



## Dog Services partners with Rescue U to bring college students to animal shelters across the nation

by Maura White

Clackamas County Animal Adoption and Education Center recently became the first Petfinder Foundation Rescue U Home Chapter on the West Coast.

The program kicked off earlier this year with a spring break volunteer project with Southern Oregon University's Civic Engagement Program. Nine students and one teacher came to the Portland area as part of a program that helps students build relationships, learn about social issues and become engaged in the community. Each day the college students led volunteer projects at rescues, shelters and other animal-serving organizations.

Here in Clackamas County, students rolled up their sleeves and repainted the entire upstairs training area at the Center re-organized the storage area, and learned about our employees and how they do their jobs.

As a Rescue U Chapter, we received a grant to cover costs for all the supplies, Miller Paint provided paint at cost, and Happy Valley Subway donated sandwiches.

Rescue U began in 2007 as an outreach program run by the Pennsylvania-based animal advocacy group *Animal Lifeline*, which lives by its motto: "Rescue to the rescues." *Animal Lifeline* founder Denise Bash saw a dire need for shelter support in the Appalachian



Mountains of West Virginia. She gathered family and friends and traveled there to lend a hand. This original group of volunteers grew and eventually included a Delaware Valley College athletic trainer and professor. Their involvement led to more college student participation, and Rescue U was born.

Today Rescue U recruits college students and volunteers from all over the country to help animal shelters. Volunteers are paired with local shelters to help with a variety of tasks from basic shelter maintenance and repairs to dog training. At the Clackamas County Center, volunteers are encouraged to transition from being a one-time volunteer to participating in the Levels Volunteer Program.

Volunteers help improve the lives of homeless pets and support the shelter staff and the community. It all began with people teaching students how they can get involved and today continues to make a positive difference.



**TEAM WORK WITH A PURPOSE** | College students volunteer at Dog Services as part of Rescue U. Volunteers build relationships and learn about community issues. Tasks included spending time with the dogs and cleaning and painting the center training room (below, left).

### All in a day's work: *The gift of love*

*Sometimes in the course of our lives we are blessed to meet someone who, without knowing it, has the ability to make us stop and evaluate our definition of a hero. The article below appeared on our Facebook page on Feb. 21.*

Today, we at the Animal Adoption and Education Center had the opportunity to be in the presence of a true hero, with a heart so large and so giving that we are in awe.

Many of you have seen pictures of Sooka, our young adult Siberian husky - very pretty and very sweet. Late last week Sooka met her perfect match - a young man named Dustin and his Siberian that were perfect for her. It was instant love for all three of them.

The center set up Sooka's spay for Wednesday and during the examination that goes along with the spay we discovered some heartbreaking news - Sooka had cancer. It was well-seated and spread. Often, for a guest in a shelter, that is where the story would end, as she would be humanely euthanized.

Not so for Sooka. After a flurry of early morning phone calls, lots of conversation and Dustin's heartfelt generosity, we had the resources to perform surgery on Sooka. During the delicate surgery that took over an hour, we removed as much of the cancer as possible. (This surgery, by the way, would not have been possible without the heart monitoring and IV machine donated by Emergency Veterinary Clinic of Tualatin and VCA Northwest Veterinary Specialists.)

Dustin came to the shelter to check on Sooka's recovery and to talk to the veterinarian and veterinary technicians. We found out that not long before, he had lost his previous female Siberian to terminal cancer, so he knew - as he adopted this young dog - what he had agreed to, how hard it would be and how much extra work it would take.

Today Sooka left for her forever home with Dustin, who has a heart big enough to give her whatever time she has left with love and grace.

We should all be such heroes.

Dustin, may you and Sooka have many sunny days together. We are in awe of you.



**GRAB A HANKY BEFORE YOU READ THIS STORY** | Even after Dog Services staff discovered serious medical problems in this Siberian husky, Sooka's new owner still wanted to adopt her.



