



fotas 
Making a Difference
Friends of the Animal Shelter - Aiken, S.C.

SUMMER 2018

FOTAS News

FOTAS is a recipient of the 2017 State of S.C. Angel Award - One of 10 organizations recognized as representing the most efficient, effective charities in S.C.



YOUR DONATIONS ARE MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE – HERE'S HOW

If you didn't donate your time and money to FOTAS, most of the programs that help the animals at the Aiken County Animal Shelter would not exist. Thank you for your support!

- From Jan. through July, we organized 62 transfers and paid the incurred foster & transport expenses to established rescue shelter partners for 760 dogs and cats in need who were not locally adopted.
- This past year, Aiken County and FOTAS combined to pay for the spay/neuter of 1,308 pets owned by citizens in financial need and 1,121 community/feral cats!
- Though the shelter has had high intake months this summer, the save rate to-date is still over 90% – every adoptable animal was saved through the help of your donations!
- Supplemented adoption fees for Military active personnel & veterans



- Provided humane runners and dog houses for folks in need of financial help to get their dogs off chain and comply with Aiken County's tethering ordinance

- Funded needed stairs and railing to connect shelter dog walking trails for volunteers and adopters
- Funded needed water drainage/erosion project around shelter's exercise yards and walking trails
- Purchased dog treadmill for shelter – part of new program to help better socialize shelter dogs who are shy or high energy
- Funded heartworm treatments of adoptable dogs received at the shelter who test positive for HW but are otherwise healthy
- Funded flea and tick treatments of adoptable animals received at the shelter



PETUNIA

Two dogs' journeys at the Aiken County Animal Shelter

PETUNIA

When Petunia arrived, her body was mangled and she could barely walk. Her injuries were the result of getting hit by a car, but she never gave up hope. After being fostered by three different volunteers, she regained her strength and confidence.

Once she made it to the adoption floor, Petunia interacted with other dogs and even went to off-site events, where she greeted people and made a lot of fans.

After much socialization and care at the shelter, Petunia was adopted and is flourishing in her forever home!



LITTLE MOOSE

Little Moose was dropped off at the Shelter covered in fleas and shaking in fear. Volunteer Karen Brady took the 10-year-old Terrier mix under her wing and brought him home to foster.

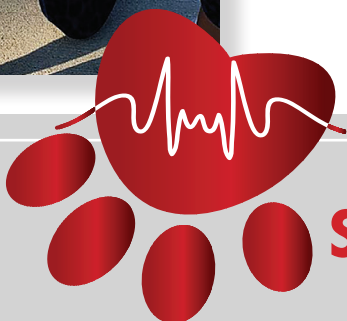
The senior stray was dewormed, bathed and nurtured by Karen while the shelter's vet staff treated him and monitored his progress. After constant care and some socialization with Karen's own dogs, Moose started feeling and looking better.

By the third week, the cutie with an underbite was approved for adoption and placed in a terrific home.



LITTLE MOOSE

HAVE A HEART



SAVE A HEART

Last year, more than 200 dogs that tested positive for heartworms were successfully treated and adopted. This year, 140 heartworm positive dogs already have been treated, saved and placed in loving homes.

It wasn't long ago when a dog with heartworms would never make it to the Shelter's adoption floor. But now, thanks to your donations, FOTAS can treat these dogs and watch them live full, happy lives.

By donating to the FOTAS Have a Heart, Save a Heart fund, you can help finance the treatment of HW positive dogs, allowing them to be adopted and treated, without putting the financial burden on the new pet owner.

Bette Mine Erikson reviews Dracos post heartworm treatment instructions with new owner RJ Strauss



Abused, starving dog saved and adopted by Good Samaritan

Christi Fowler was on her way to see several clients one morning when she noticed a very thin, white dog about 25 yards from the side of the road. She had a long trip ahead of her and was running late, but a voice in her head told her to pull over and see if the pup was okay. When she got out her car, and walked toward the dog, she could see his ribs were practically protruding through his skin.

Christi got closer and confirmed the dog was a young Pitbull mix but wasn't sure if she should get any closer. And when the dog saw her, his tail thumped loudly on the ground and he got on his feet to walk toward her. His sad, soulful eyes immediately convinced her that the dog needed rescuing.

