



# 2018 Year in Review

# 2018 by the Numbers

over  
**4,577**  
animals coming through  
Oakland Animal Services\*  
\*as of 11/13/18



**350**  
dogs and cats owned  
by Oakland residents  
spayed and  
neutered for free

more than  
**1,134**  
animals adopted



over  
**550**  
animals fostered

**2**  
legs saved with TPLO  
surgery, thanks to FOAS  
donors who stepped  
up for Jelly Bean



# Rescue Starts Here



Dear friends,

For an animal lover wanting to make a difference for animals in need, it can be hard to know where to start. Through our many news feeds and social media channels, we are constantly inundated with calls for help. Even as we look around our own community, the need many times seems overwhelming. At Friends of Oakland Animal Services, we start where the animals do—at the doors of OAS, our city shelter.

Oakland Animal Services is our city's *only* open-door shelter. That means that our shelter is tasked with taking in any homeless, lost, neglected, or abused animal who arrives at our door. Some have traumatic histories—like the dozens of Chihuahuas we rescued from a hoarder in January. Some have suffered terrible injuries—like the severely abused puppies we rescued over Memorial Day weekend, who now thrive in their new, loving homes. We provide care to them all, knowing that every being—not just the cutest ones with the best chance at adoption—deserve respect, compassion, and dignity.

What happens next is a testament to the generosity of FOAS supporters like you, and everyone who has joined with us in our mission to provide homes, health, and happiness to Oakland's animals through donating, volunteering, fostering, and adopting:

- Though Mickey's Medical Fund, FOAS donors make it possible for us to provide often-costly veterinary care to those special animals who come to our shelter with serious but treatable medical conditions.



- The shelter's brand new animal behaviorist position, jointly funded by FOAS and the Lufkin Foundation, is streamlining evaluation of our incoming animals, identifying their needs, training our volunteers and staff, and ultimately improving our animals' chances for speedy adoptions.



- Through our FOAS-funded transport program, we then work with our ever-growing network of private organizations to help rehome many of the nearly 5000 animals who arrive at our shelter each year.
- Meanwhile, the FOAS foster coordinator places animals in need with caring families here in the Bay Area. With her support, our foster families help these animals gain confidence, learn manners, and blossom into happy pets.
- And thanks to true friends of Oakland's animals like you, we are thrilled to be wrapping up the first year of our brand new PetFix free community spay/neuter program, a critical program addressing our city's epidemic of homeless animals at its root. We've already spayed and neutered hundreds of Oakland's cats and dogs at no cost to their owners, and we are just getting started!

Read on to hear about some of the happy endings your contributions have supported in 2018, and thank you again for joining us in creating a better world for Oakland's animals.

With gratitude,  
Lisa Franzetta  
*Program and Fundraising Director*

## Abused Puppies Survive and Thrive

In the face of overwhelming odds, three horribly abused puppies rescued after Memorial Day have made incredible recoveries—and they could not have done it without the generosity of FOAS donors. Chloe, Freya, and Frigg were found tortured and dumped—two with severely broken jaws, the third with a missing rear paw. Their veterinary bills were astronomical, but thanks to an unprecedented outpouring of support from FOAS donors, their emergency and ongoing medical care was quickly guaranteed.

Today, all three are thriving with loving families. Chloe (now “Sugar”) and Freya (renamed “Qi’ra”) made themselves at home with their foster families during the pending animal abuse investigation, while OAS continued to be responsible for the costs of their care. (Frigg was adopted by a journalist who covered their story.)

Sugar’s mom reports that she loves people and other dogs and “is a social butterfly at the park, beach . . . wherever we go.” She loves to climb and jump and “would swim all day if you let her.” Meanwhile, Qi’ra’s mom says, “She has adjusted to living with her three dog and three cat housemates beautifully. Her favorite place in the house is the dog couch, and she lies on her back like the little dog. She eats dry dog food as if nothing was ever wrong with her jaw.”



Qi’ra at home



Sugar, camping in Tahoe

As Oakland’s only open-door shelter, OAS alone has the daunting task of providing care for animals rescued from any criminal abuse cases in our city. The FOAS medical fund means that even animals like Sugar and Qi’ra, terribly injured by their abuser, can go on to live the life we believe every animal deserves.