# Talkin' About Teeth

## Improved dental care available to shelter dogs thanks to support from FIDO and community

The Clackamas County Animal Adoption and Education Center is now the grateful recipient of a veterinary dental station, thanks to the efforts of Friends Involved in Dog Outreach (FIDO) and community donors.

The dental machine will allow Dog Services to improve the health of shelter dogs, and reach out to the low-income, homeless and elderly residents to extend their companion dogs' lives through improved dental care.

"We couldn't be happier with this donation," said Dr. Lora Geisler who works with the dogs at the center. "Good dental health in our dogs is something we can all smile about."

"We are excited that we finally have the money for this device," said Chip Sammons, FIDO co-founder and vice president. "For us,

it's been a two-year project. When Dr. Lora (Geisler) explained the need to us several years ago, we all had one of those 'Aha!' moments and then set our sights to help."

In addition to FIDO, several individual donors joined the effort in response to a request from the Clackamas Dogs Foundation (CDF). "We received everything from \$5 cash donations to \$100 anonymous gifts online," said CDF development officer Maura White. "I am impressed with the generosity toward dogs in this community."

Though the awareness of the impact of dental disease on dogs' body systems is relatively new, there is no question that, if left unhindered, bacteria from the teeth and gums can spread through the bloodstream and infiltrate other

parts of the body, including the heart, liver and kidneys. At a minimum, periodontal disease causes mouth pain in dogs and as a result, difficulty eating. If left untreated, dental disease can also cause heart, liver and kidney damage and pain in dogs. More than 50 percent of our guests are strays or abused dogs who have not received adequate medical or dental care. Being able to treat them with the new dental machine will increase their adoptability so they can lead happy lives in loving homes.

*FIDO is a local all-volunteer organization dedicated to making "Pawsitive" Changes One Dog At A Time. FIDO's Dog Food Bank and AniMeals programs help families keep dogs in homes and out of the shelters.*

## Good dental health for your pet will keep you smiling

Dental disease caused by plaque formation on teeth is a common health problem in pets. It is estimated that by the age of three, 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats have dental disease. If left untreated, it can lead to oral pain, tooth infection and loss and more serious medical conditions. Just as with humans, regular preventive care can help maintain your pet's health and avoid costly and painful dental problems in the future.

Here are some quick tips on what you can do to help keep your pet's teeth, and your pet, healthy:

- Examine your pet's mouth once a week. Gums should be pink, not white or red. Teeth should be clean, without any brownish tartar.
- Be alert for signs of poor dental health from your pet, such as persistent bad breath, redness around the gums, drooling, difficulty eating or chewing, pawing at or sensitivity around the mouth, gums that bleed easily, and loose or missing teeth. If you see anything that causes concern, see your veterinarian.
- Make sure your pet has a routine dental exam every six to 12 months, depending on your pet's oral health.
- Brush your pet's teeth.
  - Get a toothbrush made especially for canines or a clean piece of soft gauze to wrap around your finger.
  - Ask your vet for a toothpaste made especially for canines or make a paste out of baking soda and water.
  - Never use fluoride with dogs under six months of age - it can interfere with tooth enamel formation.
  - Do not use human toothpaste - it can irritate a dog's stomach.
- Give your dog chew toys. They not only alleviate stress and reduce boredom but will help keep teeth strong and clean and massage gums.

Home care can slow tartar build-up and the progression of dental disease. There are also diets, oral products and treats that can inhibit plaque formation. Consult your veterinarian for tips on how to brush your pet's teeth and other ways to maintain your pet's dental health.



### One-stop service for dog licensing and vaccinations

Clackamas County requires all veterinarians to report rabies vaccinations they administer to dogs. This means dog owners don't have to send a copy of the vaccination information to Dog Services and gives dog owners the opportunity to buy their county dog license from their veterinarian rather than at the Animal Adoption and Education Center. This reporting supports our efforts to increase voluntary compliance with Clackamas County dog licensing requirements through education and awareness. Each dog license sold helps the county provide care for lost and homeless dogs, supports field services that respond to calls such as dog at-large, dog bites and neglect and can be your dog's ticket home if he or she becomes lost.

