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City of
SACRAMENTO
Front Street Animal Shelter

July 2014

Volunteers

focus



TEAM FRONT STREET: WORKING TOGETHER
TO SAVE LIVES!

Redemption Screening at Sierra II Center, Thursday, July 10th

Do you care about the many animals killed in America's shelters? Then join the Front Street Animal Shelter at the Sierra II Community Center theater on Thursday, July 10th for a special screening of Nathan Winograd's *Redemption*. Nathan is known as the "father" of the No-Kill movement in America. The doors open at 6:30pm and the film will start at 7:00pm. Nathan will be available in person for Q&A after the film.

Seating is limited - so hurry and get your tickets today! All proceeds will go to benefit the animals at the Front Street Shelter. Tickets are only \$10 and are selling quickly. This is a great way to support the shelter and learn more about the No-Kill movement in America. Get your ticket on our website www.sacpetsearch.com on the events tab. Don't miss out!



WORLD PREMIERE

A FILM BY NATHAN WINOGRAD

REDEMPTION

THE NO KILL REVOLUTION IN AMERICA

TICKETS NOW
AVAILABLE

ADMIT ONE

Thursday - July 10, 2014
Sierra II Center
Sacramento, CA



Put your money where your mouse is?

Vote for your favorites online at www.sacpetsearch.com. Each vote is \$1. Entered your photo? Be sure to tell your friends and families to vote for you!

Top vote-getters in each category wins a cash prize!

Fundraising helps us save lives, so your help directly affects the animals we save here at the Front Street Shelter - Thank you!



Front Street's Photo Fun Contest!

Win Prizes, Raise Awareness, Save Lives!

Entry Dates: June 1st - June 30th

Contest Dates: July 1st - July 31st

City of
SACRAMENTO
Front Street Animal Shelter



To Fluff or Deep-Clean?

Sometimes it can be very confusing to know the proper procedure on how to clean kennels here at the shelter. Have you ever experienced this: You come in one day and are shown how to clean the kennels. Then, the very next time you come in, someone shows you something different!

Well, you are not crazy! ...and neither are we! There are different procedures for cleaning the kennels on different days. We typically do deep-cleaning on Mondays and Tuesdays. Wednesday-Sunday, the procedure is a little different and the time is different. And to add more confusion, it can depend on the kennel building! Stray kennel is always disinfected inside and out, but the adoptable buildings can be sanitized on the outside and fluffed on the inside as needed. And then, of course, there are some differences between staff preferences on some of the details.

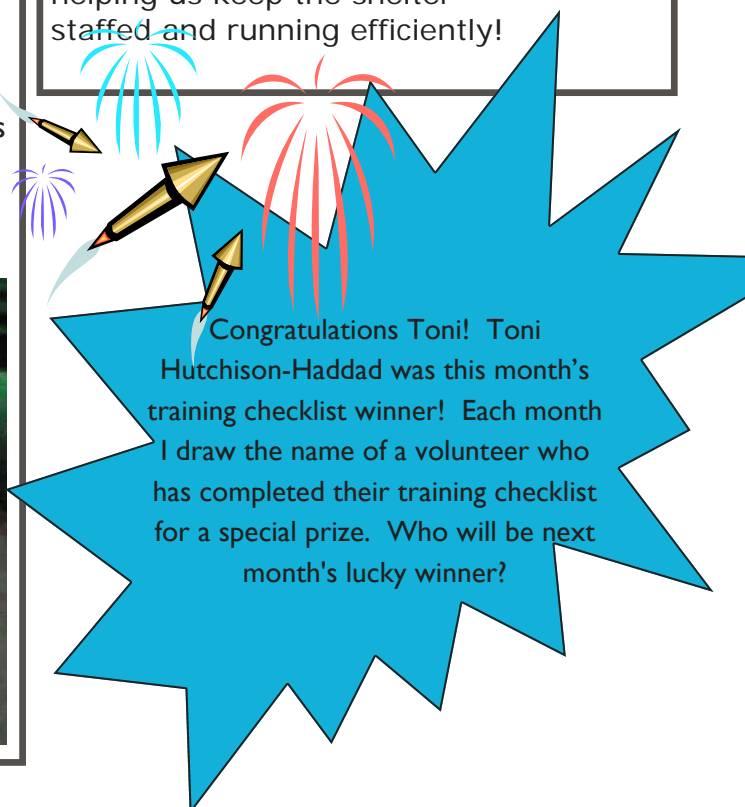
It can be very confusing, huh? Don't get discouraged! Always ask the ACT that you are working with exactly how they want things done on that day. That will help avoid your confusion and help avoid frustration as you are working one way and then asked to do something totally different. The bottom line is, the end result is clean kennels for our dogs (and cats & bunnies, too!) And that's what matters!

