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February 2013

Volunteer focus

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES AT THE
FRONT STREET ANIMAL SHELTER!

February Fun!

Love is in the air this month! We are looking for your pictures with your furry sweethearts! Please send your pictures to Anne Williams at anne@annechadwickwilliams.com or



post them on our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/City of Sacramento Front Street Animal Shelter](https://www.facebook.com/CityofSacramentoFrontStreetAnimalShelter). Let's celebrate those lil' sweeties together!

Also, in celebration of Valentine's Day, and to help our animals find their own **true loves**, we are offering **50% off of adoption fees through February 17th**. (This does not apply to the \$5 Feline Fridays!)



Looking for Something To Do?

Looking for something to do to help out? Here is a list of ongoing things that you can do to help out everyday:

- ◆ Do a sweep of the shelter to find anything that needs to be picked up, cleaned & put away. (Crates, laundry, dishes, etc.)
- ◆ **Ensure every dog in the Adoptable buildings has a Kennel Notes clipboard with blank notes & a pen.**
- ◆ Clean the Behavior Evaluation Trailer
- ◆ Clean the counters, cupboards, doors & sinks in the admin building

Next time you're looking for something to do, consider crossing one of these projects off the list!



"Why Should I Sign Up Online?"

"Why should I sign up for shifts on the online system?" That is a question that is often asked. I wanted to share some feedback from one of your fellow volunteers:

"I think there are A LOT of folks that aren't using the online log system. I purposely signed up and came in Sat because there was only 1 other person signed up to be there kennel cleaning Sat AM... Another person also signed up which means there SHOULD have been only 3 but there appeared to be A LOT more. I had planned to work until noon but went home an hour early because there really wasn't enough to keep everyone busy. I had considered also coming in that afternoon because according to the sign up there didn't seem to be anyone who was going to be there for the adoptions. I did ask one of the volunteers (who I believe to be one of the lead volunteers) ...and she told me outright that she never signs up; she just comes over. Mind you, I understand that it is great that lots of folks are there to help BUT ... Perhaps you can encourage others to use the system that way the volunteer time can be used most efficiently."

So, to answer the question: **The reason why we ask ALL volunteers to sign up online is to be courteous to the staff and your fellow volunteers!** It makes it much easier for us - and the whole volunteer team - if we know whether or not a shift is covered. The online system is a communication tool for you to use. For those of you who are regularly using it, you have my wholehearted appreciation! For those of you who haven't quite gotten into the habit of signing up, I am happy to help you get started! I don't want you to feel overwhelmed using a tool that you are not familiar with. I am very happy to sit down with you and go over how to use the system. Remember, the system is just a tool. It is there to help with communication between you, the shelter, and the whole volunteer team. Like many new tools, it may take a little bit to become comfortable. In no time at all, you will be using it like a pro! Let's all be courteous and use the system to sign up.



Thank you! ~ Janice

January Shelter Stats:

- ◆ Cats Adopted - 73
- ◆ Cats to Rescue/Transfer - 16
- ◆ Cats Returned to Owner - 5
- ◆ Dogs Adopted - 88
- ◆ Dogs to Rescue /Transfer- 80
- ◆ Returned to Owner - 80
- ◆ # of Volunteers who logged hours - 154
- ◆ Volunteer Hours - 1,883
- ◆ December Spay/Neuters: 147 (78cats & 69 dogs!)
- ◆ Calls received by the City - 4,381
- ◆ Guess how many kennels volunteers cleaned in January??? - you'll find the answer somewhere in this newsletter!



Do's and Don'ts

Requests from the shelter staff:

- ◆ Please do not wash the bowls inside the cattery - they need to be properly disinfected in the dishwasher.
- ◆ Don't forget to reset the dishwasher after washing litter pans and feral cat dens.
- ◆ Please do not walk the dogs on the outside of the Stray and Adoptable buildings when the dogs are outside - it causes a ruckus!
- ◆ Please help keep the shelter clean by picking up after yourself. Pick up any water bottles, soda cans, papers, etc. If you see something that needs to be picked up, please do it & pat yourself on the back for being a great team member!
- ◆ **Please do continue to do the amazing job each and everyone of you accomplish! Our staff are very grateful for the help you give and thankful for everything you do!**



Recommended Reading: "Living with Kids & Dogs"

Book: *Living with Kids and Dogs...Without Losing Your Mind: A Parents Guide to Controlling the Chaos* by Colleen Pelar, CPDT, 2007 edition C & R Publishing, a division of Dream Dog Productions, LLC. Winner of the Humane Society of the United States Compassionate Care Award as well as the Parent to Parent Adding Wisdom Award. ISBN # 978-1-933562-66-7. Cost as low as \$2.38 for used paperback at Amazon.com.

Review: Whether you're a parent, grandparent, have the occasional kid visitor, or a volunteer who works with dogs here at Front Street, you'll find plenty of useful ideas for helping kids and canines safely enjoy each other's company in Colleen Pelar's book *Living with Kids and Dogs*.

