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City of  
**SACRAMENTO**  
Front Street Animal Shelter

January 2015

# Volunteers

## *focus*

TEAM FRONT STREET: WORKING TOGETHER  
TO SAVE LIVES!

## Million Cat Challenge!

Front Street Animal Shelter is super excited to be participating in the Million Cat Challenge this year!! The Million Cat Challenge is a shelter-based campaign to save the lives of one million cats in North America over the next five years. The core strategy of the campaign will focus on five key initiatives that offer every shelter, in every community, practical choices to reduce euthanasia and increase live outcomes for shelter cats.

This life-saving campaign is a joint project of the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program and the Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida, led by Drs. Kate Hurley and Julie Levy.

These five initiatives to save cats' lives were pioneered by shelters across North America. They offer choices for shelters of every size and type to balance intake, humane capacity within the shelter, and live release. Let's make 2015 the Year of the Cat!



### Alternatives to intake:

Provide positive alternatives to keep cats in the home or community when admission to a shelter is not the best choice



### Managed admission:

Schedule intake of cats to match the shelter's ability to assure humane care and safe movement through the shelter system to an appropriate outcome for every cat.



### Capacity for care:

Match the number of cats cared for at any one time with the capacity required to assure the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare for all cats in the shelter



### Removing barriers to adoption:

Expand the pool of adopters by removing barriers to adoption such as cost, process, or location



### Return-to-field:

Sterilize, vaccinate, and return healthy un-owned shelter cats to the location of origin as an alternative to euthanasia

## Shelter Stats:

	Nov 2014	Nov 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2013
Cats Adopted	171	132	222	127
Cats to Rescue or Transfer	1	23	14	31
Cats Returned to Owner	7	5	4	7
Dogs Adopted	138	153	167	140
Dogs to Rescue or Transfer	34	32	101	106
Dogs Returned to Owner	86	75	89	79
# of Volunteers who logged hours	291	200	248	172
Volunteer Hours	4360	2629	3764	2359



## Let's Keep Our Shelter Clean!

We want a clean, shiny, well-organized shelter—and we need your help to make it happen!

Please take a look around you before you leave each day to find something that you can clean or organize to make our shelter a better place.



## Happy Birthday!!

You may have noticed that I haven't been able to send out birthday cards the past few months. As much as I enjoy that, I simply have not been able to keep up! So I want to give a great big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all of the wonderful volunteers who are celebrating January birthdays!

Narisa Bodhiprasart 1/25

Susan Boonthai 1/4

Missy Boyd 1/13

Julia Brady 1/30

Marilyn Clark 1/19

Peggy Coppin 1/11

Elizabeth Dom 1/25

Suzanne Dong 1/14

Estella Drake 1/2

Kate Eulberg 1/29

Breanna Fernandez 1/23

Jeanie Harrison 1/31

Suzanne Johnson 1/21

Samie Lebastchi 1/22

Cori Moore 1/19

Pauline Ng 1/13

Linda Oliver 1/26

Alyssa Olvera 1/9

Amanda Osterhout 1/18

Ashley Schwegerl 1/14

Sarah Sipsy 1/23

Alyssa Virgil 1/20

Rebeka Wittenberg 1/14

NiYondashay Wright 1/24

*Happy Birthday to all! May you have a wonderful day celebrating YOU!*



# Happy Beginnings—Tails of True Love!

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



Where's Waldo? He's at his forever home after 5 long months at Front Street!



Jake the pup finds a new home!



Ms Gina found a home! Who says senior cats aren't adoptable?

*Thank you Team Front Street for helping these - and hundreds more - find their home!*

## The Importance of Signing Up!

I know you've heard this before, but I really wanted to start 2015 off with a clear understanding of why we need you to sign up for the shifts that you work. Every morning Chief Dan pulls up the schedule of all of the volunteers who have signed up to come in and help at the shelter that day. Our staff really need to know who is coming in and how much help they have in the different areas.

If we don't have enough help on the schedule, then our staff find it difficult to do anything beyond the basics of their jobs—especially when we are short-staffed. That means that Behavior Evaluations and Behavior Modification, and other important life-saving tasks get put on hold because the staff have to concentrate on the basic care for our animals.

Likewise, when you sign up for a shift, but don't show up, that impacts our staff even more!! We look at the schedule and make staff assignments based on who has signed up for what. When volunteers don't show up for their shifts, then the staff end up behind in cleaning as they were counting on help that they didn't receive.