# The dogs we know

by Deena Morando

A cheerful little Chihuahua skitters across the playroom floor, occasionally skipping a step, lifting one rear leg for a few steps to accommodate a trick knee. When an observer asks about the little dog's condition, an attendant replies with a slight head tilt, "Oh, it's his knee ... he was a shelter dog."

At the park a medium-sized shepherd mix reacts loudly to an unknown person by barking, lunging forward, then retreating behind her owner. Shocked at the noisy display, the pedestrian stops abruptly, concerned for her safety. "It's OK," the dog's owner remarks, "she gets scared sometimes - she was a shelter dog."

"Ah," the pedestrian nods understandingly.

There is a widespread attitude about shelter dogs - that they are inferior, both physically and mentally.

Although few people actually say it, many feel that a shelter dog's plight must be a reflection of their character; that they are homeless for good reason - why else would they end up at a shelter? The dog must have somehow brought it on.

It is not just the average person on the street that holds these views. Even pet professionals like trainers, groomers and veterinarians can have this perspective.

In contrast, who are the dogs we all know? Maybe our own; maybe a neighbor's young, rambunctious lab or a relative's little Chihuahua mix or the beautiful dog at the coffee shop. The neighbors don't have much time for training the lab, what with raising two small children and both working. It's a friendly dog, loves everybody - it just doesn't have any manners.

Your relative's little dog can be a tad shy with strangers, but is great with all the nieces and nephews and loves to go along on car rides.

The coffee shop dog patron certainly must be an expensive, valuable breed because he seems so special and regal. After all, he doesn't fawn over people or seem to need a lot of attention to be happy.

**BUT HERE IS THE THING:** These dogs that we run into every day and dogs just like them - the ones we all have met - are shelter dogs. Shelter dogs are normal, everyday dogs that used to be someone's pet; then circumstances changed and they found themselves sitting in a kennel at a shelter waiting for a new home.

Every dog you know or have met could easily be a shelter dog. Maybe someone loses their job and their home and has nowhere to keep a dog anymore. Perhaps a gate is left open and the dog runs away or an owner dies and no relatives want the dog. The reasons don't really matter. The point is that shelter dogs are just dogs that have found themselves without a home - a situation not reflective of their character but of their circumstances.

Some people think that dogs that were born feral - truly homeless dogs - make up most of the dogs in shelters. That is another myth. While this does happen, it is a very small per-



centage of dogs that arrive at shelters.

Life and circumstances happen to animals just like it does to us. Just like the pets all around us, some orphan dogs are shy, some outgoing, some are rowdy, some have a few 'quirks' or health problems and most are normal, friendly, healthy dogs. Even those with health issues are easily managed and able to enjoy a high quality of life.

## Helping a shelter dog adapt to your loving home

This is not to say that one can expect to adopt a dog, bring him home and immediately live happily ever after. A change in environment is very stressful for a dog (just as it is for people) even if it's moving out of a shelter and into a loving home. They need time to adjust.

**BEFORE YOU ADOPT**, here are a few simple things to keep in mind:

**Know what you want** - Think ahead of time about what type of personality will mesh with your lifestyle and family. If you're not hung up on a certain "look," your chances of finding that perfect match will be increased greatly.

**Meet the dog** - Kennels are stressful places to live, regardless of how nice the facility and how caring the staff and volunteers are. As such, a dog's behavior in their kennel run is not always representative of who they really are. If a dog meets your physical requirements (size, coat type), or staff suggest a dog based on what you're looking for, do meet the dog in person in a separate room or outside play yard. Give the dog time to check out the area (and you) before you expect anything from them.