Thank you!!



New Sign In Sheets

You may have already noticed - we have started implementing the printed daily schedule of volunteers! This helps our staff and the volunteer team know who is scheduled to work. Please sign in next to your name - if the hours you work are different than the hours you are scheduled for, please note the difference. Also, if you sign up for more than one shift or activity, your name will show up in different places on the schedule. It is only necessary for you to sign in once! Many thanks for helping us keep the shelter staffed and running efficiently!



Congratulations Toni! Toni Hutchison-Haddad was this month's training checklist winner! Each month I draw the name of a volunteer who has completed their training checklist for a special prize. Who will be next month's lucky winner?

Happy Beginnings—Tails of True Love!

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

A few months ago Manny's dog sibling had to be put down. Knowing how much Manny (dog on the right) missed his old pal; the Bost family drove from Roseville to add a pup to their pack. They arrived with a long list of candidates but really fell hard for sweet Bella! She is now home with her new family and even got a nice grooming before the holiday. - Life is Good on Front Street! xoxo



After coming home from the shelter Sadie really came into her own. She is a quirky little pup who likes being chased by other dogs, walks, and long naps. Once I got her home she was almost instantaneously potty trained and has improved her manners through her SPCA obedience class. Sadie has brought me so much joy and has really changed my life in the last three months. Now I can't even imagine my life without this lovable dog by my side.

My experience at the shelter:

I worked with a few rescues before coming to the shelter. To say my experience with the rescues was not good is an understatement. I thought I was being a good person- I wanted a dog and I knew there were homeless dogs out there that needed a home. Having been raised with shelter dogs I knew I wanted to rescue a dog instead of buy one. But all the rescues I worked with treated me almost like a terrorist. How on earth could I have a dog AND a job? "Oh you have a yard... that's good. But it's a SHARED yard? OMG NO!" Nothing I could do or say would make them consider me. So I came to the shelter. I was treated with a lot of respect and got to visit with three dogs before I knew I wanted Sadie. The process was painless and the counselor was really helpful on going over the dogs history and some beneficial training that could help them. It was nice to work with people who understand that I can be a good dog owner even if I don't own my own home and still work 40 hours a week. Such a breath of fresh air compared to the rescue experience.

Between my bond with Sadie and my experience at the shelter it has motivated me to become a volunteer for the shelter myself! I'd love to do my part to make sure as many dogs find their new homes as possible. Thanks Front Street for a great experience and an even more amazing dog!



Shelter Stats:

	June 2014	June 2013
Cats Adopted	163	106
Cats to Rescue or Transfer	45	65
Cats Returned to Owner	5	2
Dogs Adopted	156	101
Dogs to Rescue or Transfer	45	71
Dogs Returned to Owner	86	77
# of Volunteers who logged hours	256	190
Volunteer Hours	4118	3360



Key Crisis!

We have had several days lately where we did not have enough volunteer keys to efficiently do our work. **PLEASE** return the shelter keys before you leave!!

Here are some **KEY** concepts:

- ◆ The Quarantine (Heart) Keys are now located in Janice's office
- ◆ Only Shelter Greeters should need the Quarantine Keys - for those of you who have been using them for dog training, the back of the M building is being re-keyed to the regular Blue Bone keys

If you have inadvertently taken the keys home—please return them ASAP. Thank you!!



Is Black the New White?

Dr. Emily Weiss discusses some colorful data results.

I was talking with a reporter the other day and she asked why the belief that black dogs and cats are less likely to be adopted is so strong. Personally I think it comes from two things – one is human behavior, and the other is perception based on total numbers of animals entering a shelter.

Human behavior. There is a concept called "backfire" that I first learned about from the ASPCA's ever curious [Dr. Stephen Zawistowski](#). The essential idea is that sometimes facts counter to beliefs do not change minds, but instead cause folks to hold harder to their beliefs. We tend to grip hard to myths, and sometimes when our beliefs are challenged by data, we grip even harder. There was a nifty article in the *Boston Globe* a while back on the subject and the author summarized as such: "Facts don't necessarily have the power to change our minds. In fact, quite the opposite. In a series of studies in 2005 and 2006, researchers at the University of Michigan found that when misinformed people, particularly political partisans, were exposed to corrected facts in news stories, they rarely changed their minds. In fact, they often became even more strongly set in their beliefs. Facts, they found, were not curing misinformation. Like an underpowered antibiotic, facts could actually make misinformation even stronger."

