



Spring 2024

FOTAS News

FOTAS IS A RECIPIENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF S.C. ANGEL AWARD-ONE OF 10, OUT OF 14,000 ORGANIZATIONS, RECOGNIZED AS REPRESENTING THE MOST EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE CHARITIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

EVERY ANIMAL COUNTS!

Sweet little chihuahuas in every color and size!



Hoarding animals occurs when people try to save animals, breed animals, or they get in over their heads. In January, we took in forty chihuahua mixes from one residence. The owner was suffering with dementia and, when they discovered the problem, her family stepped in to help. Although they had some medical issues, these dogs were loved and social. So many people reached out to help and after just one week all dogs were placed in homes.



Disability? Not For This Dog and His New Family

Dogs with hearing impairments often find themselves at the shelter. Sadly, people do not always have the patience to work with these dogs. We have found some fantastic homes for these highly intelligent pups!

Boogie was with us for a long time and mastered his skills through training with volunteers. His new owner has this to say:

"I just wanted to give you an update on Boogie. He is doing great! We are using ASL (American Sign Language) to communicate with him, he responds very well. His favorite nap time place is on his big brother's bed under his blanket with his toys, lol. He made himself right at home from day one. He is a big momma's boy! He is doing great with potty training, no accidents. He loves meal time and waits patiently while we fix his bowl. He also loves trips to PetSmart to pick out his own toys. Sincerely, Boogie's momma - Brittany"



Feline Leukemia Cats

Eli and Raider are two cats with feline leukemia but they are two of the coolest cats. They were in a foster home as kittens with Liz Dille. "Raider and Eli are always so excited to see their humans and love to play fetch and will give kisses. Raider's tail has its own personality and he is always available for a cuddle."

Feline leukemia is often a death sentence in shelters. It is a contagious virus and is passed to other cats primarily through saliva. Even though these FeLV cats have weaker immune systems, they can live fulfilling, happy, and long lives just like any other cat. Often, they live their lives without developing any of the virus's harmful symptoms.

One Saturday, these sweet babies were adopted to assist at a rehab facility. Eli and Raider are now happily comforting people that are healing and bettering themselves. We like to think of them as service kitties!





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FOTAS is a recipient of the Secretary of State of SC Angel Award – one of 10, out of 14,000 organizations, recognized as representing the most efficient and effective charities in SC.

Other Animals Received With Issues and All Have Found Homes Thanks to Our Extra Care Given At Shelter

Pekinese stray with misshapen limbs, birth defects (we did find a rescue/home)



Litter brought in as an owner surrender. They were totally malnourished and scared.



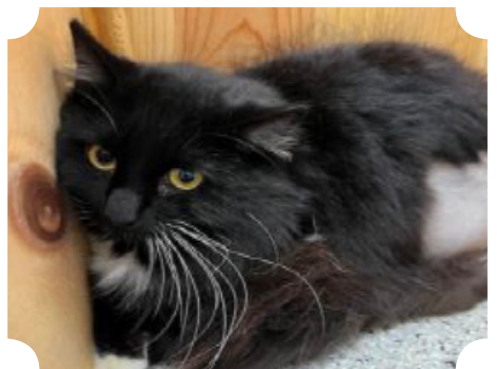
Cassandra, hit by a car, needed amputation



Puppies, 5 weeks old, were left on the road. A good citizen picked them up to bring to us.



Chip, hit by car, needed amputation



Not Your Normal Christmas Party

Right before Christmas, Animal Control received a call about a mother dog that was hit by a car leaving her one day-old puppies. Officer Creech picked up the puppies and kept them warm. He arrived at the shelter after hours, but staff had puppy milk ready.



We called foster mom Jackie Stolarski. She said she would help, but 18 people were arriving shortly for a dinner party. A kind volunteer, Jessica, drove over, gave these puppies a bottle, and drove them to Jackie's house.

"Our guests stepped up and everybody took a puppy and a bottle, and it was a different kind of party activity. A few pups were in pretty bad shape, so it was a little sad, but I assure you they were loved."