**AFTER YOU HAVE YOUR NEW DOG HOME**, here is some advice for success:

**Set a routine** - Just as with children, establishing a routine helps provide a sense of security. When the dog knows what to expect, stress for the dog, and you, is reduced.

**Less doing, more being** - Everyone is excited when they adopt a new dog, and want to introduce the dog to everyone they know. The problem is, the dog doesn't even know you yet.

The first month should be spent simply being with your new dog; establishing a routine, a bond, and trust. Visitors can come over one at a time but only after at least a week of quiet at-home time. It is not a good idea to take a new dog to events like a big family gathering, farmers market or dog park soon after adopting.

**Expect changes** - It is common for orphan dogs to go through behavioral changes as they adjust to another home. After several days, weeks and then months, you will see changes in your dog's behavior. Some hyper-active dogs settle down; some low-key dogs become more outgoing. Do not expect a new dog to be fully settled in before six to 12 months after adopting.

**Expect to houstrain** -

Even adult dogs have not always had the best (or any) house training. If they have, there may have been setbacks in the shelter.

Much of a dog's behavior is situational, so in a new home it can take a while for the dog to figure out your routine, how to ask to go out, etc. Add to that the stress of such a big change, and accidents are likely. If you expect to have to house train a new dog, set up your new relationship for success rather than hoping for perfection and being disappointed.

The next time you or a relative or friend are looking for a family dog, consider giving a second chance to an orphan. You know them ... you just haven't met them yet.



## Dog Services Open House/ Volunteer Orientation

Tuesday, May 28, 6:30-9 p.m.  
13141 SE Highway 212, Clackamas

The public is invited to the Clackamas County Animal Adoption and Education Center Open House and New Volunteer Orientation Tuesday, May 28.

The open house is a great opportunity for people to meet staff, gather information, tour the shelter and learn about volunteer opportunities in the center and with the Clackamas Dogs Foundation.

Tours will be provided from 6:30-7 p.m., followed by an overview of both programs in the training room and a question/answer session.

A second presentation will be offered at 8 p.m. for people who arrive later. RSVP to [mwhite2@clackamas.us](mailto:mwhite2@clackamas.us) or drop in.

# Golfing for Dogs June 7



The first-ever Clackamas Dogs Foundation (CDF) Golf Scramble and Silent Auction will take place on Friday, June 7, at Sah-Hah-Lee, an executive-par 3 golf course on the banks of the Clackamas River. Proceeds will go to the CDF and the Clackamas County Animal Adoption and Education Center.

In addition to the regular tournament, a putt-putt golf tournament is being offered on the putting course, which features sand traps, sneaky breaks and undulations in a relaxed and beautiful setting under stately fir trees.

Golfing foursomes will tee off in a shotgun start at 8 a.m., and putt putt golfers can start anytime after 10 a.m. If there are enough putting teams, a schedule of tee times will be created.

Both events are followed by lunch and a silent auction scheduled to end by 1 p.m. in the covered pavilion. The foundation is seeking silent auction donations including overnight lodging, sports gear, pet-friendly baskets, restaurant gift certificates, services, jewelry and more.

The cost per golfer, \$85 for the main golf tournament and \$25 for putt-putt, includes a continental breakfast and lunch, green fees, a pull cart, prizes and entry into the silent auction. Golfers can register as singles or as a foursome. A corporate foursome (\$500) includes web advertising and signage.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at all levels, from greens sponsor at \$2,500 to hole sponsorships at \$200.

Contact CDF development officer Maura White or volunteer Inna Malashenok, 503-722-6729 or mwhite2@clackamas.us to learn more.

# The +1 goal ... yes, we can

When you drive up to the Clackamas County Animal Adoption and Education Center, you come face to face with a huge sign that says "ASK US ABOUT +1." What on earth does that mean?

Well, for 2013, we have set a goal of saving one more life every day than the same day in 2012. Just think - if the community saved just **one** more life every day, that would mean saving 300 more lives of four-legged best friends in Clackamas County this year.

