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City of
SACRAMENTO
Front Street Animal Shelter

December 2013

Volunteers

focus



TEAM FRONT STREET: WORKING TOGETHER
TO SAVE LIVES!

party

**OH BY GOLLY
LET'S GET JOLLY!**

at the Team Front Street Holiday Party!

When: Sunday, December 15th at 6:30pm

Where: California Auto Museum

What: A holiday potluck party

Why? Because we're falalalalabulus!

You and your family are invited to join us for the second annual Team Front Street Holiday Party! This year's bash will be a festive potluck! **Bring a dish to share with the group.** If your last name begins with:

A-F Bring a Salad

G-M Bring a Side Dish

N-S Bring a Main Dish

T-Z Bring a Dessert

We will be having a gift exchange—if you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 or less.

If you are 21 or older and want to get jolly - you will need to bring your own adult beverage. You may share with anyone else who is over 21!

Please RSVP so we know how many to expect. RSVP to the event website at

<http://event.celebrations.com/TeamFrontStreet> or to Janice at jwagaman@cityofsacramento.org 916-808-8166

Happy Beginnings—Tails of True Love!

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

October was our highest adoption month EVER! We have already adopted more animals this year than we did in all of last year—and we still have a month to go!

Kiki & Lovely Hi Everyone,

First I would like to start this letter by saying that my husband and myself were extremely pleased to see a staff at a shelter in which everyone TRULY cared for the animals and their best interest. It was very evident. Now I can tell you about how absolutely amazing both Kiki and Lovely are. They came as you had said skittish to us. Lovely not so much as Kiki. It was true that Kiki felt comfort in being right next to Lovely and would say more so for her than for Lovely. They quickly took to a chair I have in my bedroom to sleep and spent quite a bit of time in there. I acclimated Kiki by bringing her out and locking the door. Well fast forward 5 days. Kiki doesn't know who Lovely is, lol. I am now her Lovely she is glued to me 24/7. Lovely has found a cut out in my dresser to lay and get away from Kiki as she really just is a typical busy body has to check on everyone in the house to be sure were ok etc. She loves going to the barn to see the horses and doesn't

even bark at them. She is very very quiet in there waiting for me to clean stalls or what have you. She loves to ride in the car and to go places like Petsmart for her little Halloween costume. She is now sleeping on the bed with us and Lovely on the chair in the bedroom. Lovely has also adjusted very well. Uses her covered box and comes when called for her wet food in the morning. I think Lovely has gained weight now that Kiki isn't eating her food she was 7 lbs probably at least 9 lbs now and Kiki that came here at 12 lbs is down to a beautiful fit weight of 9 lbs as well. Kiki loves to play with the ball and plays a little game with her foot and our hand she is just the most precious thing. I treated Kiki's ears with medication and her ear infection is completely cleared up. She went to the groomers and was a very good girl not once trying to bite anyone. Lovely loves to be held and doted over and brushed. We just LOVE them both to pieces. Thank you for doing what you do and for allowing us to bring two beautiful souls into our home and life. They both PERFECT.

Best Regards, Diane and Ken

Assistants needed for orientation and Shelter 101—if you would like to help, please contact Janice!



Shelter Stats:

	Oct 2013	Oct 2012
Cats Adopted	202	95
Cats to Rescue or Transfer	20	108
Cats Returned to Owner	4	7
Dogs Adopted	246	99
Dogs to Rescue or Transfer	64	46
Dogs Returned to Owner	71	84
# of Volunteers who logged hours	176	120
Volunteer Hours	2238	1805



Shelter Do's and Don'ts:

- ◆ **Please DO keep the clipboards in the adoptable buildings neat and up to date!** Extra clipboards are in the sink cubbies and the kennel notes are in the Volunteer Area.
- ◆ **Please DO be respectful of the Shelter Supervisor's time!!** When calling in the morning to get into the shelter, please leave a message and she will get it and open the gate.
- ◆ **Please DO NOT give treats or toys when there is more than one dog in a kennel!** This can cause fights!
- ◆ **Please DO NOT leave kennels unlatched!!** Please check the kennel doors after cleaning to ensure that they are both padlocked and latched properly—small dogs can escape (and have) from unlatched kennels!!

