



## *2017 Year in Review*



## *Acting Locally*

Dear friends,

For decades, “Think Globally, Act Locally” has been a catchphrase for grassroots advocates making steps toward a better world by taking action in their own neighborhoods. Friends of Oakland Animal Services (FOAS) lives this mission every day: we are a community coming together to act locally and to be leaders for animal welfare in Oakland and beyond. To everyone who has joined us in standing up for Oakland’s animals in 2017—through your donations, volunteer service, or by fostering or adopting a new family member from our shelter, we thank you.

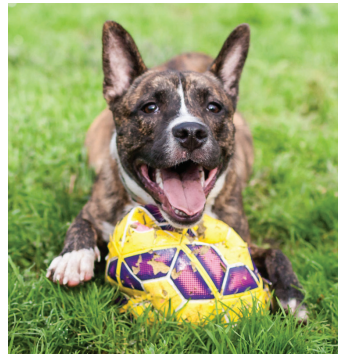
With your help, we are able to take on big challenges: How can we come together as a community to protect our animals, to find creative solutions to long-standing problems, to lift up our neighbors and their animal families when times are hard?

When fires tore through the North Bay this fall, destroying neighborhood after neighborhood, we were proud to be able to support OAS in coming to the aid of North Bay animal shelters inundated with sudden, overwhelming need.

When animals came through our shelter’s doors after being shot, hit by a car, or victimized by abuse or neglect, we were able to offer them some of the highest quality veterinary care available, including use of new, FOAS-funded, state of the art x-ray equipment.

In addition to the veterinary services we have always provided for shelter animals, we are thrilled to launch our free community spay/neuter program for cats and dogs belonging to Oakland residents. Our December 2017 kick-off event will be followed by more events throughout 2018 as our program grows.

Thank you for acting locally to make the world a little friendlier for the animals who join us in calling Oakland home.



With gratitude,

Lisa Franzetta

*Program and Fundraising Director*

## COMMUNITY SPAY/NEUTER

The OAS budget does not include any funding for spay/neuter of non-shelter animals, despite the fact that accessible spay/neuter services are key to reducing the number of homeless animals arriving at the shelter's doors every day. With your support, FOAS is stepping up to provide this much-needed service to Oakland residents.

Launching a community spay/neuter program requires deep trust and collaboration between volunteers, staff, community members, veterinary partners, and pet owners willing to be part of our goal of reducing overpopulation. We are building partnerships with other local organizations to offer a wide range of spay/neuter opportunities, from mobile spay/neuter vans to transports to local clinics and vouchers. Stay tuned for more in 2018! E-mail us at [petfix@oaklandsanimals.org](mailto:petfix@oaklandsanimals.org) for more information.

### Partnering with International Veterinary Outreach

One of the first partnerships we established is with International Veterinary Outreach (IVO), a nonprofit organization run by veterinarians that provides sustainable, quality veterinary care to underserved communities. Here in Oakland, where our municipal shelter remains one of the least-funded animal control agencies in the region, IVO and FOAS have partnered to provide spay/neuter services. Together we have sterilized dozens of feral and under-socialized cats at the shelter, preparing them for adoption, transfer, or release back to their habitat. Thanks to our donors and the volunteers from IVO, we're reducing how long feral cats remain in shelter care before finding their permanent homes.



*IVO volunteers performing surgery*

## Partnering with Fix Our Ferals

FOAS partnered with Fix Our Ferals for our first community spay/neuter day in December 2017. With the hard work of volunteers and FOAS board members and staff, we transported 13 cats and 2 dogs to get spayed and neutered at the Fix Our Ferals clinic in Richmond. Owners dropped off and picked up their animals at the Oakland Animal Services parking lot.



*Early morning check-in for pet owners*

Oakland resident Tracy Camp said, "Thank you for servicing the three kitties we found in our backyard in October who are now a part of our family! We had no idea how we were going to handle paying for three cats to get vaccinated and spayed and neutered. Thank you!"

We were also able to fix feral cats that were being cared for by community members. "I really appreciated FOAS's free spay/neuter program, from the friendly and informative e-mail and phone contact prior to the day, as well as the simple and straightforward drop off and pick up," said Eri Glans-Suzuki. "Since I live and work in Oakland, it was also very convenient."

We are looking to expand our outreach and fix even more animals in 2018. If you would like to get involved, volunteer, or make an appointment, e-mail [petfix@oaklandsanimals.org](mailto:petfix@oaklandsanimals.org).



*Pets securely transported in carriers to Richmond*



## MICKEY'S MEDICAL FUND

Thanks to Mickey's Medical Fund, FOAS is able to provide emergency and extraordinary medical care for shelter animals, often at private specialty clinics outside of the shelter. Animals arriving at OAS in need of serious medical interventions are a reality that our shelter faces on a weekly basis.

A dog named Mickey (namesake of the original) arrived at OAS with a skin condition that appeared to be "hot spots." Multiple courses of steroids and antibiotics seemed to help at first, but then her painful lesions returned, worse than ever. OAS vet staff sedated Mickey and clipped and cleaned her wounds, only to discover that she seemed to have this painful skin condition

over most of her body. A biopsy revealed that Mickey had a staph infection that was resistant to your average antibiotics, but treatable with specific kinds—and the veterinary team quickly got her on the course to recovery with the right medication for her infection.