Thanks to this teamwork, Holly and Nick (pictured) are now living their best lives and happily adopted.



Jen Jotblad's SPOT Class and Photography

SPOT stands for Shelter Pups with Opportunity Training. Jen is a valuable volunteer and it was her idea to lead a class each Saturday. Our longest resident dogs work with Jen and a team of volunteers. The dogs are taught manners and tricks to help encourage their adoptions. Jen has added photography to her list of talents. Jen comes each Monday with a photo backdrop and fun accessories to help showcase dogs that are in her class. We are so lucky to have such dedicated volunteers!



Reaching Our Seniors

Mr. Robert Kennedy, Bob, is a staff, volunteer, and animal favorite. Bob comes almost every day to socialize dogs. Since losing his wife and his dog, he was feeling tremendous loss. We designed the Mr. Kennedy Program. Volunteers and staff members bring him a dog that needs some love and kindness. Maybe the animal is shut down, fearful or just sad. Bob sits with them for hours and reassures them. It is an investment of love. There is a role for everyone at our shelter. We encourage more seniors to come participate in this program.



The Kids Are Our Future

Our hope for 2024 is to reach as many young people in our community as possible. We strive to teach young people what to do if they see an animal being mistreated, how to stop overpopulation, and what they can do to make a difference.

The new year has been off to such a great start. Some of the activities we have enjoyed in 2024: visiting elementary schools, Kiwanis Kids coming monthly for our humane education program, area preschools choosing us to visit and support, local high schools and colleges are learning and helping.

Our monthly Dog Ears reading program was once less than ten children once a month. Now, each month twenty children read to our shelter dogs. Phew!



2023 Statistics: Great Numbers Thanks to Your Support

Total animals received:
4,768

Total animals saved:
4,366

Total animals saved
percentage:
91.57%

ALL ADOPTABLE ANIMALS WERE SAVED

Upcoming Events

April 20th - Woofstock at Citizens Park. This yearly event brings our community together with fun for all! Doggy Races, kids activities, vendors, and adoptable dogs. (May 18th rain date)

June 1st - Celebrating two important anniversaries:

- 15th year anniversary for FOTAS
- 10th year anniversary of the new shelter

Celebrate with us at the shelter with free Flanigan's ice cream and an adoption event.

September (DTBA) - Furry 5k race at Generations Park

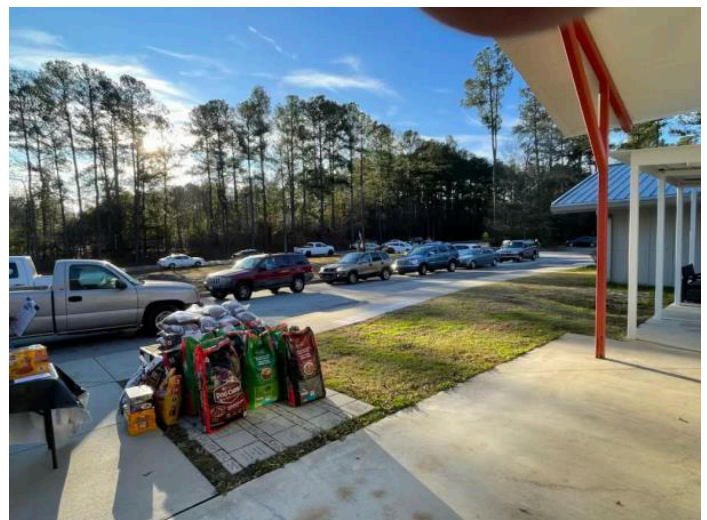
October 21st - Playing Fore Pets Golf Tournament and Helicopter drop at the Reserve at Woodside.

Community Outreach Programs FOTAS Helps Keep Animals Out of the Shelter By:

- Donating food to those in need
- Providing dog runners and dog houses to keep dogs off chains



Volunteer John Sauer delivers FOTAS purchased food to Aiken Senior Services assistance program for pet owners of their Meals on Wheels program.



Cars lined up for FOTAS's monthly drive-thru assistance program.



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