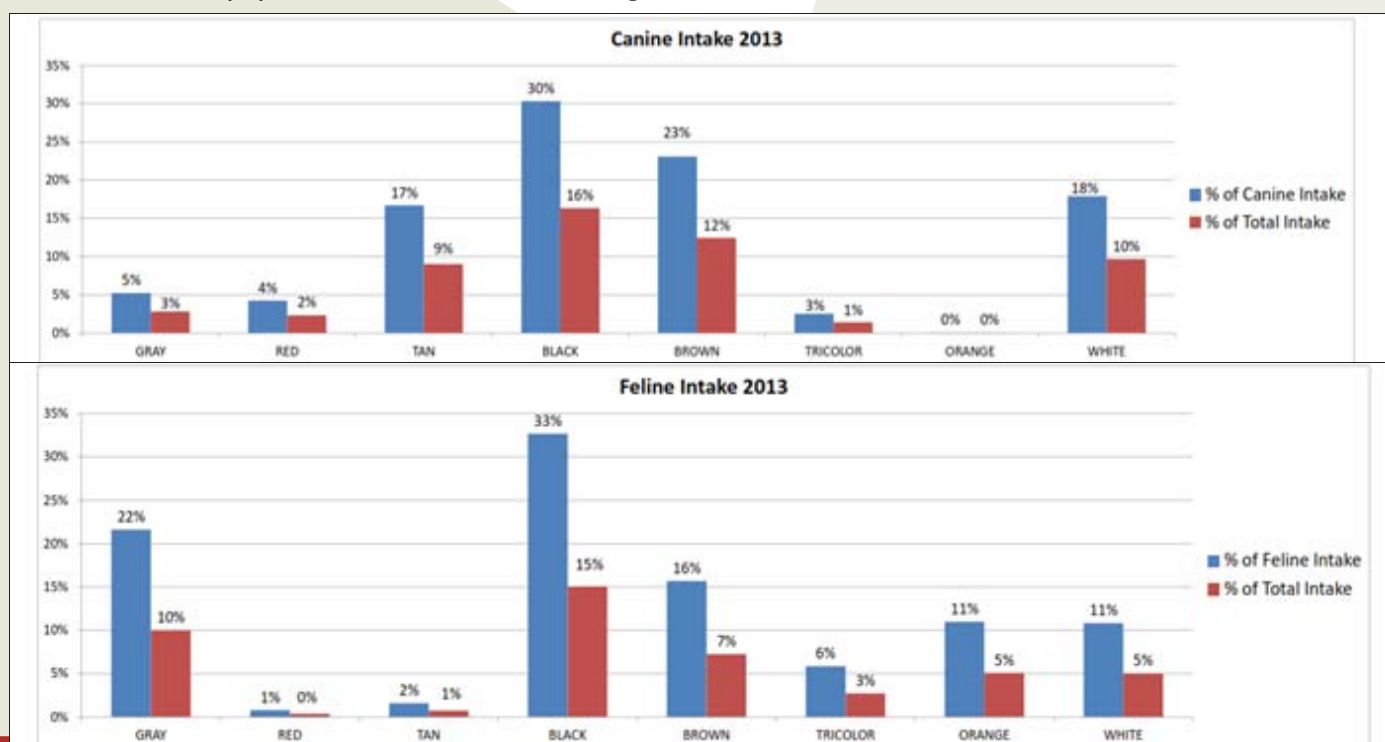
The research on backfire has focused mostly on politics and polarizing topics. Our field has polarizing topics and strong beliefs – such as free cats, gift adoptions and, yes, the belief that black animals are less desired.

Total numbers. The second reason I think keeping the myth alive is one we have hypothesized for a while – could it be that there are simply more black dogs and cats entering the system, making it *appear* that they are more at risk? Let's say 4 black dogs and one white dog enter the shelter, and the next day 1 white dog and 1 black dog are adopted – that leaves just three black dogs in kennels, shifting a perception of risk. However, the same number of black and white dogs were adopted!

