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January 2013

# Volunteer *focus*

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

## New Classes Coming!

Training is such an important part of your volunteer experience here at the Front Street Animal Shelter. We are excited to offer some new training opportunities for you!

- ◆ **Bully Breeds class** on Saturday, January 12th at 9:30 am. This class is for our experienced Dog Training volunteers to learn best practices in working with our big bully breed dogs. This class is presented by Chako Pit Bull Rescue
- ◆ **Volunteer Rescue Network class** on Wednesday, January 23rd at 4:00pm. This class is for anyone

interested in being part of our new volunteer email rescue network. This class is presented by volunteers from Sacramento County.

Sign up for these training opportunities online through your volunteer profile!



## 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:

- ◆ Put away all of the donations that clutter up the admin area by the water cooler
  - ◆ Ensure every dog in the Adoptable buildings has a Kennel Notes clipboard with blank notes & a pen.
  - ◆ See those cages & carriers laying around? Wash them, have a tech sterilize them, rinse, dry & put away.
  - ◆ Clean up the Volunteer Cubicle
- Next time you're looking for something to do, consider crossing one of these projects off the list!



## MLK Day of Service

On Monday, January 21st, we will be celebrating the 2013 MLK Day of Service with a Shelter Clean Up Day. This is a national day of celebrating service to our community. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "**Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'**" The Corporation for National & Community Service, in partnership with the United We Serve presidential initiative has set aside Martin Luther King Day as a national day of service to our communities.

We, at the Front Street Animal Shelter, invite you to be part of this "Day On, Not Day Off" campaign and join us from 8:00 am to noon as we work on a variety of projects to make the shelter more efficient and comfortable for all! Some of the projects we will be tackling include:

- ◆ Organizing and cataloging the cages & carriers in our outreach shed
- ◆ Cleaning & organizing the decorations and materials in the volunteer shed
- ◆ Throwing out all of the broken carriers and items that clutter up our facility
- ◆ Deep cleaning the conference room
- ◆ Deep cleaning the break room
- ◆ Organizing and cataloging the supply closet
- ◆ Cleaning up sidewalks and landscaping
- ◆ Power-washing walls and sidewalks
- ◆ Cleaning windows

... and so much more! Please sign up to help online through your volunteer profile at [www.sacpetsearch.com](http://www.sacpetsearch.com)!



## December Shelter Stats:

Cats Adopted - 153  
Cats to Rescue - 18  
Returned to Owner - 3  
Dogs Adopted - 190  
Dogs to Rescue - 37  
Returned to Owner - 80  
Volunteer Hours - 1,565  
November Spay/Neuters: 227 (132 cats & 95 dogs!)

Calls received by the City - 3,789

Guess how many dishes volunteers washed in December??? - you'll find the answer somewhere in this newsletter!



## Adoption Counseling Tidbits

Adoptions are the reason we all volunteer! We want all of our furry friends to find their fur-ever homes. Here are some tidbits to help keep everyone on the same page when helping with adoption counseling:

- ◆ *Only put holds on animals until 2:30 the following day. Please don't put an "End of Day" hold on an adoptable animal unless there are special circumstances. If the hold is only til 2:30, then the new potential adopters have the opportunity to meet the animal, and the animal has the opportunity to find their home!*
- ◆ *Rescue Stamp on a kennel card takes priority over a potential adopter. If someone wants to look at an animal slated to go to rescue, check with an ACT - they can look up in the computer to find out whether or not this animal can be pulled off of the Rescue and be adopted out, or whether the Rescue commitment is firm.*
- ◆ *Kitten room - Kittens in the kitten room are not available for adoption unless an ACT specifically directs you to take potential adopters there. The ACT will post a sign and instruct volunteers on which kittens are available, should the need arise.*



## Recommended Reading: "Do Over Dogs"

**Book:** *Do Over Dogs: Give Your Dog a Second Chance for a First Class Life*, A Dogwise Training Manual by Pat Miller, CPDT-KA CDBC, Dogwise Publishing, Wenatchee, WA. ISBN # 978-192924269-6. Retail: \$17.95. Amazon.com price: \$9.45.

### **Review:**

Do you love dogs? Do you volunteer with the Front Street shelter dogs or counsel potential adoptees? Do you have a dog at home whose behavior could be improved? Then you may want to read Pat Miller's book *Do Over Dogs: Give Your Dog a Second Chance for a First Class Life*.

A "Do-Over Dog" is a dog in need of training and/or behavior modification. Shelter, rescue, and stray dogs are likely candidates but there are many dogs living with families who could use a little help too.

