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City of
SACRAMENTO
Front Street Animal Shelter

February 2014

Volunteers

focus

TEAM FRONT STREET: WORKING TOGETHER
TO SAVE LIVES!

Mentors Wanted!

Helping our new volunteers get their feet wet

One of the needs identified in the volunteer program survey and through conversations with staff and experienced volunteers is the need for mentors. We need to support our new volunteers when they first start volunteering.

That means we need experienced volunteers willing to help out! On Friday, Feb. 21st, we will be having a mentoring training. If you are comfortable here at the shelter and feel confident showing new volunteers around, then this is a job for you! All that is required is the willingness to help and the ability to welcome new volunteers.

This is how I envision our mentor program: Each mentor will pick one Shelter 101 class to attend. At the class, you will introduce yourself to the new volunteers and give your contact information to them. You will set up appointment times to meet with them to give them some one on one support for the first one or two times they come in. You will be available via email or phone to answer questions and you will help the new volunteers to complete their New Volunteer Checklist.

This is a great opportunity to meet new volunteers, make new friends, and really engage and support those who want to help!



2014 Event List

Save the date for these important Front Street events!

Sunday, April 13th at 6pm: 2nd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event Join us in celebrating all of the wonderful things that our volunteers do. More information to come soon!

Saturday, May 31st 10-2: 6th Annual Pups in the Park Join us at McKinley Park for the best community event of the year! A pup promenade, dog costume contest, carnival games, food trucks, and lots of community vendors! This is a huge fundraising opportunity for us, and we will need a LOT of volunteer support.

Friday, August 22nd 6-9pm: 2nd Annual Paws to Party Event Join us for the Hottest Party of the Year: our second annual wine and food tasting fundraiser event. Live music, silent auction, tons of tasty treats—and raising money to help save lives. What could be better?

Sunday, October 26th 12-4pm: 4th Annual Haunted Open House Join us as we invite the Sacramento community to party at the shelter.

Each of these events will need a lot of volunteer support—from working the event itself, to help getting sponsors and items donated. Stay tuned to see how you can help!



Happy Beginnings—Tails of True Love!

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

Toby's Story: *Jane Almon, Team Front Street Volunteer*

Bryden and his mom, Melissa attended an adoption event at the Petsmart on Truxel Rd. Bryden was so excited to be around the puppies and dogs. He would ask what their names were and could he pet them or hold them over and over again.

Bryden begged his Mom to adopt almost every dog at the event but Mom held firm telling Bryden they needed to wait until they found the perfect dog for them. They left the event without adopting but returned to the shelter a week later to find "Toby" who has proved to be a true companion to this boy with autism!

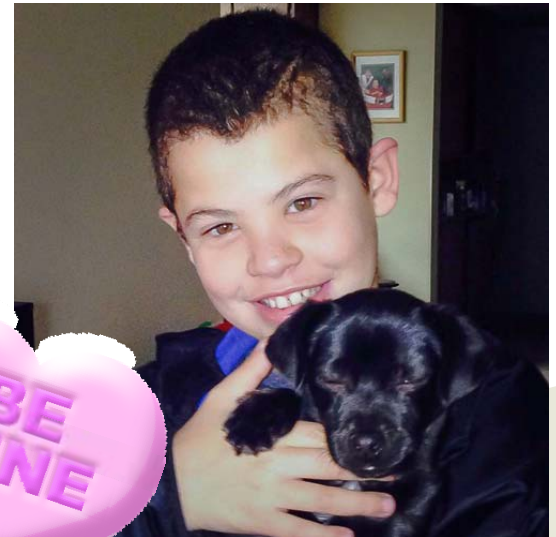
With the help of volunteers and our Outreach Coordinator Shari Crum, people like Melissa and Bryden find dogs in need of a human connection and humans in need of a dog connection! Melissa and Bryden learned about the Front St Shelter at an offsite event and knew they could find the best match by returning to the shelter!

Volunteers DO make a difference.

Dear Front Street,

One week ago we adopted our little Toby from your shelter. My son is on the autistic spectrum and I thought a dog would help provide social and emotional support for him. Bryden and Toby have developed a very strong bond in the short time they have been together. Toby loves to follow Bryden everywhere; I now understand why they call dogs companion animals. Through this experience Toby has brought a lot of joy into my life as well. Thank you, Front Street Animal Shelter, for allowing us to adopt our newest family member.

Sincerely,
Melissa,
Bryden, and
Toby



Shelter Stats:

	Jan 2014	Jan 2013
Cats Adopted	108	73
Cats to Rescue or Transfer	6	16
Cats Returned to Owner	2	5
Dogs Adopted	133	88
Dogs to Rescue or Transfer	93	75
Dogs Returned to Owner	73	80
# of Volunteers who logged hours	198	171
Volunteer Hours	2463	2346



New Keyless Entry to the Shelter!

You asked for it - you begged for it - Now it is here!

Are you tired of calling the shelter supervisor to get into the shelter in the morning? Well, now you don't have to!

We have a keypad at the Reception Center gate for volunteer entry. Hit Start 2 1 2 7 # and the gate will open. (The pound key is the lower right button - it does not light up!)

If you have any questions, or any trouble using the keypad, you can still call the shelter supervisor for assistance.



Rescue Networkers Needed! *Jane Almon, Team Front Street Volunteer*



Networking dogs in need of rescue or foster has been around for sometime. Recently Front St Volunteer Program has developed an organized opportunity for volunteers of the shelter to assist our foster/rescue coordinators (Lori Rhoades and Sam Burgin) connect with rescues/fosters for animals with medical or behavioral issues that prevent them from being available for adoption.

The program is new and we have a "draft" process that we are refining. We need YOU! to help this team grow and develop.

By networking animals, using a Google mail acct, we've found rescue/fosters for many animals with issues.

