

# FRIENDS OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

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Friends of the Escambia County Animal Shelter is grass roots, volunteer run, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, dedicated to supplementing the resources of the Escambia County Animal Shelter. FOTECAS works to educate our community on animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. 100% of the money raised goes directly towards assisting the animals in our community.



President, Laura Booth; VP, Kim Rainer; Secretary, Lori Eddins. Not pictured, Dirk Heseman, Treasurer

## Year in Review

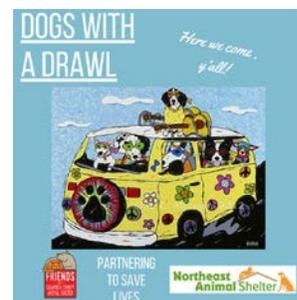
What an exciting year (or so) it's been! Founded in July 2015, Friends of the Escambia County Animal Shelter (FOTECAS) has grown quickly and gained quite a bit of momentum. We've had wonderful support from our Facebook followers, or Friends, and from the community in general. With the help of our Friends, we've been able to assist nearly 300 animals that required medical support that was beyond what is available at the shelter, needed heartworm treatment, or caught a transport north through our Dawgs with a Drawl program. Early in the year, FOTECAS held a bed build that brought the community out in force to build beds for the shelter dogs. Nearly 150 beds were built for the pooches! We've received grants from 400 Paws and Navy Federal Credit Union to support our heartworm program. The local media has been extraordinarily supportive of our efforts as well, featuring our stories on local news station WEAR, our transports in Pensacola Life Magazine, and honoring our founder, Laura Booth, as runner up Volunteer of the Year in InWeekly's Best of the Coast.

Our Friends have become kennel partners to help the kitties and pooches, raised funds through raffles and fun events in the area and answered our pleas for funds for our special "project" animals like Charlie, Snope, Eli & Jewel, Larry, Baguette and Nike the cat. They have sent treats, toys, and whatever was needed when we asked. We have a team of dedicated volunteers that help with events and transports and our fosters have saved so many lives.

We are so fortunate for the support and generosity we've received from our Friends. We have big plans for the coming year and look forward to saving more lives! Read on to learn more about some of our programs and visit us online at [www.ecasfriends.com](http://www.ecasfriends.com) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ecasfriends](http://www.facebook.com/ecasfriends)

## Dawgs With A Drawl

Since May 2016, FOTECAS has worked with our animal shelter and local rescues to transport 224 animals north to the Northeast Animal Shelter (NEAS). Moving these animals out of the Pensacola area to Salem, MA where there are much stricter spay and neuter laws provides them with an opportunity they might not otherwise have had. After a two day quarantine at NEAS, the animals are evaluated and placed for adoption. Our animals are typically adopted into loving homes in less than a week. These transports open kennels in our shelter, which means more animals have an opportunity to be adopted. Similarly, when we work with local rescues to send their animals north, they then have room in their rescue to pull an animal from our shelter. We've also had the good fortune to transport cats and kittens to Lucky Cat Adoptions in Jacksonville, FL.



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*"I believe in adopting from the shelters or through rescue groups, and while I can't adopt any more dogs at the moment, I can foster for a short while to save a dog's life and the life of another dog who now has a place in the shelter." ~ Sarabeth Gordon, Foster*

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## Fosters Save Lives



There's a lot of work involved in our transports, and the support from our dedicated fosters is the most important. Our transport fosters take shelter dogs and cats and provide them with a home filled with love and kindness prior to transport. These fosters typically keep the animals for 3-5 weeks before the animals head north. Without the fosters, we could not have a successful transport program. We are so grateful for their support and love of the animals! FOTECAS is in constant need of fosters for our transports but also for the occasional medical case we take on at the shelter. If you would like to foster, contact us! We'll find a dog or cat that fits your family's lifestyle. Just send an email to [ecasfriends@gmail.com](mailto:ecasfriends@gmail.com).



