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City of  
**SACRAMENTO**  
Front Street Animal Shelter

November/  
December  
2014

# Volunteers

## focus

TEAM FRONT STREET: WORKING TOGETHER  
TO SAVE LIVES!



You  
Are  
Invited!!

You and your family are invited to celebrate the holidays –and all of our wonderful work - with Team Front Street! This year's Cheers & Beers bash will be a festive potluck! **Bring a dish to share with the group.** If your last name begins with:

**A-F Bring a Salad    G-M Bring a Side Dish    N-S Bring a Main Dish    T-Z Bring a Dessert**

**Root beer & beer will be provided!**

*Please RSVP so we know how many to expect. RSVP to the event website at*

*<http://event.celebrations.com/cheersandbeers>*

*or to Janice at [jwagaman@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:jwagaman@cityofsacramento.org) or 916-808-8166*

**When:** Thursday, December 18th at 6:30pm

**Where:** California Auto Museum

**What:** A holiday potluck party

**Why?** Because we're falalalalalabulous!

*(PS—there are rumors of an ugly sweater contest... just sayin'!)*



## Shelter Stats:

	October 2014	October 2013
Cats Adopted	221	202
Cats to Rescue or Transfer	31	20
Cats Returned to Owner	3	4
Dogs Adopted	202	245
Dogs to Rescue or Transfer	27	64
Dogs Returned to Owner	92	71
# of Volunteers who logged hours	248	188
Volunteer Hours	4503	2716



## Did You Know Why You Should?

Why do we ask you to sign up for activities and log your hours? It's just paperwork, right? WRONG! Here's the scoop on why we need you to be diligent about signing up for shifts and logging your hours:

**To Sign up or not to Sign Up....** We ask you to sign up for the shifts you plan to work, because we base staffing decisions on the volunteer roster. When we know we have a full team of volunteers to help, we can assign staff to do behavior evaluations, testing, behavior modification, training, and so much more. All of those things take second priority to the regular shelter chores and adoption counseling. If we are short on volunteers, we can't assign staff to do those important jobs, as our staff are working hard to complete the cleaning, processing, and counseling jobs.

**To Log or not to Log...** Why do we need you to log your hours? There are actually a couple of different reasons. The first is that we use the reports of logged hours to demonstrate community support for grants and for reports to the City manager and Council. The second reason to log your hours is that volunteers without hours will have their volunteer profile archived after 6 months of no hours. Our volunteer system is very cost-effective, but it is not free. We do pay a yearly fee based on the number of active volunteers. If you are not logging your hours, you might be archived! Please help us by keeping an accurate record of the important work you do. You make a difference every day—be proud and record it!



## Where you can help:

Are you looking for more ways to get involved? Here are some programs here at Front Street that need some help:

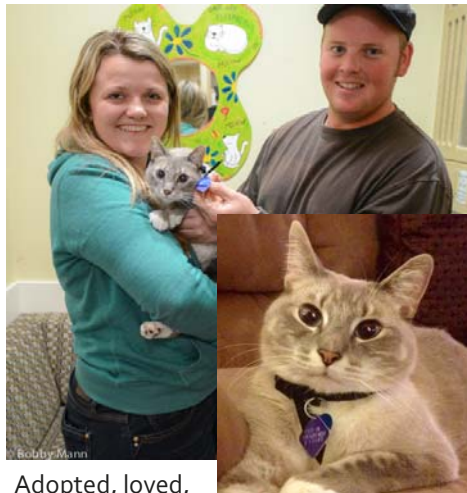
- **SMART** Are you SMART? Do you want to help more animals find their way home to their missing family? Then we can use your help with the Sacramento Missing Animal Response Team! This group of dedicated volunteers creates posters about the dogs coming into the shelter and then posts them in the neighborhoods where they were found. All of this can be done from home! Interested in helping? Please contact Lucy Arnold at [ikasmom1@gmail.com](mailto:ikasmom1@gmail.com)
- **SNAAP** - The Sacramento Neighborhood Animal Assistance Program needs some volunteer help! This collaborative program targets one square mile in the Oak Park area to provide all the necessary services pet owners need to have healthy, fixed, and licensed animals! For more information or to join the street team, please contact Mike Vasquez at [mvasquez@ssPCA.org](mailto:mvasquez@ssPCA.org).
- **Spay/Neuter Team** - Do you want to help people in Sacramento get their animals fixed? Then we need your help on the Spay/Neuter team! Please contact Georgann Eberhardt at [monahart2@yahoo.com](mailto:monahart2@yahoo.com) for more information on how to help! (Adult volunteers only - as some of the situations that callers are experiencing can be difficult for younger volunteers to deal with)

# Happy Beginnings—Tails of True Love!

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



Gertrude fond her forever home!