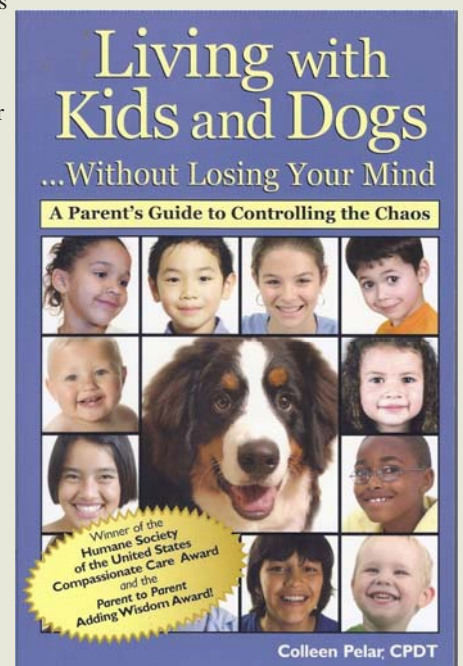
Safety, including controlling the chaos caused by kids and dogs, building relationships, management and training are just a few topics covered in this information-packed book of just 164 pages. A boon for the busy reader is the "Words for the Weary" section at the end of each chapter where the chapter's main points are highlighted.

Pet adoption counselors might want to turn directly to chapter two where Pelar discusses finding the right pet—dog or cat, adult or puppy, temperament, size, and energy level—as well as assessing a dog, recognizing canine stress signals and knowing when to call for a time out.

There's also a chapter for each major stage of childhood beginning with what to do before a baby arrives and going on to teenagers who may love the dog but are too busy to take full responsibility for its care.

In her last chapter, Pelar discusses the difficult reality of saying goodbye to a beloved pet. She points out that children deal with things in their own ways. Some are angry but won't admit to being sad. Others cry and talk about their pet. Some hide their feelings. Regardless of the child's reaction, Pelar advises listening and finding meaningful ways to say goodbye and provides a useful list of things to do to remember a beloved pet. This concluding chapter also discusses if and when to get another dog. And so you circle back to new beginnings!

-Evelyn Dale, Front Street Volunteer



Got Transportation?

Volunteer transporters needed! Are you interested in being part of the team that helps get animals out to rescue partners? Are you age 18 or older? Do you have your own reliable transportation? Are you willing to drive anywhere from few miles to a few hours? If so, we have the job for you!

Join our team of volunteer transporters! It's easy:

- ⇒ Sign in to your MyVolunteerPage profile
- ⇒ Click on the My Profile tab
- ⇒ Click on Interests
- ⇒ Check the box marked "Transporting animals to rescue"
- ⇒ Click Save!



Now you are all signed up to receive alerts about needed transports. As opportunities come up, I will send out an email with the information. If you are available, sign up through your volunteer profile.

It's that easy...

We Rocked in 2012!

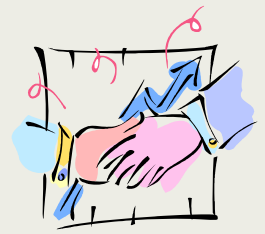
2012 was an AWESOME year at the Front Street Shelter! ... and we have the stats to prove it!

Check out our year-end statistics on our website. Go to www.sacpetsearch.com and click on the Shelter Statistics tab.

Here's a few highlights:

- Each and every month, we consistently outperformed our stats from 2011.
- Each and every month, we improved our live rate over the previous month!
- We saved 3,000 more animals!

And not included on our stats page, but equally important: Our volunteer team has grown by 150%!!



Pit Bull Heroes 🐶

On any given day, about 40% of the dogs here at the Front Street Animal Shelter are pit bulls or mixes. How much do you know about this noble breed? Did you know that the Pit Bull Terrier is called America's dog? In World War I, the Pit Bull was often featured on recruitment posters representing America. One of the most celebrated Pit Bull heroes is Sergeant Stubby, the most decorated war dog in World War I, and the only dog to have been promoted to the rank of sergeant in the US Armed Forces! He was known for his ability to detect a gas attack, find wounded soldiers, and boost morale. He served in 17 battles and even caught a German spy. He is featured in the Armed Forces History display in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. (Read more about Sergeant Stubby at www.governorsfootguard.com/stubby)



Did you know that these great dogs were also known as the "Nanny Dogs"? Hundreds of vintage photos like the one the at the right depict these dogs and their sacred charges. This breed was a favorite dog among celebrities, scholars, and society's elite. Famous people who had Pit Bulls include Helen Keller, Theodore Roosevelt, and even the Little Rascals. If you wanted a friendly, loyal, smart dog to watch over your kids - you picked a Pit Bull Terrier! This holds true today.