Pat Miller, a professional dog trainer and animal behaviorist, provides practical advice and positive training tips to help "Do-Over Dogs" begin again. Below are a few of the topics discussed in her highly regarded book.

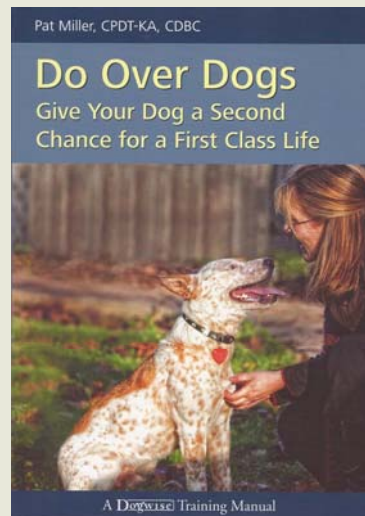
- How to assess and anticipate dog behavior and training needs.
- Ways to teach new behaviors and establish good habits during the "Honeymoon Period."
- Solutions to problem behaviors such as fear, resource guarding and separation anxiety.

Using positive training and common sense management techniques to bring out the best in a dog.

At Amazon.com reviewers consistently give this book five stars. One reviewer suggests "Buy 3 – donate 2 to your local shelter or rescue group!!" Another remarks that it's "A great resource for all dog owners."

So...if you are looking for an easy-to-read, practical book to help Front Street's "Do-Over Dogs" get their second chance for a first class life, be sure to check out Pat Miller's book. You and the dogs will be glad you did.

-Evelyn Dale, Front Street Shelter Volunteer



## Hot Jobs!

We have immediate need for volunteers in the following areas:

- ◆ **Office assistance:** We have a variety of projects awaiting volunteer help, including entering Vet/Rabies information, updating filing, organizing supplies, and updating rescue group files.
- ◆ **Offsite adoption events coordinator:** We need a program leader who is interested in coordinating our offsite adoption events. This would include scheduling the events at the sites, coordinating with Janice to ensure the opportunities are posted for sign ups, coordinating with ACT staff to get the animals organized and ready to go, and ensuring all paperwork is correct. We could, theoretically have an adoption event every weekend if we had someone to coordinate this! If you are interested, please contact Janice directly at [jwagaman@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:jwagaman@cityofsacramento.org).



- ◆ **Volunteer Rescue Network:** In coordination with Sacramento County Animal Care, we are launching a new Rescue Network for volunteers to help get our at-risk animals out to regional rescue groups. If you are interested in helping with this project, please attend the training session on Wednesday, January 23rd at 4:00pm.

Join the team and help us get these Hot Jobs filled!

## Volunteer Website & Forum

**Coming Soon:** The Front Street Volunteer Program has a new website with resources & a discussion forum. You will be able to access this from the [www.sacpetsearch.com](http://www.sacpetsearch.com) page. Click on the Volunteer tab on the left, then click on the Front Street Shelter Volunteers button on the right (launching soon!) You can also access this directly at [www.frontstreetvolunteers.weebly.com](http://www.frontstreetvolunteers.weebly.com).

Use this page to access resources like past newsletter issues, the volunteer handbook & forms, and a brand new volunteer FORUM! The Forum is a place where you can discuss issues, ideas, questions, and more with the volunteer team. You can post interest in having a mentor and connect with more experienced volunteers. You can meet up with other volunteers and get to know each other as a team.



## MyVolunteerPage is mobile!

The Front Street Animal Shelter is proud to announce that our volunteer system can be accessed from your smart phone! You can check your schedule, sign up for upcoming shifts or trainings, and log your hours all from your mobile device. It's easy! On your mobile device:

- ◆ Go to [myvolunteerpagemobi.com](http://myvolunteerpagemobi.com),
- ◆ Enter your Username & Password
- ◆ Touch Login

Go mobile with us! Don't forget, if you use the timeclock option - to clock out when you leave!

| Button          | What you can do  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Home</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See what your next assignment is</li> <li>- See if you have assignments to confirm</li> <li>- Add your scheduled assignments to your device's calendar</li> <li>- View hours previously logged</li> <li>- Stop a running timeclock</li> <li>- See any news from organizations to which you belong</li> <li>- Log out</li> <li>- Leave the mobile site and go to the main MyVolunteerPage website</li> </ul> |
| <b>Sign Up</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sign up for activities</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Schedule</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- View your assignments</li> <li>- Confirm your assignments</li> <li>- Add your scheduled assignments to your device's calendar</li> <li>- Start the timeclock</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Hours</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Log your hours worked</li> <li>- View hours previously logged</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Contact</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Call your administrator</li> <li>- Email your administrator</li> <li>- View a map of the organization's location</li> </ul>   |

**VOLUNTEER Login**

Username:

Password:

Powered by [myVolunteerPage.COM](http://myVolunteerPage.COM)

Welcome to myVolunteerPage.com

Hello Andrew Foster

i You're on the schedule today.

