

Friends of Colleton County Animal Shelter (FoCCAS)

Website www.foccas-sc.org, Email foccas.sc@gmail.com

Dear Friends,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
As I look back over the last year, I am so proud of the work of our FoCCAS volunteers. We have achieved so much and I know our momentum will help us accomplish more in the upcoming year.

Each time I sit down to write a newsletter, I am overwhelmed at the dedication of our volunteers. In 2016, FoCCAS sent 703 animals to rescue. I want to take this opportunity to share the stories of two of my foster dogs that might not have survived the shelter without the team of great volunteers and rescue partners. In honor of my neices' favorite book, I like to call this group the "Go Dog Go" Team.

In mid September, ACO Ashley Vitello found a nearly starved pit mix. Ashley and Shelter Tech Diane Cook noticed her sweet personality and desire to live, and named her Faith. This charming dog came to my house and learned to eat regular meals and sleep on soft blankets. Faith was treated for mange and gained 22 pounds in about 6 weeks. On November 4, Faith journeyed to New Jersey to find a new, loving life.

In early December, two hound dogs needed a foster home before their transport to Maryland. Hounds like Jackson and Calhoun are a dime a dozen in South Carolina, but these two were lucky. After only 2 days in foster care, Calhoun curled up with me and asked for a belly rub. When they left on transport, I knew that these guys would have a great life where they will be treated as priceless.

So many dogs and cats come into the shelter. Some have been loved, but lost and never found. Some have never had the opportunity to be loved and show great appreciation for gentle attention. Some are big. Some are small. Some are old. Some are young. But they all deserve a wonderful and safe life. The FoCCAS volunteers make this possible for so many animals every week.

We appreciate your continued support all year long!

For the animals,
Sarah
President

Upcoming Events

FoCCAS Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 24

6:30 pm

Colleton Farmers Market

Open to the public

Paws at the Plantation

Saturday, March 4

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

White House Plantation

Tickets on Sale

www.foccas-sc.org

FoCCAS Rice Festival Dog Show

Saturday, April 22

2:00 pm

Colleton Farmers Market

Open to the public



Left: Faith, at intake, weighing only 28 lbs.



Bottom Left: Smiling Faith, before transport, weighing 50 lbs.



Bottom Right: Calhoun sticking out his tongue to say goodbye to SC

3rd Annual Walk & Wag September 10, 2016

It was a beautiful day for FoCCAS's 3rd Annual Walk & Wag. About 60 dogs and their humans came out for a walk through the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary, to enjoy the music of Going To The Dogs Band, have a hot dog lunch, or enjoy a funnel cake. Treasure Chest Gold hosted a TapSnap booth for photos and offered a necklace for raffle. Dawson Sweat build a doghouse for raffle. Our community came together to raise \$3500 for the animals of Colleton County.



Going To The Dogs Band Chili and Dessert Cook-Off

Another successful cook-off event at Stegall's Auction in Cottageville raised \$2487.85 for the animals. Thanks to Scott Brennen, who organized the event, and Going To The Dogs Band who supplied the music. Trophies were given for chili and desserts, car show, dog costume contest, and dog/owner look-alike contest. An auction followed offering a wide range of items including musical instruments, toy train, and photography packages.



Special thank you awards were given to Andrea and David Stegall for hosting both the 1st and 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off and to the Going To The Dogs Band for all their contributions to FoCCAS including planning the event, playing at Paws at the Plantation and Walk & Wag, and donating their time and tips from all their gigs.



With a little (actually a lot) of help from our friends!

Thank you to everyone who donated, fundraised, gave a memorial, or came to an event. The animals of Colleton County are blessed to have so many people caring about them.



Cam Wills (pictured here with Frosty) and Coastal Pain Care donated \$2000. He gave \$50 for each new patient in Colleton County. He also challenged other businesses in Colleton County to support FoCCAS and the animals. His donation will be used to support the SNAC spay/neuter transport.

Proceeds from the Little Miss Walterboro Pageant were donated to Friends of the Colleton County Animal Shelter.

Pictured are Emily Pinckney (Young Miss Walterboro) and Maggie Willis (Teen Miss Walterboro) along with shelter puppies Frosty and Lena.



