

In this issue:

- ◆ March Madness
- ◆ Volunteer Party
- ◆ Citizen's Advisory Committee
- ◆ Offsite Adoption Events
- ◆ Shelter Blog
- ◆ Recommended Reading
- ◆ Happy Endings
- ◆ Meet the Staff
- ◆ Cattery Corner
- ◆ Volunteer Spotlight



March 2013

Volunteer *focus*

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



We truly are "Mad as a March Hare" here at the Front Street Animal Shelter! To celebrate March-ness, we are having some mad fun with adoptions. From now through the end of March, every adopter gets to take three shots - with a basketball that is! For each basket made, we take \$10 off of the adoption fees. Please note, this does not apply to the Feline Fridays!

We will be closed to the public on Easter Sunday, March 31st. We will, however, still need help taking care of our animals. If you are able to volunteer that day, we will be most grateful for your help!



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 any donations that are in the Reception or Administration buildings
- ◆ **Bag dog food!! We can never have too many prepared bags of food for our pet food pantry!**
- ◆ Clean the Behavior Evaluation Trailer
- ◆ Clean the counters, cupboards, doors & sinks in the admin building
- ◆ Clean the break room

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



LET'S PARTY
OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE
AWESOME!

You are invited to the
Front St Volunteer Bash
April 29, 2013 6:00pm
at the Auto Museum

Celebrate our Volunteer Team at the First Annual Volunteer Bash!

You and your family (all volunteers and staff members) are invited to the first annual Front Street Volunteer Bash! Join us at the California Auto Museum on Monday, April 29th from 6-9 pm for an evening of food, fun, and celebration. This is an informal party, so come as you are - just come prepared to have fun! We will be grilling some hot dogs - you bring the side dishes and salad! Also, please BYOB (bring your own beverages - soda, wine, and beer are all welcome, but only those over 21 can drink the booze!) There will be raffle prizes & volunteer awards, so don't miss out on the fun!

Please RSVP to the email invitation you received or at the event website <http://event.pingg.com/FrontStreetBash>. We need your RSVP by April 20th so we know how many hot dogs to buy!



February Shelter Stats:

- ◆ Cats Adopted - 77
- ◆ Cats to Rescue or Transfer - 15
- ◆ Cats Returned to Owner - 5
- ◆ Dogs Adopted - 105
- ◆ Dogs to Rescue / Transfer - 83
- ◆ Returned to Owner - 54
- ◆ # of Volunteers who logged hours - 152
- ◆ Volunteer Hours - 1,877
- ◆ Calls received by the City - 3,714
- ◆ Guess how many bags of pet food volunteers processed in February??? - you'll find the answer somewhere in this newsletter!



Doggy Do's and Don'ts

Requests from the shelter staff:

- ◆ Please remember to re-kennel the dogs in the correct kennel after training sessions! We have had dogs put back in the wrong kennel recently, so please be very careful.
- ◆ Please give single-kenneled dogs enriching toys that are size appropriate. We have a good supply of small Kongs in the laundry shed for small dogs. Fill them with tasty layers of treats for dog fun! Multiple-kenneled dogs should not be given toys to avoid fights!
- ◆ Please keep the clipboards neat and organized - Hang at eye level across the kennels and clip the kennel card to the clipboard.
- ◆ **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!**



Meet the Citizen's Advisory Committee!

We are a committee of 7 members (currently 6 sitting members) whose purpose is to provide advisory recommendations to the mayor and city council about issues that affect the quality of care for the animals at the Front Street Shelter and to act on behalf of the community in matters related to the city's animal care services. The committee is comprised of individuals who have varying degrees of expertise with animals, from veterinarians or vet techs, those involved in animal rescue organizations, to lay people representing the community at large.