! You have shifts to confirm.

**Hours:**

This Week: 0.00  
This Month: 0.00  
This Year: 14.90

Ju Ju Au Se Oc No De Ja Fe Ma Ap Ma

[Home](#)
[Sign Up](#)
[Schedule](#)
[Hours](#)
[Contact](#)



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

Meet Nikki Barnett, Animal Care Technician extraordinaire! Nikki has been working with the City Animal Care Services since 2001.

## Meet the Staff: Nikki Barnett

*Animal Care Technician extraordinaire!*

She has an interesting and varied background prior to becoming a great ACT: she's worked at a radio station, an Old Sacramento print gallery, and then attended school to be an RVT. She has worked at Yolo SPCA and for private practice veterinarians.

Her dream has been to work with big cats, but she gets her cat fix here with our little ones! She also volunteers at the Barry R. Kerchner Wildlife Rehab and gets

to play with big cats like snow leopards there!

One important thing to remember: **Wash your hands!**

What does she like best about her job? The cats! What would she change if she could? Decrease the number of animals coming into the shelter so that more time can be spent on the animals here to get them out to good homes.

When not here at the Front Street Shelter, you will most likely find her at home with her boyfriend, 2 dogs, 4 cats, a dove, & ball python!

Thanks for your hard work Nikki!



### Keys for Success

Here are some helpful hints for smooth volunteering at the Shelter:

- ◆ *Help prevent the spread of "Kitty Cold" by sanitizing your hands between each cat!*
- ◆ *Don't forget to log your hours on the online volunteer system - every hour counts!!*
- ◆ *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

What do you think about the new Adoption Signs in the cattery? Is there anything you would like to see added to them? **Let us know what you want!**

Look for changes coming to the bulletin board in the cattery soon. We are in the process of making this a more usable information station for all things cattery related.

Cat kennel notes coming soon! You voted - we listened! The vote for a large white board to make kennel notes won. We will be ordering that, so look for it soon. We will also have a note box for our ACT's where you can let them know concerns about particular cats. All coming soon!

Don't forget to sanitize your hands between cats to prevent the spread of "Kitty colds!"



## Volunteer Spotlight:

**Meet Vicki Oberg!** Vicki has been volunteering with the City of Sacramento Animal Care Services since May of 2006. She has done an extraordinary job developing our Shelter Teen Program. Every Saturday from 1-3 you will find her here engaging our wonderful youth volunteers in a variety of projects.

Just a few of the projects accomplished by Vicki and our Teens include:

- ◆ Photo collages
- ◆ Bulletin Boards
- ◆ Scanning files
- ◆ Assembling dog beds
- ◆ Titanic's Pantry

Vicki not only manages the Teen Program here at

City, but is instrumental in developing a similar program at the County facility. In addition to the Teen Program, Vicki is an accomplished Adoption Counselor. In fact, you will frequently see her juggling both jobs at once - and doing a marvelous job of it! **Thank you Vicki for all of your hard work!**

If you are interested in helping out in the Shelter Teen Program, please call Janice at 916-808-8166. We would love to have someone help Vicki out on Saturdays as well as help expand the program to Sundays.



## CALENDAR JANUARY



- ◆ **Volunteer Orientations:**
  - ◆ Wed. 1/16 5:30pm
  - ◆ Thurs. 2/7 5:30pm
- ◆ **Shelter 101:**
  - ◆ 1/19 or 1/20 8:30-10:30am
  - ◆ 2/9 or 2/10 8:30-10:30am
- ◆ **Cattery Class:**
  - ◆ Sat. 1/19 10:30 am
- ◆ **Bully Breeds Class:**
  - ◆ Sat. 1/12 9:30 am
- ◆ **Rescue Network Class:**
  - ◆ Wed. 1/23 4:00pm
- ◆ **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:**
  - ◆ Sat. 1/19 Petco Unleashed Cat Adoptions
  - ◆ Sat. 2/2 - Cal. Auto Museum for Museum Day
- ◆ **Special Events:**
  - ◆ **Volunteer Meeting 1/17** (Every third Thursday of the month!)

### Wish List

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

- ◆ 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!

*Our volunteers recorded washing 4,186 dishes in December - way to go!*