## Kennel Partnerships

Our kennel sponsors are changing the lives of the shelter animals. Sponsorships come from many sources, from generous local businesses to families honoring a loved one. These sponsorships allow us to provide vital medical care for cats and dogs in need, that can't be treated at the shelter. Partnerships are \$250 per year for a dog kennel or \$150 for a cat kennel. In 2017, we will begin accepting monthly payments for partnerships, \$25/month for dogs and \$20/month for cats. A lifetime partnership can be purchased for \$1500 and includes a custom plaque to be hung on the kennel of your choice.

Many thanks to those that sponsored a kennel in 2015-2016:

Amazing Grace Bully Rescue, Mondy Boyette, Olive Branch Pet Hospital, Uncle Billy's Trading Post, Pine Meadow Veterinary Clinic, Susan Carleton, Elizabeth Tamagni, Diane Ritchie, Donna at Doggy Stylz Grooming, Laura Ericson and Dr. Stephanie Karous, Escambia County Public Information Office, Wanda Mercer, Eddie Mercer, The Cheryl Raines Family, Dr. Mark Sprayberry, Shay Rosecrans, The Gengnagel Family, The Yost Family and Anderson Subaru.

## Heartworm Program

This year we were fortunate to be the benefactor of two local grants which, combined with generous donations from our Friends, enabled us to help 36 dogs receive heartworm treatment. The grants from Navy Federal Credit Union and 400 Paws, Inc. gave us the opportunity to offer \$250 heartworm sponsorships to adopters of heartworm positive dogs. These sponsorships helped adopters pay for costly heartworm treatments and therefore, gave many dogs an opportunity to be adopted that they might not otherwise have had. We've utilized our grant money and are now in need of donations to continue our heartworm program. If you'd like to offer a full sponsorship for a dog, typically \$500-\$700, or a partial sponsorship for \$250, please let us know! We plan to continue offering heartworm sponsorship as long as the funds allow.

Zeus is one of our heartworm recipients and is currently under the loving care of one of our fosters while he undergoes treatment. Zeus is a five year old pit bull and is so loving. He is available for adoption if you'd like to meet him! If interested, send us an email at [ecasfriends@gmail.com](mailto:ecasfriends@gmail.com)





Lady Claypool with her Fospice Mom,  
Dominique Harding

## Fospice

Our Fospice (Foster/Hospice) program provides loving homes for the terminally ill or very old animals that sometimes find themselves in the shelter. Fosters take in these animals knowing that they may not be with them long. Their compassion is what provides these beloved animals with the care they need in their final days.

We've had several cats and dogs make their way through the fospice program and over the summer, we had Lady Claypool. Lady Claypool arrived at the shelter in terrible condition but was soon welcomed into the caring home of John and Dominique Harding. Lady Claypool spent nearly a month with the Hardings before peacefully passing away in their loving arms. By opening their home to this sweet old lady, the Hardings gave Lady Claypool the opportunity to live out her final days in dignity and with all the comforts and love she deserved. If you'd consider welcoming a fospice pooch or kitty into your home, please let us know.

## Looking Forward

We continue to grow, Friends! Without your support, we cannot do what we do. FOTECAS continues to work to improve the lives of the animals residing at the shelter, to open kennels and free up space at the shelter by transporting animals north, to provide supplementary medical care to shelter animals, and to provide enrichment for them by providing treats and toys. We will continue to take animals to adoption events where we also aim to educate the community about proper care of their animal companions and the importance of spay and neuter. In 2017, we plan to expand our programs and hope to bring on more volunteers and fosters to make things happen! We truly appreciate your support and generosity.

Donations may be made via PayPal by sending funds to [ecasfriends@gmail.com](mailto:ecasfriends@gmail.com) or by mail at FOTECAS, PO Box 11553, Pensacola, FL 32524.



# SPAY NEUTER ADOPT VOLUNTEER

Friends of the Escambia County Animal Shelter

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