



It's Been 10 years of dedication and hard work. Hoping for at least another 10 years.



As we enter another month of 2025, we thought we would share a little history of our organization. During the next couple of months, we will focus on FOCCAS, its people, and its programs. Many of us are new to the area and know just a little about FOCCAS, but maybe not the whole story. Let's first take a look at our beginnings.

Focus on Cumberland County Animal Safety (FOCCAS) began in 2015 as Focus on Cumberland Country Animal Shelter gaining our 501(c)3 status 12 months later. Our vision was and is to create a kind, compassionate, responsible culture of animal welfare in our community. The original mission was to increase awareness of the needs of the county-run animal shelter and the plight of the animals there.



A capital campaign was launched in October 2016 to build a new intake/holding facility. Site preparation began in January 2018. The \$380,000 building was completed in 2019 and gifted by FOCCAS to the community. With the facility's completion in 2019, we changed our name and mission statement to include more community programs to address the suffering and neglect we see in our county.

As FOCCAS has grown, so has our vision for our community's homeless, abandoned, and lost pets. We have joined a network of local and regional rescues and animal welfare groups. Each fills a need in a community, and by working together, we have found resources for many injured, homeless, and abandoned animals that had no previous advocate.



Our program takes in dumped and surrendered cats, dogs, and puppies from Cumberland and surrounding counties. Our team traps, transports, shelters, socializes, and provides medical intervention and daily care. When possible, the animal is fostered in a home environment, fully vetted, and placed for adoption on Petfinder and AdoptAPet. Our busy adoption team and volunteers spend countless hours finding fosters, forever homes, and alternative placements for these precious cats and amazing dogs.

In 2023, over 19 cats and 227 dogs were placed in new forever homes. We frequently rescue "unadoptable" pets, such as hospice dogs and unsocialized dogs. These dogs remain in foster care until the end of their lives.

Next month, we will examine some of our special programs. This work and our special programs are only possible due to our dedicated volunteers and donors.

Rescues of the Month

A wonderful sponsor is willing to cover the adoption costs of **two dogs per month**. The sponsor wants to focus on dogs that have been in the rescue for the longest time, older dogs, or hard-to-adopt dogs. The sponsor strongly feels that letting people know the adoption cost is covered will improve the dogs' chances of being adopted. Thus, **Featured Rescues of the Month** was born.

All adopters must be vetted and approved by FOCCAS to adopt. If you are interested in adopting any FOCCAS animal, please click [here](#). This month, Ruby and Wrangler were selected.

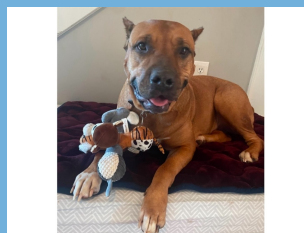
Wrangler has been at FOCCAS for 3 of his 4 years. His happy ending is way overdue! He is a large, energetic lab mix who would do best with an active family (he is probably too much for young children). He'll need time to adjust to home life and a routine. Enrolling him in obedience classes would be a great idea. He gets along well with other dogs (cats unknown) and loves to play with balls. Wrangler craves attention and just wants to please.



A wonderful sponsor is willing to cover his adoption fee of \$225.00. All adopters must be vetted and approved by FOCCAS to adopt.

Are you ready to adopt Wrangler and have a new best friend?

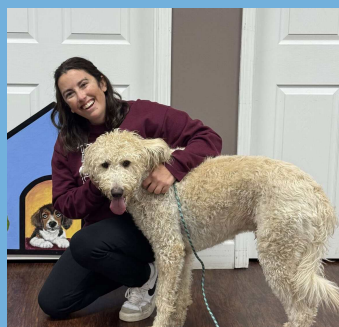
Rudy was all ready for her forever home. We were excited, she was excited, and then....the humans changed their minds. It breaks our hearts she has been with us for over 600 days. Ruby is a six-year-old American Pitbull Terrier/Corso mix from a hoarding case where she endured physical abuse and many hungry nights.

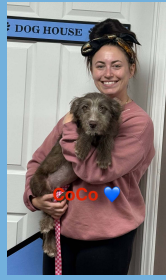


Quiet, soft, and sweet Ruby, who wants to be right at your feet or spread out on the couch. Ruby some time to warm up to you. Once she does, she is an in-your-pocket type of pup! She needs a fenced-in yard.

If you or someone you know can be that special human for Ruby click [here](#) to apply, or enter the following into your browser: https://service.sheltermanager.com/asmservice?account=hb2428&method=online_form_html&formid=41

Our Recent Adoptions

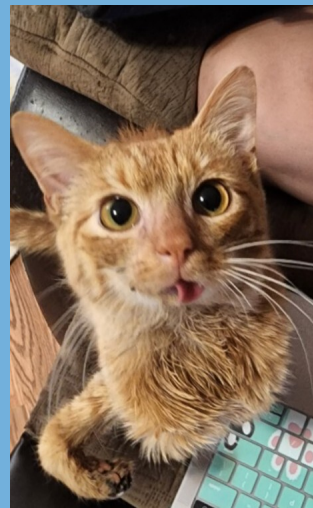




We Need Your Help So We Can Help Levi

Levi's remarkable journey began in the fall of 2021 when he was hit by a car and left for dead. Despite suffering severe injuries, including a brachial plexus (a network of nerves located in the neck and shoulder area that controls movement and sensation in the upper limbs) injury, multiple mandibular (jawbone) fractures, and several fractured bones in his right front leg,

Levi's resilience and determination have inspired us all. After undergoing multiple surgeries, including the amputation of his leg and a temporary tracheotomy, Levi has continued to thrive.