We meet monthly in a public forum, at the Front Street Shelter, to discuss matters pertaining to animal care services, which can include animals at the shelter, animal control officers, feral cat colonies, spay and neutering, animal licensing, the care or lack of care of animals in the community, and the like. These meetings are open to the public and the public is welcome to address any issues or concerns with the committee at these meetings. The upcoming meeting agenda, as well as minutes from previous meetings, can be found on the Animal Care Services website: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/generalservices/animal-care/citizens-advisory.cfm>

Over the past year, there have been great strides made in increasing the number of animals that find homes, and in reducing the number of animals that come to the shelter in the first place. We want to help ensure that this positive trend continues! None of this would be possible without the amazing dedication from staff and volunteers, those that spend their time in the front lines. Therefore, we want to hear from you, what things you have seen that have improved conditions for the animals at the shelter, and most importantly, what ideas and suggestions you have that could further benefit the animals.

We welcome you to attend our monthly meetings, which are held the last Wednesday of the month from 6-8pm. In addition, if you are unable to attend the meeting, or wish to contact the committee directly, you can send an email to: acscac@cityofsacramento.org.

Again, thank you for all that you do and we look forward to hearing from you as we all work together to continue the amazing transformation of the animal care services provided through the Front Street Shelter!

Best,
Jen Pokorny, Chair
Stephen Cital, Vice Chair
Dawn Capp
Kathleen Garcia
Moira Monahan

Fall in Love Adoption Event

Love was in the air at the offsite adoption event at Pet Extreme last month. Our dogs were dressed in their Sunday best and turned on their charm. Equipped with treats and snuggly blankets, volunteers enjoyed spending time with the pups and a good time was had by all.

Lola won the hearts of a sweet pug and her caregiver, and was adopted that day. Dolly P. was treated like the star that she is and received a bath at Pet Extreme's pet wash station. Jes, a volunteer favorite, had so much fun wiggling and wagging every time she met someone. By the end of the day, she needed a nap.

With your support, we are hoping to participate in monthly offsite adoption events at Pet Extreme, PetSmart and Unleashed by Petco. Are you interested in helping with offsite events? Have you completed Dog Training II? Then sign up for the offsite events via your MyVolunteerPage profile! -*Esperanza Zuniga, volunteer*



Offsite Adoption Events

Offsite adoption events are a fun way to get the word out about our shelter, our amazing animals available for adoption, and the many programs and services we provide to the community. This is a great way to help out and have fun too!! Thanks to the efforts of our new volunteer Outreach Program Leader, Shari Crum, we have many opportunities to be out in the community over the next few months. **But we need your help!! Sign up online for any of these events:**

- ◆ **Saturday, March 23rd** 10:00-2:00 PetSmart Adoption Event (PetSmart on Truxel)
- ◆ **Monday, March 25th** 5:00-8:00 pm Sacto MoFo Mobile Food Truck Adoption Event at Fair Oaks Park
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 27th** 5:00-8:00pm Sacto MoFo Mobile Food Truck Adoption Event at PetSmart at Watt & Arden
- ◆ **Thursday, March 28th** 5:00-8:00pm Sacto MoFo Mobile Food Truck Adoption Event at the Front Street Shelter/Auto Museum
- ◆ **Saturday, March 30th** 10:00-2:00 Pet Extreme Adoption Event (Sutterville & Freeport)
- ◆ **Saturday, April 6th** 11:00-2:00 PetSmart Adoption Event (PetSmart on Truxel)
- ◆ **Saturday, April 6th** 11:00-2:00 Pit Bull Event at the Robertson Community Center on Norwood Ave.)
- ◆ **Sunday, April 14th** 10:00-2:00 PetCo Unleashed (Florin & Greenhaven)
- ◆ **Thursday, April 18th** 8:00-2:00 Earth Day Celebration at City Hall
- ◆ **Sunday, April 21st** 11:00-4:00 Earth Day Celebration at Southside Park
- ◆ **Saturday, April 27th** 10:00-4:00 Pet-A-Palooza at Rusch Park
- ◆ **Saturday, April 27th** 10:00-2:00 Pet Extreme Adoption Event

If you have completed Dog Training II, you can help out at any of these events!! Please sign up today online!



FOOD TRUCKS 4 FIDO!

Monday, March 25 * 5-8 pm
Fair Oaks Park - 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Free dinner for first 10 adoptions!

Live music!

Chef Michael's Food Truck for Dogs!
Mobile dog grooming!
Dog Treats with every purchase!