Atlantic Bedding and Furniture donated a portion of their sales from its tent sale to FoCCAS and our rescue partner Sinbad-Sadie Second Chance Rescue.



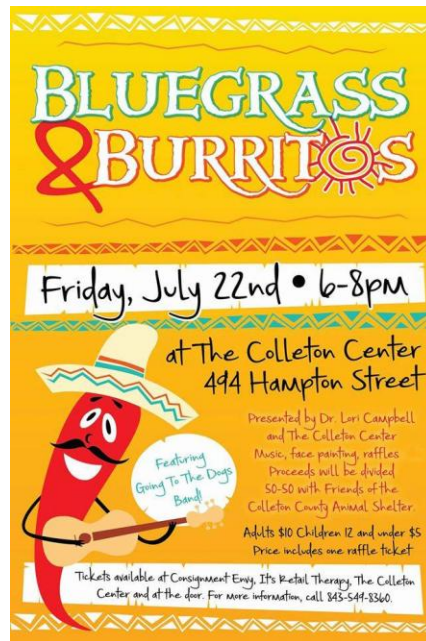
Colleton County High School National Honor Society students volunteer at Zaxby's fundraiser night. They reminded customers to tell the cashier that they are supporting FoCCAS.



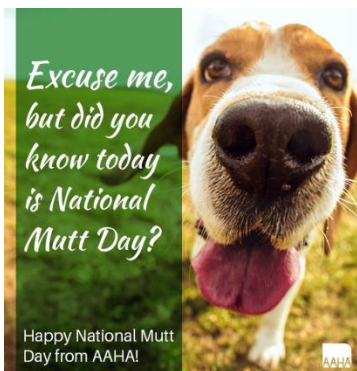
Barry Crosby, the Walterboro Cruisers, and Duke's Barbecue held a car show in the parking lot the 3rd Thursday of the month. For a \$5 fee (donated to FoCCAS), participants also get a free dinner at Dukes. Terry O'Quinn matches the contributions for each show. Duke's BBQ is also the sponsor of the 2017 FoCCAS/CCAS Alumni calendar



Dr. Lori Campbell and the Colleton Center hosted Bluegrass and Burritos featuring Going To The Dogs Band, facepainting, balloons, and food. Proceeds from this family friendly event were split between the Colleton Center and FoCCAS.



Love Your Mutt day comes twice a year, June 31 and December 2. This summer FoCCAS challenged our friends to donate for the love of their mutt (or other pet). We raised nearly \$1000 from our community!



Congratulations to Charles Valentine for winning the Yeti Cooler Raffle. FoCCAS supporter and foster, Monica Martin, organized the raffle and stuffed the cooler with lots of goodies. The raffle raised over \$1000 for the animals of Colleton County. Thanks Monica!



Once again the FoCCAS/CCAS Alumni calendars have sold out. Photos were submitted from as far away as New Hampshire. A pet in his/her forever home is featured each month and many others occupy date spots. We are happy to see so many alumni living wonderful lives.



Lulu enjoys her new bed from Beef, Bourbon, and Beds, a fundraiser for the SC Artisans Center and Colleton County Arts Council. A portion of the pet bed sales was donated to FoCCAS

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Attention all online shoppers!

If you shop with Amazon, please go to SmileAmazon.com and sign up under Friends of Colleton County Animal Shelter. A portion of your purchases will go to FoCCAS and all you have to do is shop, shop, shop!

Annual Volunteer Dinner

Each year, FoCCAS holds an annual volunteer dinner. We greatly appreciate all our volunteers and we want to recognize that each of our volunteers is an integral part of our success. Each year, the board picks a few volunteers who, in addition to being a valuable part of FoCCAS, can be recognized in a fun and entertaining way.

The first half of 2016 was extremely trying for the shelter as they were short staffed and illness and surgery often left only 2 paid employees available. We cannot thank all our volunteers enough for stepping up and filling in these voids to continue to help the animals.

This year's awards went to:

Sarah Basler

Doing It On My Day Off Award

As a vet tech, Sarah was able to help the shelter in the early months of 2016 with tech services, especially heart worm testing.