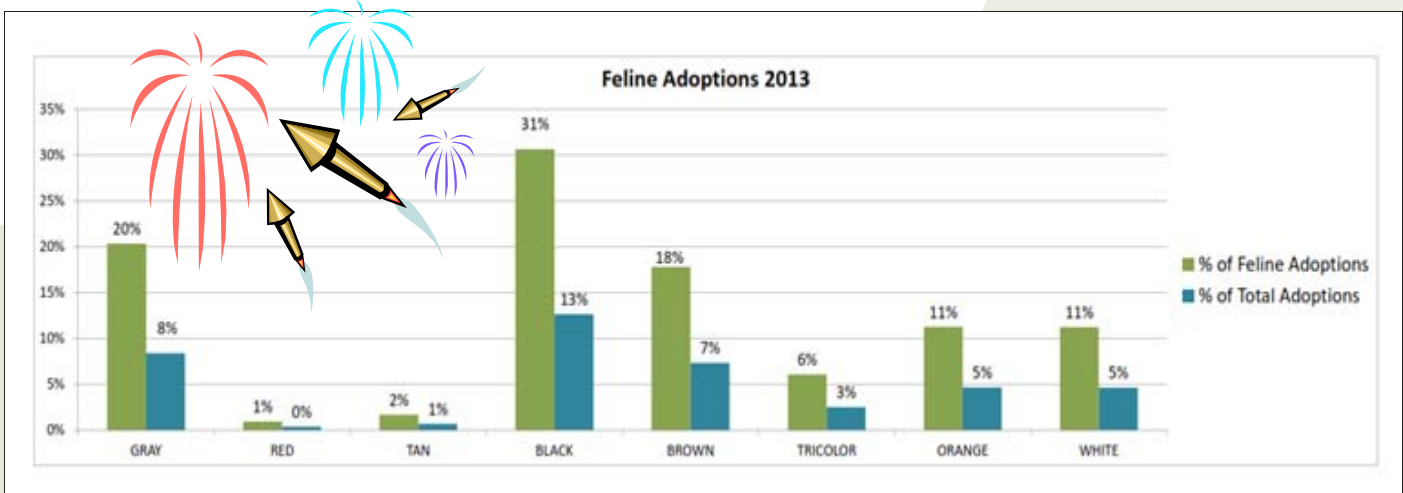
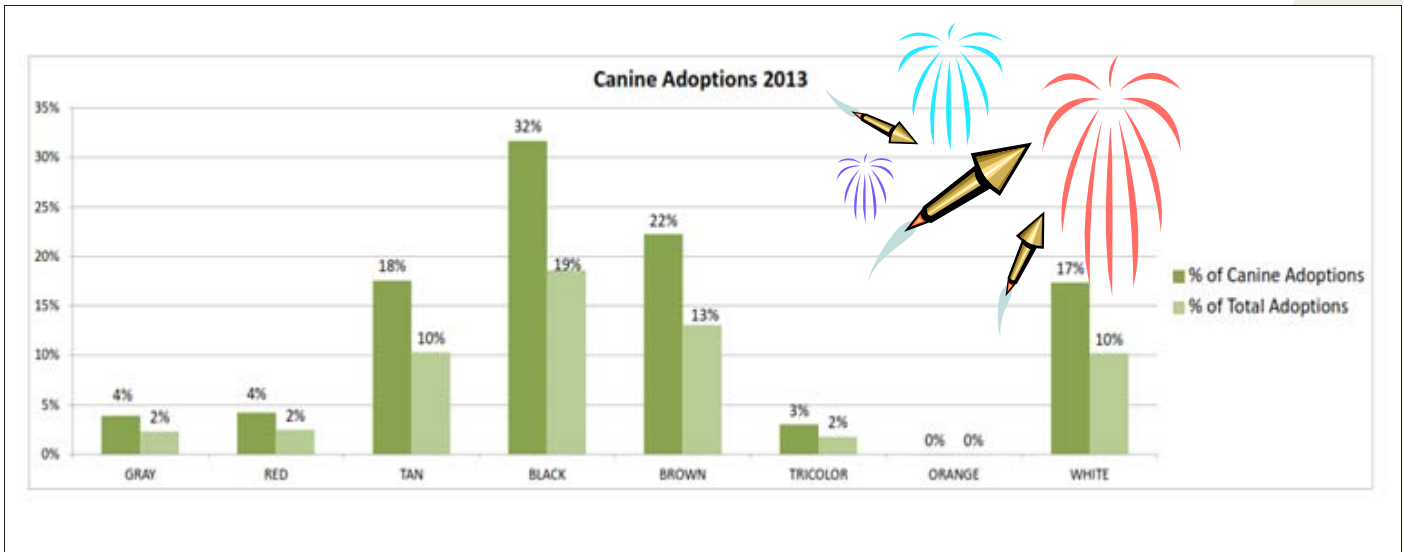
Black dogs and cats – the chatter around the risk factors for these ebony cuties continues even as the [evidence debunking the myth increases](#). I could not resist the opportunity to dig in with another view – our Comprehensive Animal Risk Database (CARDS) that allows us to delve into individual animal data.

With a sample of the CARDS data, we are able to explore this a bit more. We combined the data from 14 communities that partner with us to look at the risk for black dogs and cats vs. other colors. Almost 300,000 dogs and cats make up this data set, making for a rich sample.

