

## Foster Spotlight...The Life of Luke

Most people know megaesophagus as a condition affecting dogs, but not so much in cats. Megaesophagus is a condition where the esophagus is enlarged, making it difficult if not impossible for an animal to swallow food or water on its own. It's rare in cats, and if it isn't caught in kittens it can be fatal. This was almost the case for one of our most recent foster kittens, Luke.

Luke and four of his siblings were brought in at just a few days old. Their eyes were still closed and they still had their umbilical cords attached. The caring person who brought them in told us he believed the mother had been killed by a coyote, leaving the kittens on their own out in the wild. The kittens were covered in fleas, dirt, and blood. They needed immediate attention and some serious TLC. Fallbrook Animal Sanctuary, of course, stepped in to help, and quickly reached out to a willing foster family who could give them the round-the-clock care they needed.



Luke appeared to be doing well until he was about a week old when we noticed some regurgitation in the kittens' playpen—Luke was the culprit. Kittens throwing up is never a good sign, and is often indicative of a serious problem. At his next feeding, Luke started regurgitating his formula, his breathing was heavier, and we could hear his lungs “popping”—a sign that Luke had aspirated some of the formula into his lungs. We rushed Luke to the vet. After doing an examination and an X-ray, the vet determined that he had fluid in his lungs (from inhaling formula) and the vet found the cause—an enlarged esophagus that prevented Luke from properly swallowing his formula. This was a bleak prognosis. Aspiration pneumonia is very serious for kittens that small, and it would likely happen again because of Luke's inability to swallow formula correctly. The vet recommended euthanasia given these difficulties, but we couldn't give up on Luke without at least trying.



Research ensued. We learned that feeding him upright and then wrapping him up in a blanket (aka a purrito) would help by using gravity to push the food into his stomach. We continued feeding him that way, while giving him an aggressive dose of antibiotics to counteract the pneumonia. Luke improved dramatically with antibiotics and proper feeding, and was back to feeling himself after another week (though he wasn't super pleased about having to be wrapped up for half an hour after every time he ate).

We then moved onto the next problem—how to transition Luke from formula to wet food. Luke would have to learn how to eat properly himself, but needed some help to do so. We found some plans for a special feeder online, and reached out to friends to see if anyone could 3D print them. Luckily, one of my husband's co-workers had a 12-year-old son who loved animals and was obsessed with designing and 3D printing things. Soon, Luke had his own special feeder, with an adjustable 3D printed arm so Luke could stand up and eat food on his own.

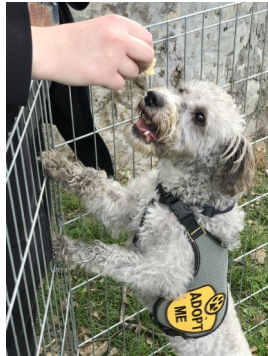


At his most recent vet appointment, the vet did another X-ray and found that Luke had started to grow into his esophagus. Though his condition may never completely go away, it is improving and now instead of half-an-hour of purrito time, he only requires about 10-15 minutes (that is, for medical purposes—additional purrito time may be required for snuggles).

Luke went from a sickly one week old kitten to a thriving two month old kitten. He will shortly be looking for a purrfect forever home! He will require some extra love and care with respect to feeding, but his snuggles totally make it worth it. Please reach out to inquire if you have room in your heart for a little dude with a big esophagus but a bigger heart!



## Bark in the Park



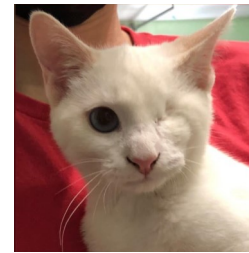
On March 23, 3 FAS dogs participated in the annual Bark in the Park event. In addition to Bosco winning 2nd place for Smallest Dog, all three pups found their forever homes shortly after the event.



# 2019....A Year

## Arya

Arya had a rough start in life. She was rescued from a life on the streets when she was just 8 weeks old. She quickly developed an eye infection that did not respond to treatment and sadly had to have that eye removed. During a routine blood test, it was discovered that she also had Coronavirus, but her titer test was very low at 1:100. Arya now has her own loving forever home.



## Waffles

## Winslow



Winslow was the inspiration for creating Winslow's Warriors, a medical fund to help sick and injured animals. Winslow came to us when he was just a little pup along with his sister, half brother, and mama. Winslow had been attacked by two large dogs a few days prior to being brought to FAS.

After weeks in the care of the Veterinary Specialty Hospital to treat his open wounds and punctures, and have surgery to repair his severely broken leg, he was finally able to join his siblings and mama at FAS.

# Star in Review

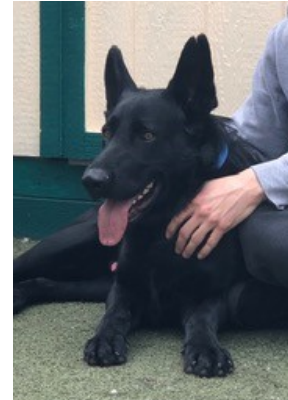
## Coffee



10-month-old Coffee fell and broke a leg, resulting in a trip to the Veterinary Specialty Hospital in San Marcos.

## Odin

Odin is a beautiful 2 year old black German Shepherd with a heart defect. He had been referred to the UC Davis Department of Cardiology for surgery. He was rescued from a high kill shelter in Riverside County, and was then dumped at another kill shelter a few months later. The last shelter called FAS to see if we could take the dog. After having him seen by a cardiologist at UC Davis, it was determined that he would need surgery to open a valve in his heart. He was adopted by a wonderful man who is going to be sure that he gets his surgery.



## ROCKIN FOR RESCUE

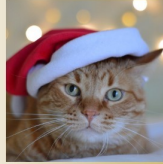
FEATURING THE FALLBROOK KID



On April 27, FAS supporters enjoyed an evening of music and fun during the Rockin' for Rescue fundraising event. Thousands of dollars were raised to support the mission of the Fallbrook Animal Sanctuary.



# The Christmas Store is Coming Soon!



Make your list and check it twice.  
The Fallbrook Animal Sanctuary's Annual Christmas Store  
will be opening soon for your holiday shopping.

November 13-December 23

Wednesday 12:00-7:00 Saturday 9:00-5:00

Thursday-Friday 10:00-7:00 Sunday 10:00-4:00

Major Market Shopping Center (855-1 South Main Street)

All proceeds benefit the animals at the  
Fallbrook Animal Sanctuary.

Follow us on  
Facebook for  
updates.



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Fallbrook, CA 92028  
760-685-3533

[www.fallbrookanimalsanctuary.org](http://www.fallbrookanimalsanctuary.org)  
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization



## Can you spare a month? \$7

No amount is too small or too large  
We appreciate any amount you can spare



Your donations help cover:

Food • Spaying and Neutering • Microchipping  
Vaccinations • Wellness exams • Flea/Tick Prevention  
Deworming • Emergency Care • Grooming

Send checks to:  
Fallbrook Animal Sanctuary  
230 W. Aviation Blvd.  
Fallbrook, CA 92028

website: [www.fallbrookanimalsanctuary.org](http://www.fallbrookanimalsanctuary.org)  
PayPal: [info@fallbrookanimalsanctuary.org](mailto:info@fallbrookanimalsanctuary.org)  
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