcomes. We pulled the data from over 30 shelters from around the country that had relatively clean breed data in the system and what we found was quite telling.

We asked what are the top breeds (including mixes with primary breed listed) available to be adopted at their agencies, and this is what we found:



Pit-type dogs are the third most frequently adopted. Wow. That is a lot of dogs.

We then pulled the data on intake and outcomes and here is where the story gets juicy...

Rank		Intake	Adoption	Euthanasia
1	Breed	Pitbull	Chihuahua	Pitbull
	Count	52,951	15,019	25,142
2	Breed	Chihuahua	Labrador Retriever	Labrador Retriever
	Count	34,967	13,027	7,837
3	Breed	Labrador Retriever	Pitbull	Chihuahua
	Count	29,724	11,376	5,604
4	Breed	German Shepherd Dog	German Shepherd Dog	German Shepherd Dog
	Count	14,437	4,542	5,202
5	Breed	Terrier	Terrier	Rottweiler
	Count	9,187	4,346	1,596

Guys – maybe we do not have an adoption problem – but instead we have a volume issue! One-third more pit bulls enter than the next highest intake breed type. Certainly a subset of those labeled "pit type" do not have a DNA profile indicating any bully breed, but it is also likely that some pit types are labeled as another primary breed. Why are they coming in at such a higher volume? Given the level of popularity (#5 most popular with Banfield clients), we would anticipate that they would not be the #1 intake type.

Based on our research on the relinquishment of large dogs, I hypothesize that part of the answer has to do with the difficulty in finding housing that allows pit-type dogs. People with a pit-type dog who need to find housing likely have more difficulty than those looking for housing with their beagle mix. It is then a double whammy – as we know that many dogs are re-homed without ever entering the shelter, but if person A has trouble finding housing that will allow them to keep their pit-type dog, that same person will likely have difficulty finding someone else who can take the dog home.

This we can fix.

What are your thoughts as to the other drivers for the high volume of pit-type dogs into the sheltering system? What are your thoughts for solutions?



Written by Dr. Emily Weiss, reprinted from the article published on May 15, 2014 in ASPCApro News.

Shout Out to the Cat Queen!

Our cats ROCK! A huge shout out to our hardworking Queen of Cats - Joyce Thompson-Pierce! In July, Joyce organized three adoption weekends - including a huge kitten shower where she helped get more than 120 cats adopted in one weekend! As a result of her hard work and dedication, 322 cats were adopted in July— compared to 133 last year!! But she didn't stop there, this weekend 8/16 & 17, she has helped to organize our participation in The International Cat Association Cat Show where we have ten cats competing and hope to get 40 more adopted. Way to go Joyce!!



Meet the Staff:

Jace Huggins

Animal Control Officer extraordinaire!

Meet Animal Control Officer extraordinaire, Jace Huggins!

How long have you worked at Front Street? 2 years

What did you do before you came here? Managed at a Vet Hospital

Where did you go to school? Sac City

What do you like to do when not at the shelter? Photography, Thrift shopping with my Wife, actually any shopping with my Wife (We

are really good shoppers!)

What is your favorite hobby? Photography

Tell us about your family?

Since losing both of my parents my Wife's family has

brought me into the fold without hesitation. We have 2 adorable nieces and we see her family almost every week.

What kind of pets do you have? We have Primrose the doberman who came

It is a little kitchy – but very true – always remember when you feel overwhelmed with the number of animals who need help – You may not be able to make a difference for all of them – but to the one in front of you, on the leash for a walk, in their adopters arms after you've done a meet and greet – you have made all the difference in the world.

into Front street at a day old, Tobias the pittie Catahoula mix who is a recent rescue, and then Cinna the Bengal kitty I pulled out of an engine up north and our orange boys



Bear and Jojo who my wife adopted from the SPCA.

What have you liked best about your job? Getting to work with the public and educating them on how to be better pet parents

What would you change if you could? I'd mandate spay neuter – but simultaneously create simple to understand and easy to access resources city wide at no cost.

Thank you Jace for all of your hard work!!

CALENDAR



- ◆ **Volunteer Orientations:**
 - ◆ 2nd & 3rd Wed. each month
- ◆ **Shelter 101:**
 - ◆ Every Saturday at 8:30am except for 8/23!
- ◆ **Cattery Class:**
 - ◆ Sat. 8/23 at 10:30am
- ◆ **Dog Training:**
 - ◆ Language of Dogs 9/9
 - ◆ Dog Auto-sit 9/14
 - ◆ FAS DOG meeting 7/30
 - ◆ Dog Training starts in August
- ◆ **Special Training Classes:**
 - ◆ Cat Foster Class 8/9
 - ◆ Dog Foster Class 8/11
 - ◆ Mentor Training 8/8
 - ◆ Cat Show Training 8/10
- ◆ **Offsite Outreach Events:**
 - ◆ Every weekend! Sign up online!
 - ◆ Cat Show 8/15-8/17
- ◆ **Special Opportunities:**
 - ◆ Shelter Life Production Meeting 8/15
 - ◆ Paws to Party 8/22

Volunteer Spotlight:

Ron Heaton

Meet Ron Heaton! *“Over the course of volunteering at animal shelters the past several years, my eyes have been opened to the plight of the unwanted animals ending up there. I realized that when most dog adopters visited an animal shelter they were looking for dogs with some basic training. Volunteering at the Front Street Animal Shelter has afforded me the opportunity to follow my passion of helping shelter dogs in their time of need by teaching them at least minimal obedience so that these dogs can find their way out of the shelter and into their forever homes.*

My passion for helping shelter dogs doesn't stop with their adoption. I'm very excited to announce our free, 5 week Post Adoption Training program (“PAT”), classes start this month, will focus on basic obedience training, and available to new Front Street dog adopters. Thank you to all who have helped me develop the program..”



Wish List

We would be most grateful if you could help us with these:

- ◆ Dryer Sheets
- ◆ Towels
- ◆ Gas cards
- ◆ Foster care supplies

facebook

Follow us on Facebook at City of Sacramento Front Street Animal Shelter to keep up with more fun activities & animal stories!