



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 TIME AND DONATIONS ARE MAKING MIRACLES HAPPEN!

When a dog is saved and adopted because it was treated and cured of heartworms, you made it happen. When an animal suffering from injuries caused by abuse needs extra care and physical therapy to regain her coordination and strength, it's your assistance that gives her a second chance at a good life. Kittens barely hanging on for life receive vital formula and care that helps them recover because of your support. These are just a fraction of the endless ways your generosity and commitment to FOTAS saves homeless pets in need.

We can't thank you enough for your donations and time! It is because of you – a caring community – that we are able to effectively support the Aiken County Animal Shelter by promoting animal welfare, responsible pet ownership, spay/neuter programs, and the elimination of euthanasia of all adoptable animals. In 2018, we surpassed all records as 4,507 dogs and cats were saved with every adoptable animal rehomed. Together, we're helping to make miracles happen!



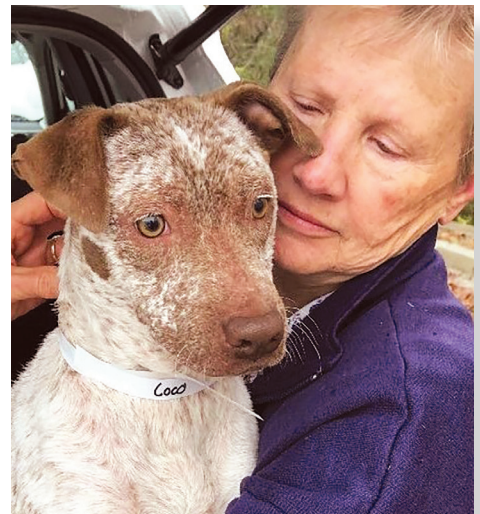
Coco makes remarkable recovery, finds loving home



When Coco first arrived at the shelter.

In early November, a stray puppy was brought into the Aiken County Animal Shelter by one of the animal control officers. Her face was dripping blood, she had no fur, and she was just a baby!

Coco was furless and in severe discomfort because she had a condition called Demodectic mange or "Demodex", a very treatable and non-contagious skin condition often seen in neglected, malnourished or stressed dogs. Through treatment and fostering, this sweet girl recovered and is now happy and furry in her forever home.



FOTAS Foster Paula Neuroth with Coco post-recovery.



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Key FOTAS accomplishments in 2018-19

- Organized 102 transfers and paid the incurred foster and transport expenses for 1,304 dogs and cats that were not locally adopted and in need to out-of-state established rescue shelter partners
- Funded eight new cat condo suites for shelter lobby
- Funded needed renovations to the cat adoption facility
- Funded the installation of 15 cat portals for intake cages, giving cats more spaces and hideaways
- Purchased more humane cat traps for the TNR program
- Funded and installed stairs and railing to connect shelter dog walking trails for volunteers and adopters as well as needed land erosion project on trails
- Provided pallets of pet food for the shelter
- Aiken County and FOTAS last year paid for the spay/neuter of 1,287 pets owned by citizens in financial need and 1,099 community/feral cats
- Funded and purchased dog treadmill for shelter – launched new exercise program to more effectively socialize shelter dogs who are shy or high-energy
- Funded and purchased dog houses and 100 humane runners for citizens in need of financial help so they could get their dogs off chains and comply with Aiken County's tethering ordinance
- Funded nearly 500 heartworm treatments of adoptable dogs received at the shelter who test positive of HW but are otherwise healthy
- Funded flea and tick treatments of adoptable animals received at the shelter
- Funded soft surgical cones for surgery recovery
- Provided toys and blankets for every shelter dog and cat as well as leashes, collars and interactive feeding toys
- Funded leashes and cat carriers for every adopter and funded adoption fees for military personnel/veterans

ABANDONED MINI HORSES CARED FOR AND PLACED IN LOVING HOME

Aiken County Animal Control picked up two mini horses who were abandoned and neglected. FOTAS funded all the needed veterinary care and worked to find the bonded pair a forever home. The pair are now happily in a loving home. Big thanks to foster Carol Little, who took care of them while in Aiken. Also, a huge thank you to Mark Choper from Fairway Horse Transport, who found a wonderful home for the two and transported them to New Hampshire.



FOTAS PRESIDENT JENNIFER MILLER NAMED WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to FOTAS President Jennifer Miller, who was named the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce's Woman of the Year!

"The success rate of her endeavors is unquestionable and has been accomplished through training and education, commitment and persistence," said the Chamber's spokesman.

When Jennifer received the award at the USC Aiken Convocation Center on Jan. 25, the audience gave her a standing ovation.



KITTEN SEASON HAS ARRIVED: HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Kittens have a much better chance of surviving with their mother's milk and care. If you find a kitten or kittens, be sure they are orphans before attempting to rescue them!

Leave Litters Alone!