Brody, a young pup of 3 months who was so mouthy at the shelter he was bruising staff and volunteers found rescue with Coppers Dream Rescue in SF through networking!

Precious, a senior lab (15 yr old) who was surrendered by her owner to be euthanized due to age benefited after the Front St Veterinary team determined she had much more life in her and refused to euthanize. The networking team went to work and through emails, phone calls and multiple pleas she found a "forever foster" at Valhalla Rescue in WA state!

NETWORKING WORKS and SAVES LIVES!

This volunteer opportunity can be done completely from home and you will be mentored by a volunteer



Shelter Basics: *Robyn Krock, Team 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 awhile to remember procedures. **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". Dishes and laundry fall under Shelter Chores, and Kennel Cleaning is a separate category.

A few things to know regarding laundry and dishes:

Once the washer and dryer are going and the clean laundry is folded and put away, you can go do something else. Unless you want to stand there and watch the laundry go around, which you could do but is probably not the most effective use of your time.

The dishwashing area only fits 2-3 people at a time. If there are already people there and they don't need a break, go find something else to do.

Other things you can do:

You know those piles of laundry and dishes you see outside the kennel buildings in the morning? Those are dirty – whoever is cleaning that building has moved them out there as they're cleaning. They need to be taken to the dishwashing area or laundry area. There are bins in the laundry area marked "dirty" and "clean", and there may be extra carts sitting around. Feel free to use these, but **MAKE SURE** you only put dirty laundry in bins marked DIRTY and clean laundry in bins marked CLEAN!

Roll newspapers in the shed in the laundry area. This helps the techs working with sick animals, bunnies, etc.

Fill bags for Titanic's Pantry if no one else is or if there's only one person and they could use another set of hands. This is a separate category on the volunteer sign-up page, so keep track of how much time you're doing that rather than Shelter Chores and mark it accordingly when you log your hours.

Ask someone if they need help. Staff cleaning a kennel might ask you to bring a bin of clean bedding from the laundry area, or something else that helps morning cleaning go just a little faster. The staff don't mind being asked questions and appreciate the help the volunteers provide, but they are unlikely to ask a volunteer they don't know for help with their morning duties. You need to ask them what help you can offer.



Meet the Staff:

John Sorrels

Senior Animal Control Officer extraordinaire!

historical biographies about the Civil War, California gold rush, American Indian wars/culture.

What is your favorite hobby? Metal detecting, gold prospecting

Tell us about your family? I have a wonderful wife who is currently in the Nursing program at Butte College. I have two sons who are grown and out on their own. I have two daughters in high school and a 7 year old son Jaydon who keeps us very busy when we are home. I have a French bulldog name Duchess, and two outdoor cats named Frog face and Blackie.

What have you liked best about your job? I like responding to calls involving things like animal fighting and animal abuse. I enjoy the freedom of being able to interact with the public and help them with animal

related issues.

What would you change if you could? I would like to change the stereotypical image of today's Animal Control Officers. Animal Control Officers of today are not what they were 20 years ago, the cartoonish image of the out of shape guy chasing a dog with a fishing net is not an accurate depiction of what we do. In fact, chasing loose dogs is usually toward the bottom of our priority list. Today's Animal Control Officer spends most of his/her time responding bite calls, vicious dog calls, animal cruelty complaints, injured animals, wildlife calls, dogs locked in cars, and neighbor disputes. Today's officers also prepare criminal cases that are heard in superior court, where convictions can lead to mandatory jail sentences.

Thank you John for all of your hard work!!

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!

Meet Senior Animal Control Officer extraordinaire, John Sorrels!

How long have you worked at Front Street? I started my career with the City of Sacramento Animal Care Services in 2006

What did you do before you came here? I have been an Animal Control since 1996, starting my career at the Benicia-Vallejo Humane Society.

What do you like to do when not at the shelter? I enjoy spending time with my wife and children, camping, relic hunting and prospecting, I enjoy reading

Volunteer Spotlight:

Nancy Sundberg

My granddaughter began volunteering at the shelter a while back and loved her work here with the animals. When I saw her enthusiasm I looked into volunteering myself. I was amazed at the dedication and drive everyone had here for the well being of all animals

I began my volunteer work here 16 months ago. In that time I have come to think of this shelter as the little one that could. With all the hard work everyone puts in this little shelter it's name is now before the public much more and donations, which are always much needed have jumped dramatically also. I love my work I do. So far I feel like my main job is helping the ACT's in whatever way I can so that they have more time to work with the animals. But there is certainly always something to do so I like the variety and flexibility here also. When not here I love to read, golf, travel and spend time with my grandchildren.

Thank you Front Street Shelter for all your dedication and for opening my eyes to the love you have for these animals and allowing me to be a small part of that.

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



CALENDAR



Volunteer Orientations:

- ◆ 2nd & 3rd Wed. each month
- ◆ Wed. 2/19 5:30pm
- ◆ Wed. 3/12

Shelter 101:

- ◆ Every Saturday at 8:30am

Cattery Class:

- ◆ Sat. 2/22 at 10:00am

Dog Training:

- ◆ Dog series is now the first four Saturdays or Sundays of the month—sign up for all four consecutively!

Adoption Counseling Class:

- ◆ Cats— 3/8 10:30am
- ◆ Dogs - 3/29 10:30am

Offsite Outreach Events:

- ◆ Every weekend! Sign up online!

Special Opportunities:

- ◆ Mentoring Training 2/21
- ◆ Rescue Network 3/6
- ◆ Volunteer Meeting 2/20
- ◆ SMART training 2/27

Wish List

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

- ◆ Dryer Sheets
- ◆ Towels
- ◆ Gas cards
- ◆ Foster care supplies for neonates—see Nikki or Sam

facebook

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