Adopted, loved,  
and at home on the couch!



Priscilla: Home, happy, and running  
like the wind on three legs!

Thank you Team Front Street for helping these - and  
hundreds more - find their home for the holidays,  
and forever!

## Help put the "Fun" in Fundraising!

We are super proud of the efforts of our fundraising team over the past two years. Our signature event, Paws to Party has grown to be a huge success! We have had multiple other fundraising activities throughout the year, as well. All of these efforts help to save lives.

Without donation dollars, we can't save the sick or injured animals that come to us. But we need your help! We are looking for more volunteers to help with our fundraising events and activities. If you are:

- committed to helping the shelter,
- outgoing-and not afraid to ask others to help, and willing to plan the party of the year, then we could use your help! Please contact Susan Manual at [ssmanual@comcast.net](mailto:ssmanual@comcast.net).

Thank you!!





# Pets as Gifts?

## Are you kidding?

*(Reprinted from the ASPCA Pro blog 2014)*

Who says shelters and rescues shouldn't adopt out pets as gifts? Policies that state pets should not be adopted as gifts are prevalent at animal-welfare organizations, likely based on the longstanding belief that animals who weren't specifically chosen by their new owners may be considered less valuable.

This belief, however, is actually counter to research by the ASPCA and other experts in the animal-welfare field. In 2013, the ASPCA surveyed people who had received their pets as gifts in order to learn more about their attachment to – and the retention of – that pet. We also explored the difference in those factors for those that obtained their gifted pet as a surprise. Our research found there is no correlation between getting an animal as a gift and an owner's love and attachment to the pet – even if that pet was a surprise gift – and no increased risk of relinquishment for dogs and cats received as gifts.



### Myth-Busting Shelters

Are you afraid to let people adopt animals who will be given to others?

At Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society, Santa and his elves deliver holiday pets to happy recipients. (Remember, they have no added risk of relinquishment!) "Closing the door on a potential adoption is as counterproductive an activity as I can imagine," says Dylan Moore, Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society's adoption manager.

### Guiding the Giver

The approach to assisting gift givers varies from agency to agency, but the overall goal is the same: to make effective matches.

In addition to pairing gift givers with adoption counselors, Arizona Humane Society (AHS) in Phoenix, AZ, provides them with a helpful list of considerations to ponder before selecting a pet for a loved one. The list includes things like asking givers about the recipient's allergy status, activity level and available time and resources for a pet.

In an effort to decrease the already minimal chance that a pet who was adopted as a gift may be returned to the shelter, adoption counselors at Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) in Jacksonville, FL, ask gift givers if they would consider keeping the animal if the person receiving the gift is unable or unwilling to keep the pet.

### Earlier Research

An earlier study, New et al. (1999) identified the source of approximately 2,600 dogs and 2,300 cats relinquished to 12 shelters in four regions of the U.S. They found that dogs relinquished to shelters had most frequently come from friends, shelters and breeders. Relinquished dogs infrequently came from pet shops, as gifts and from veterinarians. That study found that the odds of dog relinquishment were higher when acquiring an animal from a shelter, friend, as a stray, and from a pet shop compared to receiving an animal as a gift (and controlling for other factors such as gender, neuter status, length of ownership and purchase cost).



Similarly, cats that were relinquished to shelters had originally come from friends, as strays, and shelters most frequently. Relinquished cats infrequently came from breeders, veterinarians, or were gifts. The odds of cat relinquishment were higher when acquiring an animal from a shelter, a friend, a stray, and from a pet shop compared to receiving an animal as a gift.

In addition, Scarlett et al. (1999) identified 71 reasons given for pet relinquishment. "Unwanted gift" was listed as a reason for only 0.3% of dogs and 0.4% of cats entering the shelters surveyed, compared with "No time for pet" as a reason 10% of dogs were relinquished and "allergies in family" as a reason 18% of cats were relinquished. Finally, Patronek et al. [2000] examined risk factors for dog relinquishment at one shelter and concluded that dogs that were received as a gift were at significantly decreased risk of being relinquished, compared to dogs who were

purchased or adopted.

## Impressive Benefits

Shelters report more adoptions, better community engagement and enthusiastic media attention. And the worries about a high rate of return are unfounded, since both research and the experience of participating shelters show no increased risk of relinquishment for animals received as gifts.

And Christmas isn't the only time of year to try a pet delivery program. Consider it for birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas in July – you get the idea!