Like all babies, kittens are best left with their mothers who instinctively know how to help their offspring grow up to be strong and healthy. If you find a litter of kittens, wait until you're sure mom isn't coming back before you touch or move them.

For more information contact:
Aiken County Animal Shelter 803.642.1537

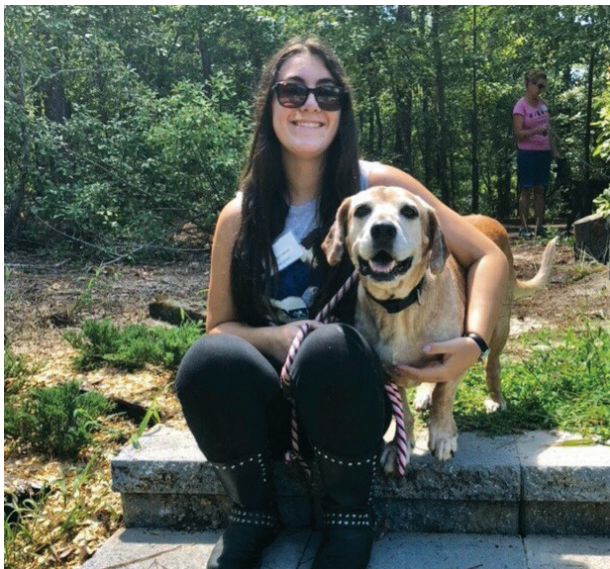
fotas
Making a Difference

BISCUIT IS HAPPY, HEARTWORM-FREE AND LIVING THE GOOD LIFE

Sweet Biscuit arrived in terrible shape. He'd been attacked by another animal and was lucky to be alive. His wounds were extensive. The damage to his right ear was so severe that the entire ear flap had actually died. He also limped because of two injuries that were consistent with getting hit by a car. But with surgery he recovered and now he also is cured of his heartworm infection! Nine-year-old Biscuit is one of nearly 500 heartworm positive dogs whose treatment and full recovery has been paid for by FOTAS. Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Have a Heart, Save a Heart fund!

Become a Volunteer or Foster!

Our volunteers and fosters are the lifeblood of our organization. Through their efforts, FOTAS and the County have saved the lives of more animals than any time in the shelter's past. Our volunteers truly do make a difference. Call us at (803) 514-4313. We will find a place where your love and efforts will help us save even more animals in the future.



10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LOGO LAUNCH



Can you believe it? We've already reached our 10th year! It's been quite a busy decade, and we'll be sure to highlight some of the milestones on our Facebook page and in upcoming editions of the newsletter. But we recently revealed our special 10th Anniversary logo to celebrate our FOTAS team and private/public partnership with Aiken County. What do you think?

Home to Home program reduces stress on unwanted pets



FOTAS and the Aiken County Animal Shelter have teamed up with Home to Home to introduce a new program that allows citizens to find homes for their pets online and adopt them straight out of their residences instead of surrendering them to the shelter.

Pet owners can visit fotas.home-home.org and enter information about their animal, including their pet's photo. FOTAS then posts the available pets on its Facebook page.

"We have thousands of followers on Facebook, and they are really good about sharing the posts we put up," said FOTAS Board Member Ellen Priest, who is coordinating the program. There are no adoption fees with Home to Home.

The biggest advantage of Home to Home is that it's less stressful on pets. The animals don't have to endure the mental pain of being left alone in a shelter, but instead can stay in their familiar home environment while waiting to be adopted.



NEW EXTENDED ADOPTION HOURS

On April 1, the Aiken County Animal Shelter introduced later adoption hours to make adopting more convenient for folks who work during the day. We hope this new schedule makes it more convenient for you to visit the shelter! The new adoption hours are:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



2019
WOOFSTOCK
Doggie Derby Days
featuring The Doxie Derby

May 4, 2019
11:00 am – 3:00 pm

CITIZENS PARK
1060 BANKS MILL ROAD
AIKEN, SC

www.FOTASaiken.org * woofstock@fotasaiken.org * 803.514.4313

Huge thank you to Woofstock Chairpersons Ellie Joos, Carole Stamm, Jenny Spiro and their committee as well as Playing for the Pets Chairpersons Sandy and Ross Staiger and their committee!

Upcoming FOTAS Events

• **Woofstock Doggie Derby Day – May 4**

Our annual Woofstock festival will be taking place this year at Citizens Park and will again feature the always exciting Doxie Derby, mixed breed races and various other doggie contests, kids activities, music, food and lots of family fun!

• **FOTAS Playing for the Pets Golf Tournament and Helicopter Golf Ball Drop – September 23**

This fun competition at the Reserve Club at Woodside is a huge annual fundraiser for the County Shelter animals.

• **10th Anniversary celebration –**

We will be celebrating FOTAS's 10th Anniversary in October. Be sure to follow the FOTAS website (fotasaiken.org) and our Facebook page for more details about this special community event!