The Animal Adoption and Education Center already has a very impressive lives-saved rate.

In 2012, with your help and a dedicated team of professionals, we were able to save 81 percent of all the dogs who came through the doors:

- 1,373 animals found care and a safe haven
- 520 animals reunited with their families
- 474 animals found new fur-ever families
- 113 animals transferred to partnering agencies to get a new view

In 2013, we would like to see that come much closer to 90 percent.




**DOG SPORTS DEMO DAY!**  
**Sunday, June 23**  
**10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

*Have a great time with your dog learning sports that are fun and good exercise for both of you!*

**Clackamas County Animal Adoption and Education Center**

**13141 SE Highway 212, Clackamas**  
**Entrance fee: Donation of dog food or training treat**

**More information:**  
[facebook.com/ClackamasDogDemoDay](https://www.facebook.com/ClackamasDogDemoDay)  
 or  
[www.clackamas.us/dogs/](http://www.clackamas.us/dogs/)  
 or  
**503-655-8628**

Animal Statistics Table			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animal Control <input type="checkbox"/> Community			
			
NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Clackamas County Dog Services	Dog	Cat	Total
DATE OF REPORT: January 2012 - December 31, 2012			
<b>A BEGINNING SHELTER COUNT January 1, 2012</b>	47	0	47
<b>INTAKE (Live Dogs &amp; Cats Only)</b>			
<i>From the Public</i>			
Healthy	448	13	461
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	467	7	474
Treatable – Manageable	187	1	188
Unhealthy & Untreatable	140	9	149
<b>B Subtotal Intake from the Public</b>	<b>1242</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1272</b>
<i>Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Community/Coalition (specify orgs) - MCAS</i>			
Healthy	0	0	0
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	3	0	3
Treatable – Manageable	0	0	0
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0
<b>C Subtotal Intake from Incoming Transfers from Orgs within Community/Coalition</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Incoming Transfers from Organizations outside Community/Coalition (specify orgs)</i>			
Healthy	9	0	9
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	3	0	3
Treatable – Manageable	0	0	0
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0
<b>D Subtotal Intake from Incoming Transfers from Orgs outside Community/Coalition</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>From Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia</i>			
Healthy	0	0	0
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	0	0	0
Treatable – Manageable	0	0	0
Unhealthy & Untreatable	4	1	5
<b>E Subtotal Intake from Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>F Total Intake [B + C + D + E]</b>	<b>1261</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1292</b>
<b>G Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy &amp; Untreatable Only)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>H ADJUSTED TOTAL INTAKE [F minus G]</b>	<b>1257</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1287</b>
<b>ADOPTIONS (only dogs and cats adopted by the public)</b>			
Healthy	174	3	177
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	215	1	216
Treatable – Manageable	70	0	70
Unhealthy & Untreatable	14	0	14
<b>I TOTAL ADOPTIONS</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>477</b>
<b>OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations within Community/Coalition (OHS, HSSW, CAT)</b>			
Healthy	18	12	30
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	16	0	16
Treatable – Manageable	5	5	10
Unhealthy & Untreatable	1	0	1
<b>J TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Orgs within Community/Coalition</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations outside Community/Coalition (Family Dogs New Life)</b>			
Healthy	17	0	17
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	44	0	44
Treatable – Manageable	28	0	28
Unhealthy & Untreatable	11	0	11
<b>K TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Orgs outside Community/Coalition</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>L RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>525</b>
<b>DOGS &amp; CATS EUTHANIZED</b>			<b>0</b>

Clackamas County Animal Adoption and Education Center with all of the members of the Animal Sheltering Alliance of Portland maintains statistical information on all companion pet guests and outcomes. This table is the complete arrival and resulting outcomes for dogs (and a few cats) cared for in 2012 at Clackamas County Animal Adoption and Education Center.