Annie's Sno biz - Krush - Drewski - Baconmania - Chando's Tacos
Simply Southern Foods - Knucklehead - Swabbie's

FOOD TRUCKS 4 FIDO!

Wednesday, March 27 * 5-8 pm
Pet Smart - 1738 Watt Ave (Watt & Arden)

Free dinner for first 10 adoptions!

Live music!

Chef Michael's Food Truck for Dogs!
Mobile dog grooming!
Dog Treats with every purchase!

Cajon Wagon - Krush - Drewski - OMG! Yogurt - Chando's Tacos
Simply Southern Foods - Knucklehead - Gameday Grill

FOOD TRUCKS 4 FIDO!

Thursday, March 28 * 5-8 pm
2127 Front Street, Downtown Sacramento

Free dinner for first 10 adoptions!

Live music!
with the Bathub Gins!

Chef Michael's Food Truck for Dogs!
Mobile dog grooming!
Dog Treats with every purchase!

Brickoven Pizza - Krush - Drewski - Smoothie Patrol - Chando's Tacos - Simply Southern Foods - Dave's Dawgs - Swabbie's

Help needed for the Volunteer Office!
Let Janice know if you would like to help out!!

New Shelter Blog - Material Wanted!!

I have been secretly working on setting up a blog for the shelter. Should be ready to launch in a few weeks. I need help with stories. My mission is to show life inside of the shelter, all aspects of what we do will be featured, almost like a reality show. I want stories about vet care, the crisis, the happy endings, the people that make it possible, the officers, the challenges, the happy endings, the sorrows.

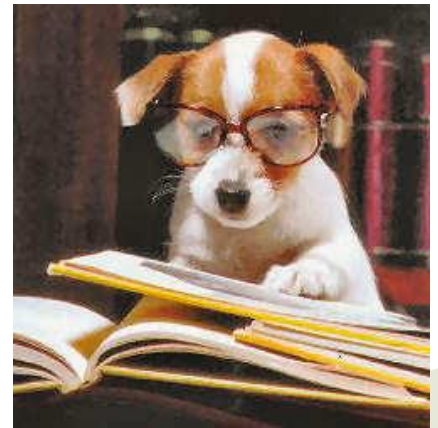
If you are interested, take a photo and submit a short blog on the topic. My goal is to have several prepared blog postings to get started. Those of you in the "to" line are targeted because of your specific areas of expertise and talent. Those of you who were cc'd, this is an fyi, but also an invitation.

Once we launch, we can engage more photographers and writers. I hope you will all participate and contribute. I don't think any of the other shelters have a blog yet, so we have an opportunity to be pioneers, showcasing the work we do, while increasing awareness and hopefully, increasing lives saved. I want it to be edgy, different, colorful and real. And yes, I want to win an award for the most amazing municipal shelter blog on the planet, I hope you will join me.

Thanks,
Gina

P.S. No idea is too crazy, so please be courageous.

Submit your ideas to Gina at gknepp@cityofsacramento.org. Not all submissions will be posted, but the more we get, the more robust our blog will be!!



Interested in What's Happening Around the City?

Here are a couple of interesting links and resources for those of you who might be want to know what's happening around our beautiful City of Sacramento:

City Express Newsletter:
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/transportation/cityexpress/index.html>

Sacramento 365:
www.sacramento365.com

Recommended Reading: Kids' Books About Shelter Animals

Got kids? It's never too early to instill a love and appreciation for our furry friends. The following books will do just that as they capture the imagination of both young and adult readers.