As we dug in, what was most striking was the intake percentage. Just take a quick peek at the charts below and you can see that black is a popular color, and more black dogs and cats come in than other colors.



You will see this pattern continue when we look at adoptions. A higher percentage of black dogs and cats are adopted than any other color – for dogs, 10% more black dogs are adopted than the next highest color – brown dogs at 22%. And the difference is about the same for cats (other than gray being the next highest color adopted in cats).



And – as more are coming in, while more are being adopted, the ratio of adoptions still means that more black dogs and cats are being euthanized. While more black dogs are euthanized, the euthanasia rate (euthanasia/intake for that color group) is higher for the next largest intake color – brown dogs (25%) than it is for black dogs (21%). Also of great interest is that the euthanasia rate for white dogs is quite similar to the black dog euthanasia rate at 19%.

Black cat euthanasia rate is a bit higher than the others at 30%, with gray cats being the next highest at 28%. White cats do not fare much better at 26% euthanasia rate.

So first – some good news for those of you doing black dog and cat promotions – no need to stop just because we bust the myth that people do not want black dogs and cats. With more of them coming in, there's no reason not to promote even more going out! However, this data, along with the [research I have shared in the past](#) should help curb the message that black dogs and cats are less likely to be adopted – as, at least in many places, it simply is not true.

Swinging back to backfire, I understand some of you will read this and say that this is just not the case for you – and I will respectfully ask you to look at the data with an open mind and heart – as I think it may really be time to put this puppy to bed.

Written by Dr. Emily Weiss, reprinted from the article published on June 24, 2014 in ASPCApro News.

Meet the Staff:

Peter Martin

Animal Care Technician extraordinaire!

Meet Animal Care Technician extraordinaire, Peter Martin - AKA Martin!

How long have you worked at Front Street? 14 years

What did you do before you came here? I worked for Florin Center Pet Hospital as an Animal Health Tech for 16 years

Where did you go to school? Hiram Johnson HS & Cosumnes River College

What do you like to do when not at the shelter? I enjoy hanging out at home, Direct TV, and door to door ministry for my

Jehovah's Witness church

What is your favorite hobby? Fishing! Bass & Salmon, but really, any fish will do!

Tell us about your family? My beautiful wife works for the State, we have three kids, our oldest daughter is

adopted. We have 6 grandkids. I also have one brother (my fishing buddy) and 4 sisters!

What kind of pets do you

have? All the shelter animals!

What have you liked best



about your job? Seeing animals get home or find their perfect adopted home

What would you change if you could? I wish we had twice as many staff & volunteers!

Thank you Martin for all of your hard work!!

I really appreciate all of the efforts our volunteers put in - you really make a huge difference!

CALENDAR



Volunteer Orientations:

- ◆ 2nd & 3rd Wed. each month

Shelter I01:

- ◆ Every Saturday at 8:30am

Cattery Class:

- ◆ Sat. 7/19 at 10:00am

Dog Training:

- ◆ Language of Dogs 7/26&7/31
- ◆ Dog Auto-sit 7/8&7/24
- ◆ FAS DOG meeting 7/30
- ◆ Dog Training starts in August

Special Training Classes:

- ◆ Cat Foster Class 7/12
- ◆ Mentor Training 7/18
- ◆ Shelter Greeter 7/13

Offsite Outreach Events:

- ◆ Every weekend! Sign up online!

Special Opportunities:

- ◆ Shelter Life Production Meeting 7/11 & 7/25

Volunteer Spotlight:

Kirsten Dubray

Meet Kirsten DuBray! "I have been a volunteer at Front Street for five years. I signed up with my son who at the time was in high school and had to find an organization to fulfill community service hours. Animal rescue was an easy choice for me because I was raised with fostering, volunteering, rescuing and giving money to animal organizations in the San Diego area. My parents have passed on, but perhaps one of their best legacies is instilling in me my immense love for animals. In the last two years, I have been most active the fundraising team working on events like Pups in the Park and Paws to Party. This year I am in charge of the silent auction. Fundraising work is even harder than cleaning kennels, but the team is made up of some really awesome people who all work really hard on behalf of the shelter. As an admitted organization freak, over the years I have taken most of the classes and have done everything from scrubbing the employee break room on National Volunteer Day to reorganizing and cleaning Titanic's Pantry. I have to admit that one of my favorite things to do is to clean the rabbit cages because it is nice and quiet in the room and it is fun spending a few minutes with the bunnies feeding them treats! Front Street is such a great place to volunteer with amazing staff and management that put life-saving first and that is why I feel proud to be part of an effort that truly makes a difference."



Wish List

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

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

facebook

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