When I did some research to find out more about modern day Pit Bull heroes, I found tons of stories about these wonderful dogs and how they saved their families. One of my favorites was the story of Weela. Weela was a loyal companion for 11 year old Gary. One day, Weela roughly tackled Gary and pushed him down. His concerned mom ran out to the yard to find out why Weela would have acted in such an unusual way. She was just in time to see Weela get bit in the face by a large rattlesnake. Weela saved Gary that day, but didn't stop there. She went on to save the lives of 30 people, 29 dogs, 13 horses, and 1 cat during the flooding of the Tijuana River. Weela's story was featured on saveabull.com.

Another celebrated "pitty" hero is Popsicle, the #1 United States Customs Dog. Popsicle was found near death in a freezer after being used as a bait dog for dog fights at a known drug dealer's house. He soon recovered and began training to catch the same kind of bad guy who nearly killed him. He qualified for the dog training school in Front Royal, VA. Only around 4 out of every 5,000 dogs tested make the cut to continue training - Popsicle passed with flying colors. He went on to graduate at the top of his class and detected a record cache of illegal drugs with a street value of more than \$139,000,000! His story was featured in the April 26, 1999 edition of People Weekly Magazine.



Do you have a story of a dog hero (Pit Bull or any other breed, including the "American Shelter Dog" mutt!) that you would like to share? We would love to hear your story and share it with our team! Please send your story to Janice at jwagaman@cityofsacramento.org.



Each month we will be getting to know a different staff member.

Meet Cynthia Cutler, Registered Veterinary Technician

Meet the Staff: Cynthia Cutler

Registered Veterinary Technician extraordinaire!

extraordinaire! Cynthia has worked here at the Front Street Animal Shelter since 2004. She is a Registered Veterinary Technician and studied Veterinary Technology at Cosumnes River College. Throughout her career, she has worked for the Dept. of Fish and Games Oil Spill Prevention & Response Unit and the Humane Society of the United States.

When she is not working here, you would most likely find her

enjoying the outdoors by running, kayaking, horseback riding, backpacking, or camping with her boyfriend. At her Orangevale home, she has two indoor cats, (one of which is a failed foster), several outdoor cats, two horses (one of which is also a failed foster), and lots of chickens!

She says the best thing about her job is the satisfaction of helping animals and knowing that what she does makes a difference!

Every job, no matter how little, is **IMPORTANT!**



Keys for Success

- ◆ *“What do I have in my pockets?” ... is not just a question for Bilbo and Gollum! Don't forget to check your pockets before leaving and return the volunteer keys to the sign in area!*
- ◆ **The volunteer forum is waiting for you! Use this to communicate with the rest of the team and post questions or answers.**
- ◆ *Ensure the dog kennel notes are updated - clip the kennel card to the volunteer notes clipboard and make sure each dog has its own notes - everyone can and should help with this, even if you aren't a dog volunteer*

Cattery Corner



Our cats (and staff) are crying for more cat volunteers! If you have already taken the cattery class, please sign up to help clean the cat cages. We have 48 cat kennels in the adoption cattery alone that need cleaning each and every day! In addition to the cleaning and socializing, we also need more cat adoption counselors! Fridays are especially busy due to the Feline Friday promotion.

Other things to do in the cattery: update the adoption signs, name the cats, do laundry, clean cat toys, restock the pantry area, and clean the counters!

Interested in working with our cats? Then sign up for the cattery class! We have a cattery class every 3rd Saturday of the month. Have you logged your 20 hours as an entry level volunteer? Then welcome to the cat side!



Volunteer Spotlight:

Meet Jan Drakulich. Jan has been volunteering at the Front Street Shelter since March of 2012. Her smile and quiet willingness to help is appreciated by everyone.

You will usually find Jan helping out with the laundry, washing dishes, or being a Shelter Greeter. What you may not know is that she also helps our resident dog photographer, Anne Williams, with her fantastic dog pictures.

More recently, she has even been spotted transporting animals to rescue!

Thank you Jan for your hard work! You are much appreciated.

CALENDAR



Our volunteers recorded helping to clean kennels 1,412 times in January- way to go!

◆ Volunteer Orientations:

- ◆ Wed. 2/20 5:30pm
- ◆ Thurs. 3/7 5:30pm

◆ Shelter 101:

- ◆ 2/23 or 2/24 8:30-10:30am
- ◆ 3/9 or 3/10 8:30-10:30am

◆ Cattery Class:

- ◆ Sat. 2/16 10:30 am

◆ Bunny Class:

- ◆ Sat. 2/23 9:30 am

◆ Next Available Dog Training:

- ◆ Dog I - Sun. 3/3 or 3/10
- ◆ Dog II - Sun. 3/17 or 3/24
- ◆ Dog III - Sun. 3/31 or 4/7

◆ Offsite Outreach Events:

- ◆ Sun. 2/17 Pet Extreme Dog “Love Fest”

◆ Special Events:

- ◆ Volunteer Meeting 2/20
- ◆ World Spay Day 3/3

Wish List

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

- ◆ Dryer Sheets
- ◆ Push Broom
- ◆ Blankets & beds for the dogs
- ◆ Towels
- ◆ Portable radios
- ◆ Gas cards

facebook

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