Mickey is a sweet girl who never once acted as if she were suffering, despite her obviously painful condition. OAS staff describe her as a happy girl who loves attention from people; her new foster mom describes her as "damn near perfect!"



*Mickey in her foster home*



Another Mickey's Medical Fund beneficiary is Eddie, an older FIV+ cat, who was able to get much-needed dental work. It reduced his pain enough that he was comfortable grooming himself again. Our partners at Cat Town got him into a foster home to finish his recovery, and he quickly became a "foster fail"—

Eddie was adopted by his Cat Town foster family.

Lack of dental care can be a major barrier to adoption. Many animals, especially seniors, arrive at OAS needing several hundred dollars worth of dental care or more. FOAS funding for veterinary dental work can ease the pain caused by tooth disease and improve their prospects at finding willing adopters.



Ali, an eight-week-old puppy, was brought to a veterinary emergency hospital with a vacuum cleaner cord wrapped around her neck and bows glued to her ears. She was in critical condition and suffering from severe respiratory distress. Suspecting animal abuse, the hospital immediately notified Oakland Animal Services and animal control officers responded to the scene. Her condition was so grave that it was unclear whether she would

survive, but FOAS paid for her veterinary care and the little pup fought her way back to health. Once it was clear that she was going to fully recover, she was transferred to the care of OAS veterinarian Dr. Jen Dalmasso and given the name "Ali," because she's a little fighter. Brave Ali was adopted into a loving home where she is thriving.

### Support for Shelter Veterinary Staff

The shelter's tiny but mighty team of veterinary staff works tirelessly on behalf of shelter animals. Keeping hundreds of animals healthy in a shelter environment and controlling the spread of diseases are huge challenges. Meanwhile, stray and surrendered animals in every condition come through OAS's front doors daily and need to be triaged and cared for. To help alleviate stress (on both animals and humans), FOAS has been funding an additional part-time veterinary technician. We are thrilled to have Courtney on board! With help from a special donor who also recognized the vital importance of additional vet staff support, we were able to increase her hours to provide even more assistance to shelter animals.



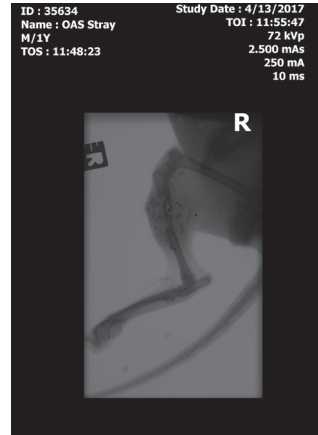
*Courtney at work*

## X-RAY MACHINE AT WORK

After many months of planning and fundraising, in February we completed the installation of a digital x-ray machine at the shelter. Another project made possible by our donors, this important diagnostic tool has been a major benefit to injured animals.

As Oakland's only open-admissions shelter, OAS cares for many stray animals injured by trauma, and the x-ray has become a vital tool for diagnosing their injuries and developing treatment plans. Before the x-ray machine was installed, injured animals had to be transported (very carefully!) to an outside clinic for x-rays. Now, they can be evaluated in-house with minimal movement and a diagnosis can be made much more quickly.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are able to help cats like Gilbert. In April, Gilbert arrived as a badly injured stray who was unable to use his right rear leg. Examination and an x-ray by the shelter vet team revealed a shattered tibia and fractured femur. The presence of metal fragments in the wound indicated that Gilbert may have been shot. Major surgery—an amputation—was needed to save him.



*X-ray of Gilbert's leg*



*Gilbert recovering in his foster home*

Gilbert's surgery was quickly scheduled and performed at a private vet clinic, also paid for by FOAS's Mickey's Medical Fund. The surgery was successful, and Gilbert was transferred to our partners at Cat Town to recuperate in a foster home. Gilbert was quickly up and about—on three legs—exploring. His charm and resiliency proved

to be too much to resist, and it wasn't long before his foster guardian made him a permanent part of the family.

## SAVING LIVES, HUMAN AND ANIMAL

Susan Reale had long wanted to adopt a dog, but she was facing a medical crisis: she needed a kidney donor. Her sister created a Facebook campaign to find a donor, which miraculously turned up Michelle Dunn—a perfect match, a willing donor, and a complete stranger.

Meanwhile, two little puppies at OAS were also fighting for their lives: both were diagnosed with a deadly canine disease, parvovirus. Parvovirus treatment costs approximately \$2500 per puppy and requires isolation from other shelter animals. FOAS was willing to pay the treatment cost if foster homes could be found to care for the pups during their recovery. Limited resources mean that OAS relies on the public to provide foster homes and donations to FOAS to treat cases like these.



Susan saw the photos of the puppies and decided to foster one. "We bonded because we both had to be quarantined—him for parvovirus and me for the immunosuppressive drugs I'm on for my transplant." Within hours she was in love and decided to adopt Chipper. Susan shared the story about Chipper's littermate to help find a foster for

him, too. Michelle saw the photo, signed up to foster, and then fell in love with the other puppy and adopted him too!