## Saving a Leg—and a Life



Jelly Bean at the shelter, too frightened to walk

Thanks to FOAS donors, we were able to end the excruciating pain and preserve the mobility of an adorable mutt, Jelly Bean. When she arrived at the shelter, Jelly Bean was so terrified and shut down that she had to be carried out of her kennel. The shelter's animal behaviorist, a FOAS-funded position, knew she would benefit by getting a break from the shelter. Through her efforts and FOAS's foster program, Jelly Bean was placed in a loving foster home where she instantly blossomed into a lovable, playful, energetic dog.

That's when her foster mom noticed a limp that wasn't detected at the shelter because she was too scared to walk. She was diagnosed with ruptured ligaments in her right leg, a condition that causes intense and constant pain which would ultimately lead to arthritis and potentially catastrophic injury in the future. And it was a matter of time before her left leg suffered the same injury.

Her options were: 1) a lifetime of painkillers and likely deterioration of her leg, 2) amputation of her leg, or 3) an expensive TPLO surgery (similar to ACL surgery on a human knee)—a cost of \$10,000 for the right leg alone. We knew we wanted to give Jelly Bean a chance at living the fullest life possible. Thanks to the generosity of many FOAS donors, including an anonymous donor who matched the first \$5,000 raised, Jelly Bean was able to get her surgery. The generosity of FOAS' donors was apparently infectious—the veterinarian who performed the surgery also performed a pro bono surgery on Jelly's left leg. What could possibly be sweeter than this? Well, Jelly Bean found her forever home just in time for the holidays! Here she is, putting a big smile on her new mom's face.



Jelly Bean with her new mom

## PetFix: Saving Lives with Spay/Neuter

“I would like to thank this wonderful team for all they have done for my babies. Nala and Rocky are doing great. I’m so happy that I was introduced to this program. I don’t know how I was going to get them spayed and neutered, but with the help of your donors my prayers were answered.”

—Carla T., PetFix client

FOAS is celebrating the first full year of our new PetFix free community spay/neuter program for Oakland residents. Since our program launched in December 2017, FOAS has provided free spay/neuter surgeries, microchipping, and vaccines to over 300 cats and dogs in our city.

**PetFix is the only program of its kind in Oakland, providing 100% free spay/neuter services to any Oakland resident.** We believe that financial constraints should not be a barrier preventing people from providing care for their beloved pets, and we know that offering free spay/neuter to our most in-need Oakland residents is fundamental to addressing the epidemic of homeless animals.

Through PetFix, Oakland residents can attend one of our monthly spay/neuter events in Oakland or take advantage of



Minnie waits her turn for surgery at a September PetFix event





FOAS board member Colleen O'Brien helps a PetFix client with her dog

our ongoing voucher program, a partnership with Fix Our Ferals spay/neuter clinic in Richmond. To keep our overhead costs low, FOAS works with a network of nonprofit partners throughout the Bay Area, including Fix Our Ferals, Peninsula Humane Society, Humane Society of Silicon Valley, Rocket Dog Rescue, and International Veterinary Outreach. All spay/neuter and related services are funded by FOAS—meaning the support of our donors makes this vital community resource possible.

Month after month, our PetFix clients—including non-English speakers, homeless Oaklanders, and residents on disability—tell us that without our free services,

they would not be able to have their pets spayed and neutered. Demand has grown quickly, and we are committed to expanding PetFix in the coming year!

Are you an  
Oakland resident  
who needs spay/neuter  
surgery for your dog or  
cat? Find out more at  
[oaklandsanimals.org/  
petfix](http://oaklandsanimals.org/petfix)



Dressed to impress for her spay appointment at a PetFix event!

# With Thanks



“I want to thank the community that supports Oakland Animal Services. We are incredibly grateful to our hardworking staff, dedicated volunteers and members of the public who support our important work.

In particular, I want to thank our donors without whom we could not operate this agency at the level we do. The needs in Oakland are tremendous, for

both animals and people. Government funding for animal services is limited, and we rely on the generosity of our supporters to help us provide the best possible care for our animals. We are proud of what we have accomplished but we could not do it without you.