Deni Caulder

Digging the Gold Bone Award

Through Treasure Chest Gold, Deni sold gold dipped bone ornaments and engraved them as a fundraiser for Christmas 2014, 2015 (and continued this year for 2016).

Dr. Lori Campbell

Is there a Doctor in the House Award

Dr. Campbell helped FoCCAS and the shelter through the early months of 2016 with needed medical care, testing, and general advice.

Mary Foster

If the Name Fits Award

Mary received a foster award for stepping up and caring for several foster dogs in need.

Coleman Hudson

Ask Coleman Award

In addition to his helpfulness at our fundraisers, he's the go-to guy for both logistical and logical answers.

Linda Lamb

Behind the Scenes Queen Award

Linda has been instrumental for several years as our corresponding secretary and for keeping up on the Adopt-A-Boards around town.

Although the official nomination process excludes FoCCAS board members and employees of the shelter, this year, we recognized 2 very special people. The **Smiling Pile of Poo Award** went to **Shelley Thomas and Ashley Vitello** for all their work during several months of early 2016 when the shelter was extremely understaffed. Always with a positive attitude, the work of these two ladies led the way to keeping the shelter on track to give FoCCAS the opportunity to save lives.

Volunteers Always Needed and Appreciated!

Adopt-A-Thons
Computer Work
Animal Handling
Volunteer Coordinators
Foster Families
Transporter
Clerical Work
Event Volunteers
Public Relations
Fundraising



Linda Lamb and Carol Armentrout



Audra Hudson and Deni Caulder

Spay/Neuter Initiatives

Spaying and neutering pets helps prevent unplanned litters of puppies and kittens. These unwanted litters often end up at the shelter. FoCCAS considers community spay/neuter initiatives one of our three major goals.

We currently have two ways to help community members alter their pets. Twenty-five dollar off vouchers for local vet surgeries are always available at the shelter. Vouchers must be used within 45 days after pick up. FoCCAS also has a partnership with SNAC in Ridgeland and transports pets from Walterboro to surgery and back the next day. Additional sponsors of the transport, Walmart, Petco, and Carolina Pain Care, help to offset the cost of surgery so pet owners only pay a small co-pay for surgery.



FoCCAS S/N Statistics

January – November 2016

Money contributed by
FoCCAS

S/N Vouchers

\$ 5,125.00
205 surgeries

Spay Daze

\$15,211.00
442 surgeries



These guys are heading out for surgery in Ridgeland.

Stay Tuned...

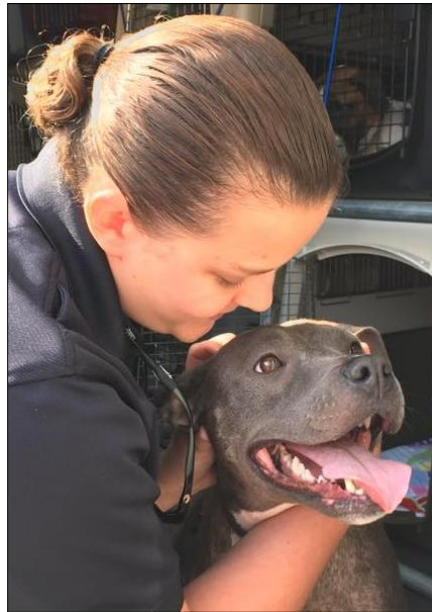
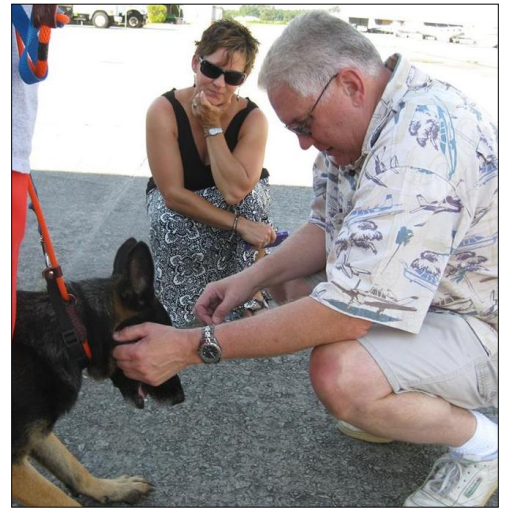
for some exciting information about Community Cats (formerly known as Feral Cats). FoCCAS will make a special announcement in January.