"My kidney donor saved my life," said Susan. "In turn, we saved the lives of two puppies who have created even more of a forever bond between us." In a final twist to the story, Chipper and Archie were born on January 12, 2017—the very same day of the transplant surgery.

Susan recently submitted her story to the Petco Foundation's Holiday Wishes Grant Campaign and we are excited to share that FOAS will receive a \$50,000 grant to help more animals at OAS.



## Supporting Adoption Efforts

Leggo was abandoned at Oakland Animal Services in the middle of the night. We didn't know his history, but he was a rockstar in doggy playgroup and a social, outgoing boy with humans. We knew he was destined for a special home.

FOAS was contacted by Swords to Plowshares, a nonprofit organization that helps veterans of war, with a request for a fee-waived adoption for a local veteran named Al. Al had recently lost his doggy companion to old age and his fixed income made it difficult to afford the adoption fee, but he was an experienced dog owner who would provide a loving home. FOAS immediately agreed to pay the adoption fee, which was made possible by a recent donation from one of our supporters.

We are thrilled to say that Al visited the shelter, fell in love with Leggo, and the rest is history!



## Dog Play Groups

Some dogs come to OAS with behavioral issues and a lack of socialization, and once at the shelter, they often can't get the exercise they need. Supervised dog play groups enrich the lives of shelter dogs,



allow staff and volunteers to identify and work on behavioral issues, and ultimately make dogs more adoptable. However, safely managing groups of off-leash dogs and correcting behavioral issues requires training and practice. To expand and improve OAS's dog play group program, FOAS funded a "Dogs Playing for Life" (DPFL) hands-

on workshop for OAS staff and dog crew volunteers. Aimee Sadler's nationally recognized DPFL program has been proven to increase adoption rates in shelters.

## GROWING THE FOSTER PROGRAM

A generous grant from the Petco Foundation in 2016 laid the groundwork for building and growing a sustainable foster program.

Kathleen Rolinson took over the FOAS-funded position in June 2017 and has moved almost 400 animals through the foster program. About 300 of these were underaged kittens, a delicate population that does not do well in a shelter environment. Foster homes are essential for nourishing these little lives until they are strong enough to be adopted.

Managing a foster program is no easy task and requires dedicated staff to support both the animals in foster homes and the people who are providing the care. Foster programs save lives, alleviate shelter stress and provide a chance for the many animals who simply don't display their most endearing sides in a shelter environment. Fostering also bonds the shelter with the community it serves by providing an additional tool in education about animal overpopulation, the beauty of shelter animals, and the values of adopting.



"The OAS foster program allows us to provide special care for animals needing the extra attention," said Rolinson.

"Underage kittens and puppies, dogs and cats with medical needs, and animals just needing a break get to spend time in a loving home until their adoptive families come along. The program would be nothing without the dedicated foster parents opening up their homes and their hearts."

Fostering is a great way to help a shelter animal on a temporary basis. For more information about fostering, e-mail [OASFostering@gmail.com](mailto:OASFostering@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.oaklandanimalservices.org/how-to-help/fostering-animals](http://www.oaklandanimalservices.org/how-to-help/fostering-animals).

## OTHER PROJECTS

Other FOAS-supported projects in 2017 included:

- The animal care coordinator position, which oversees the transfer of hundreds of animals to partner rescue groups
- Contract professional dog trainers who conduct behavior assessments for dogs and workshops for volunteers
- Routine medical care such as spay/neuter surgeries, dental treatment, ringworm tests, and lab tests
- Volunteer program support such as t-shirts, aprons, leashes, software, and event fees
- Fencing repair and construction
- Foster program supplies such as dog crates, adopt-me vests, and kitchen scales for weighing kittens
- OAS equipment and upkeep
- Signage and marketing materials

All of the projects described in this publication are made possible through *your* donations. Thank you for your support!

### \* SPECIAL THANKS \*

Big thanks to the following friends and supporters:

Ale Industries

Elizabeth Bennett

Bissell Pet Foundation

Nancy Elliot

Betty Galambos

Linda Huber

Dan Kalb

Morgan McGuire

Sue Reale

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# HOW YOU CAN HELP



We depend on your donations to help Oakland's animals. Our federal tax ID number is 20-4053711 and donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Make a donation in honor of a loved one for the holidays, and we'll send them a card acknowledging your gift. Just leave a comment with the person's name and address. Donate online at

[www.oaklandanimalservices.org/donate](http://www.oaklandanimalservices.org/donate) or mail a check to Friends of Oakland Animal Services, P.O. Box 3132, Oakland, CA 94609.

## Some other ways to donate:

### *Get our 2018 calendar or other merchandise.*

The perfect gift for yourself or the animal lover in your life, our 2018 calendar is full of heartwarming stories and photos. Visit [www.zazzle.com/oaklandanimalshelter](http://www.zazzle.com/oaklandanimalshelter) to order a calendar or [www.redbubble.com/people/oaklandsanimals](http://www.redbubble.com/people/oaklandsanimals) for t-shirts, bags, and other merchandise.



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