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A Heartfelt Thank You

Just wanted to say **Thank You** to all our volunteers, donors and adopters that have made 2024 a great success for all our animals. It truly fills our hearts.

The \$10 in 10 days Distressed Animal Program fund drive was a great success. With the support of 72 amazing donors, we surpassed our goal and raised \$5,549—and because of the matching funds, every single dollar has been doubled, bringing the total impact to \$11,098 for the animals in our care! The Distress Animal Fund allows us to save these abandoned pets by covering the expenses of their medical needs. [Click here for a little video about one such benefactor, Mr. Boss.](#) FOCCAS members provide foster homes until they can be adopted into loving permanent homes. Each one is altered, wormed, microchipped, heartworm tested (and treated, if necessary) and vaccinated.

[Santa Paws](#) was bigger and better than ever! We've included some pictures of the FOCCAS items but this year we also had over 50 vendors present! This is our biggest general fund fundraiser of the year and we earned \$3,627.



The FOCCAS Spare change canisters brought in \$2,791.75. That includes 2 - \$300 donations from customers who matched the \$300 raised from the 101 Lantana Market.

We were awarded grants from [Fairfield Glade Ladies Club](#), Tennessee Animal Friendly Spay/Neuter Program, and [Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee Animal Welfare](#).

Because of people like you and our shared moral vision for animal welfare, the spirit of kindness and clemency toward animals that is stirring in the world is now present in our own backyard. We feel only the deepest gratitude.

I believe each of us can make a difference, but together we can bring about a monumental change in our community. I hope you know the difference your financial support makes to our organization.

Thank you for your continued, faithful support and your generosity!

With much gratitude,
Jan Hendrixson, FOCCAS President

Happy Tails

Nothing makes us happier than seeing and hearing tales from our adopters. Dogs that were once scared and withdrawn, now share a hug with their new family. Working in animal rescue is not for the faint of heart. What gets them through these moments is finding the right human for the right animal and making a forever match. That is what keeps shelter workers moving forward – happy dogs and cats going home with their delighted new families! Here are a couple of our recent Happy Tails.



Rory (pictured left) [Click here to view a wonderful video clip from Rory's mom.](#)

Sully (pictured right) Sully came to FOCCAS as an owner-surrender. He and his 6 little siblings had been found by a family and taken in. All had found homes and Sully was kept by the family. Well, family dynamics changed and Sully became an extra dog that needed to go. FOCCAS took him in and he went into a foster home immediately. He was neutered, heartworm tested (negative!), and vaccinated, and micro-chipped. Sully stayed in foster care for a month before being adopted by a gentleman near Nashville. He was such a fun foster to have and eager to learn.



Ritter We wanted to send you some recent photos of the new Ritter after some weight loss but no loss in energy. We can't express our appreciation for the great care you guys gave Ritter while he was with your (FOCCAS). We couldn't believe how quickly we fell in love with him. We were still processing our loss of our dear Teddy in January 2024, but he grabbed our hearts and we couldn't help ourselves. He loves to play with his "many toys – all with squeakers" and a large red ball he loves to bat with his front feet and push it with his nose across the back yard. He barks at the ball because it's hard and he can't pop it like many before this one. He thinks he's always hungry but our vet friend tells us if he keeps his weight down it will keep his joints in tack. When he looks up at you with "those eyes" it's hard not to give him a treat. It didn't take him long to know which cabinet the treats were in. Ritter takes Tex for a run every morning and loves his walk with both of us. His favorite thing lately is for Rex to sit on the floor and he lays as close to him as he can get and puts his head on his leg. He never minds the hugs he gets a lot. You may have noticed, I could keep going on.



Only negative might be: he is determined to make this retired couple young again.



Only negative might be: he is determined to make this retired couple young again.

Angel is in her perfect place (pictured right) Her new parents are so happy with her.

Please send all your pics and stories to us here at FOCCAS so we can share the joy.

Our December Adoptions



These adoptions would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers. If you are interested in [volunteering](#) or [fostering](#) please click on the links.

Fosters Save Lives

This summer, FOCCAS admitted a group of doodles who had come from some very bad situations.



Conway (left)(now Ozzy) was tied to a chain outside for most of his 2 years.

Meribelle (right)(now Misha) was hours from being euthanized in a shelter.



Maxie (bottom left) and Breezy (bottom right) (now Penny) came from a hoarding situation of over 50 doodles. Besides being badly in need of grooming, these 4 dogs were all heartworm positive.



Shelters do not want to treat a dog for heartworm due to the cost, so without a foster home, those dogs are most often euthanized.

Heartworm is a parasite spread by mosquito bites. The bites transfers the larvae into the dog's bloodstream where the worms mature and eventually infect the heart. Symptoms of heartworm include mild, persistent cough, difficulty

breathing, low energy, decreased appetite, listlessness and weight loss. The treatment for heartworm takes months of antibiotics and rest and then 3 injections of Melarsomine.

When the first injection is given the worms begin to die. The dog has to be kept quiet at this time which is not an easy task. They are dogs, afterall, and want to run and play like normal. The good news is heartworm is very preventable! A monthly oral chewable is all it takes to keep your dog free of these very dangerous parasites. Four women and their spouses dedicated months to fostering these 4 dogs, all the while loving them, training them in basic commands and potty-training, and shuttling them to their many vet appointments. Through the entire process, they fell in love with their foster dogs and all four have been adopted by their foster families! Some call this a Foster Fail, the dogs just call them mom and dad.

Randi and Ozzy



Penny



Jeanne and Misha



Marcia and Maxie



Without foster families, the outcome for these dogs could have been a lot different. Foster families play a vital role in providing a stable environment for a dog coming from questionable circumstances. FOCCAS can always use more foster families. [Apply today by clicking here](https://foccas-tn.org)

FOCCAS would like to wholeheartedly thank Marcia Ardis, Randi Shoemaker, Mary Dohaney, and Jeanne Forsythe for giving a wonderful life to their former foster dogs.



Focus On Cumberland County Animal Safety

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