“Go Dog Go” Rescue sends pets off to forever homes.

During 2017, 703 dogs and cats went to rescue. To accomplish this it took a team of volunteers. Some pets travel short distances to Edisto or Summerville for rescue, others take a road trip to New Jersey, New York, or Virginia. Some (like Bella to the right) take a flight with Pilots N Pets to her new home.

Rescue, reclaim, and adoption is another important goal of FoCCAS. Foster families, transporters, coordinators and rescue groups orchestrate many animals traveling off to new lives nearly every week. We cannot thank these groups enough for helping to save these wonderful dogs and cats.



FoCCAS goes to the State Legislature

On Thursday, December 1, FoCCAS Vice President Laura Clark testified before the Joint Pet Care and Humane Treatment Study Committee of the South Carolina State Legislature in Columbia. She presented a flyer highlighting FoCCAS's financial support of shelter. FoCCAS spent \$39,398 in FY 2015-2016 to support spay/neuter surgeries, medicines, and rescue related expenses.

The primary focus of Clark's visit to the legislature was to explain the FoCCAS' Colleton Animal Commitment Education Program (CACE). This program works with 4th grade classes throughout the county teaching about Responsible Pet Ownership. CACE is divided into 6 weeks that are part of the Character Building Standards of South Carolina.

Education is one of FoCCAS's main goals and Laura Clark is a great representative of our program.

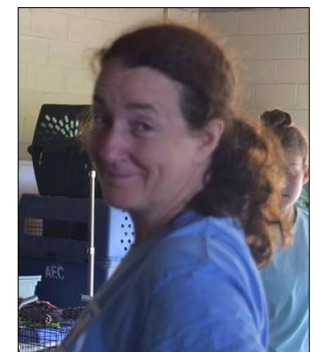
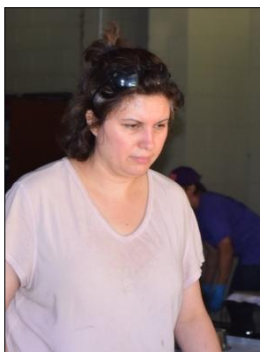




Helping Our Neighbors: Jasper Animal Rescue Mission (JARM)

In early October, as the track of Hurricane Matthew looked to make landfall south of Charleston, the Colleton County Animal Response Team (CCART) was asked to help out the animals of Jasper County. The Jasper Animal Rescue Mission requested help from Dr. Lori Campbell of CCART and Reggie McNeil, director of the Colleton County Animal Shelter. They, then, reached out to FoCCAS volunteers to help transport and care for the animals. On October 6, a caravan of cars and trailers traveled to JARM and carried 45 dogs and 68 cats back to Colleton County. Over the next 5 days, volunteers organized a feeding and cleaning schedule. All of the dogs were walked twice a day.

FoCCAS and CCART volunteers are proud to have been able to help our neighbors in need. Helping animals does not stop at a county border and working together make us all stronger.



Tickets on Sale Now!

at www.foccas-sc.org

Paws at the Plantation

Saturday, March 4, 2017

5:00 – 9:00

White House Plantation

Tickets \$40 early bird special (until Feb 24)

Regular price \$50

Jimmy Fitts BBQ and chicken

Going to the Dogs Band

Beer and wine

Silent auction and raffles



Above: CCHS Young Agent of Change volunteer at the FoCCAS sheds over their holiday break.

We are always in need of volunteers and donations:
Email foccas.sc@gmail.com to volunteer or donate
at www.foccas-sc.org or mail to 33 Poor Farm Rd,
Walterboro, SC 29488

Shelter Statistics 2016

FoCCAS works with the Colleton County Animal Shelter to aid the animals in the shelter. We work to prevent animals ending up in the shelter with community spay/neuter programs and education and get animals out of the shelter through reclaim by owner, adoptions, or rescue.

Below are shelter statistics from
January 1 to November 30, 2016

Animals Entering the Shelter	1925
Reclaimed by Owner	202
Adoptions	119
Transferred to Rescue	655