On behalf of the animals (and people) who cannot tell you themselves: **thank you!**

—Rebecca Katz,  
OAS director



## HOW TO HELP

Donate online at  
[oaklandanimalservices.org/  
donate](https://oaklandanimalservices.org/donate)

or mail a check to:  
Friends of OAS  
P.O. Box 3132  
Oakland, CA 94609

# From Fear to Freedom

It's a headline no one wants to read: "Nearly 50 dogs rescued, visibly shaken from Oakland pet shop." But this was no pet shop. In January 2018, Oakland Animal Services saved 46 Chihuahuas from a warehouse in deplorable condition. Most of the dogs were unsocialized, some likely never touched by human hands. The warehouse was so filthy that the officers had to wear respirator masks to rescue them. The dogs—infested with fleas, urine burns on their paws, some with severe eye and skin infections—ranged from puppies to pregnant moms, nursing moms with newborns, and seniors with rotten teeth. A few were friendly, but most were terrified.



Before and after photos of a rescued chihuahua

Thanks to the hard work of OAS and FOAS staff and volunteers, all 46 dogs were transferred to OAS adoption partners across various states. This work would not be possible without the FOAS-funded transfer coordinator position that sends over 2,100 animals to adoption partners every year.

"With so many animals entering the shelter every day, many more than can fill our adoption floor, the OAS transfer program gives them opportunities to be placed with our partners, locally, regionally and throughout the United States," says OAS transfer coordinator John Fonseca.

Without the transfer program, almost 50 small dogs arriving at OAS at once—in addition to the existing large population of Chihuahuas—would have been a huge burden on the shelter's capacity. Creating this

network of partnerships "helps give animals, including those who may be harder to place yet no less lovable, a chance they deserve."

# 2018 Transfer Numbers



over  
**1,114**  
dogs transferred  
to partner  
organizations

along with  
**802**  
cats



at least

**63**  
birds



and  
**42**  
rabbits



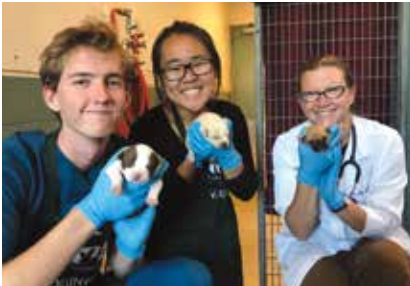
## Filling Critical OAS Needs

In addition to the transfer coordinator, FOAS funds two other regular staff members at OAS: an animal behaviorist and a foster coordinator. FOAS and the Lufkin Foundation partnered to fund the animal behaviorist position, a new role at the shelter that is instrumental to improving the quality of life of animals. The behaviorist expedites the behavioral evaluation process and movement of the animals through the shelter, and provides ongoing training and support for volunteers and staff. Ally Sivalls is now filling this position, and she brings with her extensive training, experience, and the credential of Certified Professional Dog Trainer through the Karen Pryor Academy for Animal Training & Behavior.



Ally Sivalls, the first animal behaviorist at OAS

### Continuing to grow the OAS foster program



Getting puppies ready for foster

The FOAS-funded position has moved over 500 animals through the foster program. About 85% of these were underaged kittens (or mama cats with underage 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.

“Foster homes provide vulnerable animals with a temporary respite from the shelter,” said foster coordinator Delphina Han. “Underage kittens/puppies, animals with medical needs, or dogs who are stressed in the shelter environment, all benefit greatly from being in the comfort of a home. Foster homes are a critical step in an animal’s journey to its adoptive home.”

Can you give a temporary home to a shelter animal? E-mail [OASFostering@gmail.com](mailto:OASFostering@gmail.com)

## Life Lessons from a Foster Dog



Samson came to OAS in December 2017 with a mass that was determined to be hemangiosarcoma, a rapidly growing, highly invasive variety of cancer that occurs almost exclusively in dogs. Chemotherapy can prolong survival, but typically only for a short duration. He was treated, but needed a loving place to recuperate out of the shelter.

Julianne, Dan and their dog Holly took Samson into their home as a fospice (hospice foster) dog. Julianne and Dan knew their time with Samson might not be long and they wanted him to fulfill all his bucket list items, including going to In-N-Out Burger, driving up the Oregon coast, and playing on the beach with Holly. As the months passed, Samson not only survived but became a beloved member of the family. Julianne and Dan decided to make it official and adopt Samson.