However, his journey is far from over. Levi recently developed a cyst on the side of his face, which was caused by an abscessed tooth root. Despite treatment with antibiotics, the cyst has returned, and Levi requires further surgery.

We are committed to providing Levi with the best possible care. We are reaching out to our supporters for help. Levi's upcoming surgery is estimated to cost between \$5,700 and \$7,100. We have a donor willing to match the 1st \$500 in donations. We are grateful for any donation, big or small, to help us cover the costs of Levi's care. Your support will enable us to provide Levi with the treatment he needs to live a happy and healthy life.

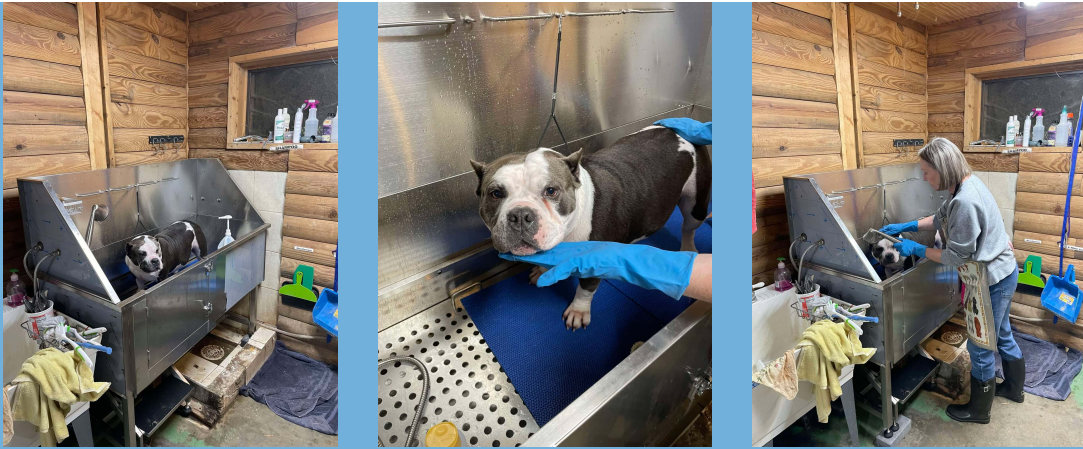
Ways to donate: (please note "Levi" when donating)

Venmo @foccastn

Paypal foccas.tn@gmail.com

Website: <https://foccas-tn.org/shop/ols/products/donation-to-levis-surgery>

It's bath time at FOCCAS



Last month, the FOCCAS Board approved the purchase of a dog bathing station. This is a great addition to the rescue, as previously we would have to drive 2 hours to have the dogs groomed.

Afina was the first to use our new tub as she was ready to meet her forever family on Saturday. Just look at that face.

This purchase would not have been possible without the donations and grants we receive here at the rescue.

[Click here to donate to FOCCAS.](#) You can also check out our wish lists at [Chewy](#) and [Amazon](#).

FOCCAS is a fully volunteer staffed animal rescue that relies on adoption fees, donations, and local fundraisers for income. We apply for grants as applicable (e.g. TN Animal Friendly and Mutt Nation Spay and Neuter), but funding is minimal. We were recently awarded Patricia & Edward J. McGavock Humane Treatment of Animals Fund of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

Fostering Is the Key



The foster family is extremely important to successfully placing a rescue dog. Some dogs enter rescue unsure of themselves, fearful, malnourished, unsocialized, never having lived in a home before. The foster family begins giving that dog a better chance to become adopted and not return to the rescue. One such family who welcomes FOCCAS dogs into their home is Sally and Bill Prather of Fairfield Glade. With two of their dogs, Sally and Bill are always willing to welcome a foster pup into their home. That pup most likely breathes a sigh of relief to decompress in a quiet home with two folks who make sure they learn to be house-broken, exercised, and socialized. So, to Sally and Bill Prather, FOCCAS appreciates you and thanks you for your dedication to rescuing the homeless dogs of Tennessee!

To become a fosterer:

Review Us On Great Nonprofits



Give us your feedback! Write a review for Focus on Cumberland County Animal Safety (FOCCAS) Just scan the QR code pictured on the left and click on the box Review.

Or visit their website at:

<https://greatnonprofits.org/organizations/browse/search:FOCCAS>

Notice: Your privacy is protected. Great Nonprofits is the leading platform for community-sourced stories about nonprofits. These stories are submitted by people who know you best -- your clients, donors, volunteers, and others -- all those who have experienced the impact of nonprofit work up close!

Welcome our Newest Volunteer - Linda Waters

Let's all welcome Linda to the FOCCAS family! Linda is eager to help care for dogs at our remote rescue site and is excited about participating in our upcoming events.

Linda is not afraid to get her hands dirty; she is ready to assist with bathing, grooming, training, and socializing the dogs. She is also ready to get behind the wheel and transport the pups to appointments and adoption events. Additionally, she is willing to do volunteer work from home and can devote between 8 to 20 hours.



We hope to feature at least one of our volunteers in each edition of the newsletter. If you know of a great FOCCAS volunteer just let us know. If you would like to volunteer [click here](#).



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