New name badges coming soon! Look for yours at the first of the year!

Help Needed for our Cats in West Sac!

Front Street cat offsites are so successful we need more help! We need more cat fosters and volunteers who can clean and feed on a daily basis at the West Sacramento Petco. We can now keep cats at the West Sacramento Petco throughout the week—this really increases their chance to find a new home! The groomers are helping to clean litter boxes and feed right now, but we really need to augment that with volunteers once a day. So... if you could commit to one specific day a week that would be your day, please contact me at 916-952-2023 or jtpierce9@yahoo.com.

We had a live leave rate of 86% for cats in November!! This is a record for us!!! And of course I want to beat that number every month! (I'm sure you do as well. Right Gina?)

If you are interested in fostering, contact Nikki Barnett @916-764-6862 to volunteer. Kitten season doesn't seem to have ended in 2 years. I guess it's just too temperate in Sacramento...

I want to take this opportunity to thank some wonderful women who have made it possible to continue our offsite success! Leads, these ladies clean every week and bring supplies and paperwork to get our babies adopted; Anita Lopez, Marsha Menzel, and Marilyn DeVille. Kudos ladies, we couldn't do what we do without you! Thank you, especially to Marsha Menzel. She has been feeding and cleaning twice a day at the Petco on Folsom Blvd., as well as, answering calls to run back and forth for meet and greets with our cats and potential adopters.

These core people have stuck with me all year as we have tweaked this program, and put up with my constant begging for help. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! You have kept me going all year!

If you already volunteer that's great!!

But, please consider increasing your service to the animals at Front Street, they really do rely on our volunteers to help adopt out the animals that never seem to cease arriving at our doors.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's to all of you.

Joyce Thompson Pierce



Limited Edition Girl Glass Ornaments - get yours today!

Saving a life is a beautiful thing!



Every day here at the Front Street Animal Shelter we strive to find new ways to help save lives. This holiday season, saving lives has become even more beautiful! We want to thank our friend, Shannon Jane Morgan of Girl Glass Studios, for donating the proceeds from the sale of these beautiful, hand blown, glass ornaments. All proceeds from the sales will go to help save animals.

Purchase your hand-blown unique glass ornament today for only **\$22 and save a life!**

There is a limited quantity and the fundraiser ends on **December 14th**. Order online at <http://frontstreetgirlglass.weebly.com/>

New Volunteer Positions Available!

We are excited to announce that we have some new volunteer opportunities! Sign up today!

- Afternoon kennel assistant
- Processing Assistant
- Orientation/Shelter 101 Assistant
- SMART team

The Exciting World of Kennel Cleaning!

By Robyn Krock, Front Street Volunteer

No matter how thorough Shelter Basics 101 is, the first time you come to the shelter on your own to volunteer can be a little daunting. You've forgotten what you learned in class, everyone else looks like they know what they're doing, and you're afraid of letting a dog out or worse. Don't worry—most of us aren't there every day and it may take a while to remember procedures. **Don't be afraid to ask questions.**

While there are tons of things that need to be done, there are three main areas that require a LOT of work EVERY day: dishes, laundry, and kennel cleaning. On the volunteer sign-up page, all of these are listed under "Shelter Basic Jobs". Don't forget to sign up so the shelter knows you're coming!

Today, we're going to talk about Kennel Cleaning!

The buildings:

Each building is assigned to a staff person for cleaning each morning. If you look in the breakroom, the building letter with the initials of the person cleaning it are on the board, or you can ask! In general the buildings are:

A = adoptable dogs

M = more adoptable dogs

I = isolation (single kenneled dogs)

S = stray dogs

Q = Quarantine dogs that are being specifically watched, i.e., they've been accused of biting (think "quarantine"). The outside kennels on this building have an extra fence around them.