Straydog, Kathe Koja. Rachel, a teenager with an aptitude and attitude volunteers at an animal shelter and discovers an anxious collie isn't the only one who must learn to trust. (Age 13+)

Cages, Peg Kehret. Kit steals a bracelet and is sentenced to twenty hours of community service at her local humane society where she learns a lot about herself and the animals. (Age 8+)

Matilda Mae: The Dog Who Needed a Name, Sara McGaughey. Learn about homeless pets and animal adoption in an age-appropriate manner. (Age 8+)

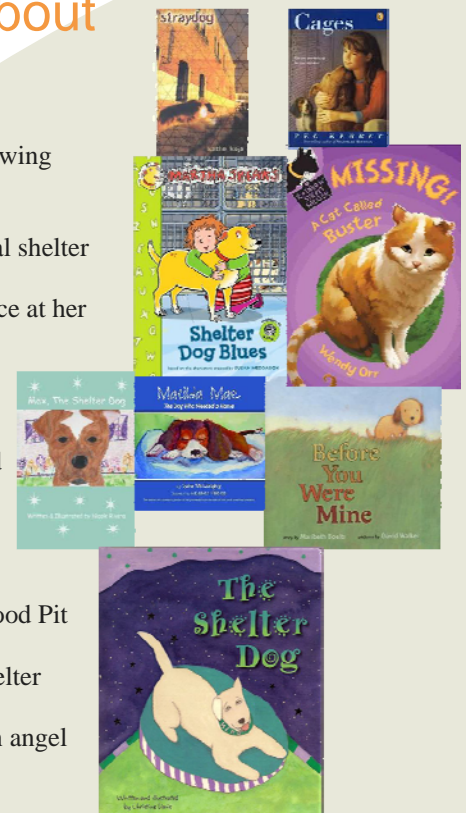
Rainbow Street Shelter Series: Missing! A Cat Called Buster and *LOST! A Dog Called Bear*, Wendy Orr. Young readers will eagerly turn the pages to see what happens to Buster and Bear. (Age 7+)

Shelter Dog Blues (Martha Speaks Series), Susan Meddaugh. Martha loses her collar and ends up in the shelter where she and her family organize a show to find homes for all the shelter dogs. (Age 6+)

Max, the Shelter Dog series, Nicole Rivera. Discover how Max, an energetic and misunderstood Pit Bull puppy, finds a good home. Then read other books in this delightful series. (Age 5+)

Before You Were Mine, Maribeth Boelts celebrates those who support, care for, and adopt shelter dogs. Winner of the ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award. (Age 4+)

The Shelter Dog, Christine Davis. A beautifully written and illustrated book about "Hero," an angel dog who chooses to become an old special needs dog at an animal shelter. (Age 4+)



Happy Endings—Tails of True Love!

This is what it's all about! ADOPTIONS, Rescues, and "Fur-ever Homes!" Here are some of the animals we all have helped have a happy ending this past month:



Thanks to a wonderful partnership with Idaho Humane Society and Wings of Rescue, more little dogs got to fly all the way to Idaho to find a new home! Many thanks to Lori & the volunteers who helped get these guys to the airport for their flight.



We love it when our Pitties get adopted! Here are four that got adopted on the same day! Jes, Betty, Penny, and Roxy are all going to new homes where they will get the love and attention they deserve!



Hi friends. My name is Calhoun. Today I got a new home. This is my mom, Anne. I am happy, she is happy and the dog seems okay about it, too. Life is good. Thank you, Anne. I love you and my new digs. Everyone should adopt a shelter cat. When they run out of cats, adopt a dog. Happy life everyone, Calhoun.



Here is Lori with a big smile on her face as she helps get more little dogs headed to Oregon—did you know Portland was one of the best cities in the US for dogs? These little guys will get adopted soon, for sure!

Spunky

Spunky then and now! Born with weakness and deformity in her front legs, she was pulled weeks ago from the Front Street Animal Shelter - (who worked hard to get her into Chako rescue) and placed in Foster Care. She had splints on her legs to help straighten them out. She just got the thumbs up from her vet (Thanks, Missouri Flat Pet Clinic!). She shouldn't need any more follow up visits, if all goes well. Look at the improvement she's made in just a few weeks! She's looking all regal these days! Email adoptions@chako.org if you are interested in her or any of Chako's dogs.



TITUS



Titus came in to the shelter on Feb. 19th starved half to death. After some TLC, lots of food, and lots of love by volunteer Stephanie, he is weighing in at more than 60 pounds! He has a ways to go, both to recover his complete health and to work on his manners and behavior, but he is truly an inspiration to us all. We are in the process of finding a long-term foster for him. He needs an experienced bully-breed owner and a house without other dogs or cats (as we do not know how he will react. Most of all, he needs a home with a lot of love!!