## Lifesaving Potential

These are exciting findings that may help open new adoption options for shelters, allowing more animals to be placed in loving homes. The ASPCA recommends the giving of pets as gifts only to people who have expressed a sustained interest in owning one, and who have the ability to care for it responsibly.

*"We are hopeful that this additive research will open more doors for more dogs and cats in the sheltering system to go home,"* says Dr. Emily Weiss, Vice President, ASPCA Research & Development.

## What do you say, Team Front Street?

What are your thoughts? Are you for pets as gifts or not convinced? Any ideas on how to incorporate this here at Front Street? Please share your thoughts!

# Meet the Staff:

## Jeanne Brennan

Animal Care Technician extraordinaire!

Meet Animal Care Technician extraordinaire, Jeanne Brennan!

How long have you worked at Front Street? *Hmmm... I think 7 or 8 years plus 1 year prior where I volunteered to test the waters and see if I liked the shelter. I'd been to many shelters due to working with NorCal Aussie Rescue and attending various behavior seminars in Berkeley, S.F. SPCA and Marin Humane. Myself and another awesome volunteer named Bev Gonsalves also went to Marin to find out more about how they were doing a Good Manners program before really getting the one here off the ground.*

Where did you go to school? *Grew up in Los Angeles and went to Santa Monica College (played volley ball for the school and my coaches were Butch and Barbara May – parents of Misty May-Treanor if you follow the game), then to CSU Sacramento for the athletic training program and physical education – and more*

*volleyball.*

What do you like to do when not at the shelter? *I'm heavy into gardening, working in my yard, occasional crafty projects (currently working on hand and paw print ornaments for my mom's 80th birthday – the animals aren't as thrilled with this idea as I am) and doing stuff with my dogs. To my*

**I always thought someone should do something about that... then I realized I am that someone - unknown**

*dogs, training is just another fun game we play together in new locations w/ fun motivators. Oh..... and I'm probably on Facebook too much.*

What kind of pets do you have? *Currently I have 4 dogs and 2 cats. My oldest is sort of a Min Pin-a-huahua that came from NorCal Aussie as a foster and he's about 18 or 19 now. Rollins, the Akita/GSD or malinois mix, is around 11 or 12 now. Piper, the Border Collie mix is about 7 now. Then there's little Millie the chi mix who is also from here – another failed foster. Cats – Coco who came to me from the shelter and a cat I inherited from the neighborhood who answers to*



Miss Kitty or Miss Garage Kitty.

What have you liked best about your job? *Helping to draw the timids and the shut down dogs out of their shell. When you see the dog that begins to light up and be joyful it can bring tears to your eyes. Finding what it takes to motivate a dog in any way and then helping to shape and condition behaviors is really what I like to do.*

What would you change if you could? *We'd have more staff in order to allow time to work w/ more animals and we wouldn't be behind on behavior evaluations. Being up to date on behavior evals also means we help w/ kennel management so kennels are less crowded which also means less stress on the dogs. **Thank you Jeanne for all of your hard work!!***

# CALENDAR



### ◆ Volunteer Orientations:

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

### ◆ Shelter I01:

- ◆ Every Saturday at 8:30am

### ◆ Cattery Class:

- ◆ Sat. 11/15 at 10:30am

### ◆ Dog Training:

- ◆ Language of Dogs 11/16
- ◆ Dog Auto-sit 11/15
- ◆ Dog Handling—check the schedule!

### ◆ Special Training Classes:

- ◆ Dog Foster Class 12/1

### ◆ Offsite Outreach Events:

- ◆ Every weekend! Sign up online!

### ◆ Special Opportunities:

- ◆ Cheers & Beers Holiday Party 12/18
- ◆ Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap

# Volunteer Spotlight:

## Jan Drakulich

*"I needed something to do when I retired from UPS. I love animals, so the shelter was perfect. Two of my four cats came from Front Street—they are all over 16 years old. Two years ago, I adopted 4 year old Maddie, a poodle mix, and she's awesome!*

*I really like fostering kittens. You have them for a month or two until they make adoption weight and then bring them back.*

*Fostering keeps me from becoming the neighborhood cat lady!*

*I also help Robin who photographs the dogs for our Facebook page. We dress them up and try to bring out their personalities. It can be*

*time consuming, so if anyone wants to help us Mondays at 10am, let Janice know!*

*The shelter has so many needs and our volunteers can help in so many ways. Any activity volunteers are passionate about helps the animals, staff, and the shelter."*

Thank you Jan for all of your hard work! We really appreciate you.



## 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!