Each kennel has an inside and an outside. There is a metal door, which unfortunately looks like a guillotine, used to separate the inside and outside. There is a rope outside of each kennel, both inside and outside, that can be pulled to open and close the metal door.

All outside kennels have padlocks. Shelter staff will open these in the morning when they start cleaning their building. You can also get a key to unlock them in the volunteer cubicle. Anytime the shelter is open to the public, these padlocks should be locked. The gates on the extra fencing around Q building should also be locked whenever the shelter is open to the public.

The process:

Kennel cleaning is basically **Scrape, Foam (or Spray), Rinse**. You may do part or all of one building depending on how many other volunteers are there, how much other work needs to be done, etc. But the process is the same no matter who is doing it.

Preparation for scraping:

1. The outsides get cleaned first. If a dog is in their outside kennel and the metal door is down (so the dog is contained to only outside), **DO NOT** open the metal door until you have checked with a staff person. They may need to stay outside for some reason. Otherwise, use the outside ropes for the metal door to get the dogs to their inside kennels. Once the dog(s) in that kennel are inside, slowly release the rope so the

Please don't give treats/toys when there are more than one dog in the kennel!



metal door closes and the dogs are contained inside.

2. Go down the row of kennels doing this for each one. If you have a dog that won't go inside, you will need to use a hose to encourage them to go inside. Don't just spray the dog with the hose! Try spraying the floor in front of it, or the wall near it. If you're unsure, ask a staff person or experienced volunteer for help.

Scraping: Once the dogs are inside and the metal doors are safely down, you can start opening the gates to the kennels.

1. Find what looks like a long metal hanger that's been unwound. It will most likely be hanging from the fence outside one of the kennels on the end. The end with the longer point is the handle. Use this tool to pull the grates off inside the moat that runs along the outside of the kennels. This is where all the poop is going to go.

2. Hose each kennel floor first, if needed. This makes the next step easier. (***)Your feet WILL get wet during all of the hosing in this process. Wear rubber boots, old sneakers – whatever works for you.) Just wet it down.

3. Find the scraper with the long handle leaning against a wall or kennel. Go inside each kennel and scrape the poop, pushing it out towards the gutter that runs along the outside of the kennels. Don't take the scraper from building to building, as that can spread disease! Somewhere in this process, before or after hosing and scraping, remove the dishes from the kennel and stack them outside.

Foaming: Once the scraping is done, let the staff person in charge of that building know. If you can't find them, just leave it. They'll be back when they can to do the next step: foaming. The foaming is a very strong chemical sanitizer. Only staff are allowed to handle the foamers. Once sprayed, the foam has to sit for 10-15 minutes, so your work on that side of the building is done for a little while. Ask the ACT you are working with how long it needs to sit!

Rinsing. Once the foam has set for long enough (ask the staff person who sprayed it if you're not sure), the kennels need to be rinsed.

1. Rinse the walls – even if they weren't sprayed some of the foam may have gotten on them. 2. Aim the hose in the water bowl long enough to make sure the water/foam that was in there is gone. 3. Hose the floor thoroughly. Un-rinsed floors will hurt paws. 4. Once rinsed, close and lock each kennel. Some of the clasps on the gates are tricky – make sure they're really closed.

That's it for the outside. You've scraped, foamed, rinsed. Now for the inside.

1. The next step is going to be to clean the inside kennels. Before you let the dogs into their outside kennels, check with the staff person. In general, check with staff before doing anything that involves moving any of the dogs.

2. Once the dogs are safely outside, you'll start going through each kennel. This is a more subjective process than the outside, because on days that the shelter is open to the public, not all the inside kennels. Basically, if there's poop or pee on the floor, the kennel should be foamed. If the pee is only on the blankets, the dirty blankets can be exchanged for clean ones. *All of the inside kennels in S are foamed every day, and all of the kennels are foamed on days we are closed.*

3. All dishes are stacked outside. If the kennel does not need to be foamed, "fluff" the blankets – straighten up the kennel. Shut the gate when you're done so staff knows it doesn't need to be sprayed.