Let's make 2015 the best year ever! Here's what you can do to help:

- ◆ Commit to signing up for every shift
- ◆ Remove yourself from the schedule if you know in advance that you won't be able to volunteer that day
- ◆ If you can't remove yourself from the schedule before 6:00am the day of, please call the **Shelter Supervisor 916-215-4254** to let them know you won't be coming in that day.

# New Behavior Evaluations And color-codes for our dogs!

This past November the Front Street Animal Shelter had the privilege of hosting a shelter animal behavior seminar by renowned behaviorist Kelley Bollen. Many of our staff and volunteers were able to attend. We learned a lot about ways that we can reduce shelter stress and save lives - and what behaviors to look for that would indicate an animal is not safe for adoption. Ms. Bollen visited the shelter after her seminar and consulted with Gina on ways that we can improve. One of her suggestions has already been implemented: new behavior evaluation process and coding for dogs. You may have seen them in the kennels already. Here's what it's all about!

## THE COLORS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

There are 4 different colors: Blue, Yellow, Green and Purple

### BLUE

Blue dogs are dogs that can be placed in just about any home. During their behavior evaluation they presented as very social, tolerant of all the handling, exhibited no signs of resource guarding with their food bowl or possessions, were not overly aroused in play, and were friendly or at least calmly tolerant of other dogs. Additionally, blue dogs have no issues of concern in their history. Blue dogs are the only dogs that can be placed in homes with children under the age of 6 years.

### YELLOW

Yellow dogs are shy, fearful, or undersocialized dogs. These dogs will need extra socialization and confidence building. They are dogs that we would not place with children under the age of 6 years because they may be a bit too nervous for the actions of young children. They may be fine in a home with children over the age of 6, but depending on the particular dog may do better with older children (in which case this will be indicated – i.e. 12+).

### GREEN

Green dogs are a bit on the exuberant side and will have greater exercise needs. They are typically dogs who have had little to no formal training and need some work in this department. Green dogs should not be in a home with children under 6 and may be too much for other young children. Green dogs are typically fine with other dogs, but may be a bit too playful for some. Green dogs will need an adopter dedicated to providing them with aerobic exercise and training.

### PURPLE

Purple dogs are the behavior modification dogs. These are the dogs for whom behaviors of concern have been identified and an in-house behavior modification program set up for them. They need to go to a home with an experienced dog owner who is willing to continue the behavior modification program. Purple dogs cannot go to a home with children under the age of 14 years. They may not be appropriate for currently childless couples that plan to start a family in the near future.



What's my color?

# I am a Proud Volunteer

By Cece Wagner



During six decades, I have had the honor of belonging to several groups. Some were by design, such as the Girl Scouts, dental organizations, and retired persons. Other groups were not so much chosen as “assigned.” The first one that comes to mind is female persons - and short female persons at that! (Hee hee) Regardless of circumstances, I have learned that any group with a stated purpose or goal will need to have a set of rules to guide diverse individuals towards success. And the majority of the members have a responsibility to honor those guidelines.

For example, the rules of the road were established to provide a measure of safety to the driving public. The majority of us follow those guidelines and we all know what can happen when someone doesn't. Sports teams do not wear the same jerseys to make a fashion statement. Being able to identify a team member is essential to reaching the common goal and succeeding. One of the most successful groups I can think of is the Marines and boy have they got rules and regs! Some only a Marine would know about. I put forward for your consideration that the element of pride - a strong belief in and support of the goal of the group - is essential.

## I AM A PROUD VOLUNTEER FOR THE FRONT STREET ANIMAL SHELTER!

One challenge in directing a large group of individuals is the dissemination of information. From driving tests to boot camp, team meetings to sign posts, there are means and methods to inform members of the group's guidelines. And if you have chosen (rather than been chosen) to join that group you may find unspoken or just common sense behaviors are also a part of being supportive. For example, honoring a blinking turn light allows someone to merge in front of you. And as a volunteer (a very special group with a goal of support) I can set my own hours and jobs, and only training classes are mandatory. But pride in my organization motivates me to stay informed. I read email whether they apply to me or not. I read the newsletter—a main source of group information. I read the signs in the volunteer cubicle. And speaking of the volunteer space, it is pride that motivates me to throw out the cups of cold coffee, cans of soda, and loose flotsam and jetsam that seems to accumulate so quickly. It sometimes makes me ask—*where is the pride?*



## Cat Show Shout-Out

Congratulations to Joyce Thompson-Pierce, our Feline Outreach Coordinator for organizing a great cat show for our shelter cats this month. Front Street has attended several cat shows over the past two years and we have become a staple at The International Cat Association's "Jazzy Cat" Cat Show. Two of our shelter cats have gone on to become international cat show champions! Thank you Joyce!