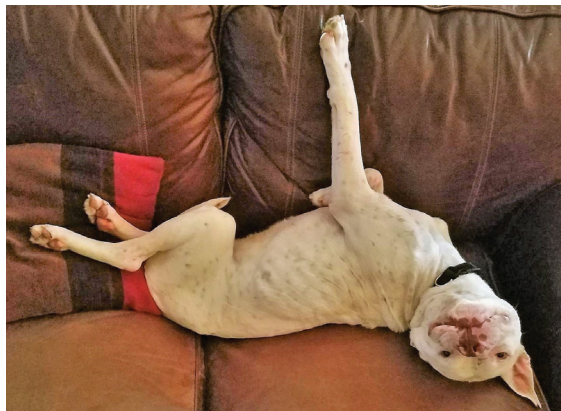
"I told him I would take care of him," Christi said. "I just felt like God put him in my path for a reason." She got her bearings and realized she was in Wagener and called Aiken County Animal Control. She explained she had to continue on to her business appointments but gave the dispatcher the dog's location and said she would adopt him as soon as he was available. Then, she made a quick trip to get the starving Pibble some food and water before leaving to fulfill her work obligations.

After the neglected dog was assessed, cared for and treated by the shelter, and received needed vaccinations and neutering, Christi did in fact adopt him and named him Job. Job is now healthy and thankful a person like Christi saved him!



A happily ever after ending usually doesn't start off well.

Job was abused and in terrible shape when he arrived at the shelter, but Christi adopted him and now he lives in luxury!



A letter to FOTAS

Dear FOTAS,
Gina is doing great! We have all fallen in love with her. She really loves spending time in our screened porch with us and loves kisses and belly rubs! Thank you for the special gift of Gina...we couldn't have picked a better family member.
Jenn Brosnahan
Aiken, SC



Assisting owners and oinkers in need

FOTAS purchased two needed water troughs for two pigs owned by a citizen in financial need. Pictured: FOTAS Volunteer Peter Miller delivers the troughs to Animal Control Officer James Fisher.



Newsletter design and layout donated by
Wendy Collins Gutfarb



Volunteer breakfast celebrates great teamwork

FOTAS and County Shelter leadership showed their appreciation for the help and dedication of volunteers by co-hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in May.

Dog walkers, front desk managers, PetSmart volunteers, cat socializers, fosters, event organizers and other volunteers all gathered at the Shelter for a breakfast buffet – a small token of appreciation for their dedication and hard work. Thank you to all the wonderful FOTAS volunteers. We couldn't do this without you!



Photos: Top (l to r) Meagan Boehl, Jackie Edel, Trudy Woods Gaughran, Ellen Fox and Pat Kahn. Bottom (l to r) Lynn Edward and and Head PetSmart volunteer Judy Albert.

Photos to right: (left) Becca Babineau holds foster dog Max (right) and Chenoa Shields hugs Peggles, a three-legged shelter dog she adopted and placed with a veteran suffering from PTSD.



FOTAS helps citizens comply with dog chain ordinance

FOTAS' FIDO Off the Chain program is an important program for many dogs living in Aiken County. With the enforcement of Aiken County's chain ordinance, more dogs are being saved and put in more comfortable and healthy conditions. We supply citizens with dog houses, runners and other more humane mediums to manage their dogs. Our FIDO Off the Chain program is funded solely through your donations of monies and supplies, and both are greatly appreciated!



Two FOTAS fosters honored as heroines American Red Cross

The American Red Cross honored FOTAS fosters Becca Babineau and Chenoa Shields with its local hero award for "going above and beyond the line of duty to save lives and serve others." The two women were presented with their awards with other citizens who showed extraordinary courage to rescue and change lives for the better.

Future FOTAS events

September 13 - Life in the Doghouse Film
Documentary screening, co-organized by FOTAS.

September 26 - Dog Ears - 1:30pm

An opportunity for children to build their reading confidence while socializing animals. Children aged 5 and up can enjoy twenty minute reading sessions with adoptable pets overseen by FOTAS volunteers. Reservation required 803-514-4313.

October 1 - FOTAS' Fifth Annual Helicopter Ball Drop and Playing Fore the Pets Golf Tournament

This big event will be held at the Woodside Plantation Country Club. To purchase golf ball drop raffle tickets or make reservations, contact Sandy or Ross Staiger, 603.533.4111 or email to golf@fotasaiken.org.

October 6 - St. Mary's Chocolate Festival

Plastic Yellow Band benefit for FOTAS. Visit our booth!

October 12 - Storytime

Join us at the Aiken County Library for storytime at 10:30am.

October 24 - Dog Ears - 1:30pm

An opportunity for children to build their reading confidence while socializing animals. Children aged 5 and up can enjoy twenty minute reading sessions with adoptable pets overseen by FOTAS volunteers. Reservation required 803-514-4313.

October 27 - Fall Steeplechase

Visit our booth!

Monthly Events

Every month/Forever Friends Fridays

We bring adoptable dogs to the Aiken County Visitors Center every third Friday of the month from 11:00am - 1:00pm.

Marco's Monday Pizza Days

The first Monday of every month, Marco's Pizza restaurant donates 15% of its sales to FOTAS from 4-8pm. Be sure to mention FOTAS!