Meet the Staff: Karen Dickinson

Customer Service Supervisor extraordinaire!

any time with her at all - you know why! She has an infectious smile and laugh - but only after she has her morning cup of coffee!

her and bring her here to the shelter (something Gina is very good at!) When she is not hard at work, she enjoys spending time with her family - she has

Karen has worked here at the shelter since July 1, 2011. She came to us from the Sacramento Police Department where she spent 18 years as a Community Service Officer. She was laid off when the PD restructured and was very happy to have Gina rescue

A smile makes everything better!

two great kids age 20 and 8 - and traveling. The best thing about her job? The people! What would she change if she could? More time & more staff! Her words of wisdom: "Treat others the way you want to be treated", and "the glass is always half full!"

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

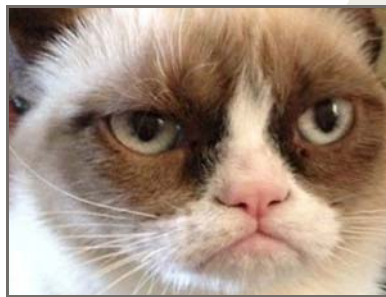
Meet Karen Dickinson, our Customer Service Supervisor extraordinaire! Karen's nickname around the shelter is "Chuckles" and if you've spent



Keys for Success

- ◆ Please do not call the Supervisor line for strays. If you find a stray, you can bring them in or call 311 and they will help you.
- ◆ The volunteer forum is waiting for you! Use this to communicate with the rest of the team and post questions or answers.
- ◆ Log your volunteer hours on the MyVolunteerPage profile. You are an important part of our team, and everything you do counts! Be sure to log all of your hours, whether you volunteer here at the shelter or offsite!

Cattery Corner



Volunteers recorded bagging 352 bags of dog food in February!

Grumpy cat wants YOU!

Where have all our cat volunteers gone?? We are in desperate need of cattery volunteers. If you have taken the cattery class, please sign up for **AT LEAST three cattery cleaning shifts per month**. We have 94 volunteers who have taken the cattery class - we should never have days where we are still cleaning the cattery at 1pm instead of providing top quality customer service! Sign up today, or Grumpy Cat will get you!!!

Volunteer Spotlight:

Meet our teen volunteers! We are very proud of our teens. Under the leadership of Vicki Oberg, our teen program has flourished and grown. We currently have 100 teens who have enrolled in our volunteer program this year! Some of them come to the teen program on Saturdays from 1-3, and others volunteer independently or with adult partners. Some volunteer regularly and on an ongoing basis, some volunteer to complete a certain number of hours for school projects. No matter why or how often they volunteer, we are proud of them all!

laundry, teens who work with our cats, teens who work with our dogs, teens who help with adoption counseling and offsite events, teens who are lead volunteers, teens who foster, teens who create our bulletin boards, teens who do service project days, and teens who help with special events!



Our teens accomplish a lot around the shelter. We have teens who help with Titanic's Pantry, teens who help clean kennels & wash dishes and

CALENDAR



- ◆ **Volunteer Orientations:**
 - ◆ Wed. 3/20 5:30pm
 - ◆ Thurs. 4/4 5:30pm
- ◆ **Shelter 101:**
 - ◆ 3/23 or 3/24 8:30-10:30am
 - ◆ 4/6 or 4/7 8:30-10:30am
- ◆ **Cattery Class:**
 - ◆ Sat. 3/16 10:30 am
- ◆ **Shelter Greeter Class**
 - ◆ Sat. 5/11 10:00am
- ◆ **Next Available Dog Training:**
 - ◆ Dog II - Sun. 3/17 or 3/24
 - ◆ Dog III - Sun. 3/31 or 4/7
- ◆ **Offsite Outreach Events:**
 - ◆ Too many to list! See the Offsite article on pg. 2
- ◆ **Easter Sunday:** The shelter is CLOSED to the public!!
- ◆ **Special Events:**
 - ◆ Volunteer Meeting 3/20
 - ◆ Pit Bull Event 4/6

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



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