The results from this year's cat show? 28 cats adopted and more than \$1,700 raised for the shelter.

What a great start to the Year of the CAT!

# Meet the Staff:

## Shari Crum

*Outreach Coordinator extraordinaire!*

Meet Outreach Coordinator extraordinaire, Shari Crum!

How long have you worked at Front Street? 2 years (and a couple of months)

What did you do before you came here? I was a merchandiser for a sales & marketing firm

Where did you go to school? Sacramento City College

What do you like to do when not at the shelter? Having lunch or dinner with family/friends, I also like spending time with my dogs and shopping at the mall without paying any attention to time :)

What is your favorite hobby? I enjoy gardening but I also like making tamales with my daughter.

Tell us about your family? I've been married to my best friend, Scot, for thirty-one years and we have two adult kids. Our daughter, Melanie, is a high school science teacher and will be getting married in June and we have a son, Tyler, he works for a car rental agency and will be moving to Los Angeles in the near future.

What kind of pets do you have? We have our two dogs we adopted from



Front Street, Ruby, 3 years old & Macie, a foster failure, 1 year old.

What have you liked best about your job? The ability to help people and animals connect through adoptions.

What would you change if you could? I would like to have multiple offsite dog adoption teams, stay tuned...**Thank you Shari for all of your hard work!!**

Because of YOU, our volunteers, we are able to get one more animal out to an offsite with the potential of being adopted, thank you, for without you this would not be possible!

Los Angeles in the near future.

## Volunteer Spotlight:

### Don Henkle

*I volunteer at Front Street because I enjoy it, but more so because I want to help all of our great animals find their forever homes!*

*Being a volunteer has given me the opportunity to become a more centered person. I firmly believe that giving back to those that cannot fend for themselves is really the best gift and most rewarding feeling that I have experienced. This team has taught me so much and the education I have received since volunteering here really is priceless (thank you ACT's ACO's, staff and my fellow volunteers).*

*There are so many area's to volunteer at and while I have done numerous trainings and classes I have focused my energy on our new volunteers and working with the Mentor Team. It is vital that we seasoned volunteers help our new volunteers. I know that seeing a volunteer grow and learn new area's (graduation so to speak) has been one of the most rewarding aspects of being a Mentor/Lead Volunteer. \*\*promotional plug - want more info on the Mentor Program? Let me know\*\**

*The other aspect that I have been involved in is our very own Access Sacramento TV Show called "Shelter Life" ( debuting in February—stay tuned!) Shelter Life is all about the "behind the scenes" aspects of what it takes to run and operate Front Street. I think that the best part of doing this show is the passion and dedication that comes through in each episode. Our first season will have 10 episodes!! Shelter Life is all about education and outreach.*

*Front Street is a special place. I am honored to be part of this team! Cheers!*



## CALENDAR



### ◆ Volunteer Orientations:

- ◆ 2nd & 3rd Wed. each month 5:30-7:30

### ◆ Shelter 101:

- ◆ Every Saturday at 8:30am

### ◆ Cattery Class:

- ◆ Sat. 1/17 at 10:00am

### ◆ Dog Training:

- ◆ Language of Dogs 1/19 & 2/1
- ◆ Dog Auto-sit 1/30
- ◆ Dog Handling—check the schedule!

### ◆ Special Training Classes:

- ◆ Bunny Class 2/8
- ◆ Cat Adoption Counseling 1/31
- ◆ Cat Foster Class 1/31
- ◆ Dog Foster Class 2/9
- ◆ Shelter Greeter 1/18
- ◆ Spay/Neuter Team 1/24

### ◆ Offsite Outreach Events:

- ◆ Every weekend! Sign up online!

### ◆ Special Opportunities:

- ◆ DOG Team meeting 1/28

## Wish List

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

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



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