Samson's family believes they have received more from him than they have given. "He has changed our perspective, giving us a new appreciation for the beauty of everyday life," says Julianne. "I rush home every day because I don't want to miss a moment of Samson's exuberant hugs and tail wagging."

We are happy to report that as of November 2018, Samson's cancer is in remission (though not cured). Samson has been living his best life, starring as the cover dog for the FOAS 2019 calendar and touching even more lives around him: Julianne's moving story about Samson won FOAS a \$25,000 grant from the Petco Holiday Wishes grant campaign, allowing us to help even more dogs like Samson.



## Investing in Our Volunteers

FOAS sponsored well-known dog behaviorist and trainer, Tricia Breen, to lead three weekend sessions with a group of experienced dog volunteers who all came away with valuable skills that they put to work right away. One of the greatest needs at the shelter is for skilled handlers to introduce shelter dogs to the dogs of potential adopters. While OAS requires that the dogs meet as a condition of adoption approval, staff have very little time to oversee the introductions.



This training consisted of classroom sessions and hands-on practice focused on making safe dog-dog introductions. During the classrooms sessions, Tricia shared her own experiences working with people who come to her with their dog's behavior issues. Tricia reviewed typical adopters' expectations of their dogs and their limited ability to undertake necessary training despite best intentions, reinforcing the importance of listening and

educating when volunteers counsel potential adopters.

During the hands-on sessions, Tricia paired up attendees with each other to provide practice and evaluation on how to properly prepare and use proper equipment for dog-dog introductions; "reading" dogs' body and vocal language; how to identify guarding of a ball, toy, human, or the dog's own space; how to stay out of the interaction and let the dogs communicate as dogs do; and dog-dog behavior differences among breeds.

As a result of this FOAS-sponsored training, volunteers walked away with greater confidence and better knowledge of dog-handling skills. In addition, this training helped OAS move closer to achieving our goal of having at least two qualified people on hand during shelter open hours to conduct dog-dog introductions, thus increasing the ultimate success of such adoptions and better serving the public. Shelter dogs also get to participate in more play groups led by trained volunteers, which contributes significantly to their physical and mental health during their shelter stay, keeping them socialized and emotionally sound.



## Upgraded Housing for Shelter Cats



Funded by a generous grant from PetSmart Charities, FOAS completed the installation of new cat housing kennels in one of the cat holding areas of the shelter. The original kennels were well beyond their end of life; they had become rusted, broken and hazardous, because cats could escape through an old unused drainage system. Cleaning the kennels properly was nearly impossible, increasing the risk of disease. In addition, these kennels had originally been designed for small dogs, and lacked the proper features for cats required by modern sheltering standards.

The new kennels are built from stainless steel and other durable materials for improved cleaning, and provide generous vertical space for each cat, separate litter areas, and quiet-close kennels doors—all features which reduce stress and make cats feel comfortable, thereby making them more adoptable!



FOAS board member Andrew Dorman led the project

With the addition of a new mural in the room by local artist Ekke! Oakland Animal Services now use this room for adoptions of shy, fearful, senior, and other cats that need a quiet space.

## Bringing Art to the Animals



Abby Rocha working on her mural

Local artist, college professor, and OAS volunteer Nancy Mizuno Elliot has continued to work her magic in beautifying the Oakland Animal Services campus. Elliot has recruited dozens of artists in her effort to bring cheerful, dynamic art pieces to the formally dull, blank walls both inside and outside the shelter. With support from FOAS for materials and supplies, local artists generously donated more materials in addition to their time and talent. This collaboration has resulted in a total of twenty-four murals on display at OAS.

Recent works include interior installations by Patricia Wakida, ekke, and Elliot herself. Three new outdoor installations by Abby Rocha, Laurel Bushman, and Lisa Pisa have now been completed. The joyous, colorful works depict a range of companion animals at play and rest. These murals uplift the spirits of staff and volunteers, in addition to making Oakland Animal Services attractive to visitors and a fun place to visit and adopt.



Abby Rocha's full mural



Laurel Bushman with her completed mural



A portion of Lisa Pisa's mural





**Friends of Oakland Animal Services**

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