4. If the kennel does need to be foamed, remove the blankets, bedding, etc., and leave the gate open. Don't remove the beds. They will be sprayed too.

6. Repeat everything you did for the outside kennels and then replace the dirty bedding with clean. Be sure to close the kennels and lock the padlocks!

7. Take the dirty dishes to the dishwashing area and the dirty bedding to the laundry area. **Whew! You did it! You cleaned the kennels!**



Meet the Staff:

Lori Rhoades

Senior Animal Care Technician extraordinaire!

Lori has worked at a vet hospital and as a horse trainer before coming here to the shelter. She graduated from Temecula High and is a Phoenix graduate with a degree in Criminal Justice from University of Phoenix!

When not hard at work here at the shelter, you would most likely find her

curled up with a good book. If not reading, she would most likely be found enjoying TV or going to the movies. Her favorite thing to do is to read a good book or ride a good horse!

At home she takes care of her extended family consisting of husband, three children, dad, cat, and two dogs (a Basset Hound & old English Bulldog!)

What does she love most about her job? Saving lives & being the Foster/Rescue Coordinator. If you want to foster dogs -contact her at lrhoades@cityofsacramento

.org. (Hint hint.)

What would she change if she could? The mentality of society and how they think animals should be treated!

Thank you Lori for all of your hard work!!

It's easy to save a life - Foster!



Meet Senior Animal Care Technician extraordinaire, Lori Rhoades!

Lori has worked here at the Front Street Animal Shelter for nine years. She is the Shelter Supervisor and Dog Foster/Rescue Coordinator for Sunday—Wednesday.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Glenna Wheeler

I'm a fairly new volunteer to the shelter. I'm an animal lover and have rescued cats for many years. Earlier this year, my daughter Jenna and I adopted a precious pit bull from the shelter and named her Buffy. Jenna is Mom and I'm Grandma. We met this adorable dog one day at the shelter and couldn't stop thinking about her. She seemed so sad and she had a story that touched our hearts. We went back a few days later and were saddened to find that she was on hold until later that afternoon. We waited several hours in hopes that the interested party would not show up. Finally, we saw a woman looking at the dog. I approached her and we talked for quite a while and then she turned to me and said she thought we should adopt the dog. She said she could tell we were ready and we would give her a good home. I am so thankful to her for that because we couldn't possibly love a dog more. Adopting Buffy and the experience we had with the shelter staff prompted my boyfriend and me to start volunteering. Although I do not have as much time to be at the shelter as I would like due to the long hours of my regular job, I try to contribute any way I can. The Popcornopolis fundraiser was a great opportunity for us to contribute. We are looking forward to a lot more volunteering in 2014!



Thank you Glenna for all of your hard work for the Front Street Shelter!

CALENDAR



- ◆ **Volunteer Orientations:**
 - ◆ Wed. 12/18 5:30pm
 - ◆ Wed. 1/8 5:30pm
- ◆ **Shelter I01:**
 - ◆ 11/9 or 11/10 8:30-11am
 - ◆ 11/23 or 11/24 8:30-11am
- ◆ **Cattery Class:**
 - ◆ Sat. 12/28 10:30 am
- ◆ **Dog Training:**
 - ◆ Dog series is now the first three Saturdays or Sundays of the month—sign up for all three consecutively!
- ◆ **Adoption Counseling Class:**
 - ◆ Cats- January 11th 10:30am
 - ◆ Dogs - January 25th 10:30am
- ◆ **Offsite Outreach Events:**
 - ◆ Every weekend! Sign up online!
- ◆ **Special Events:**
 - ◆ Holiday Party 12/15
 - ◆ Volunteer Meeting 12/18
 - ◆ Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap 12/20 & 12/21

Wish List

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

- ◆ Dryer Sheets
- ◆ Cat beds
- ◆ Towels
- ◆ Gas cards

facebook

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