

How CAA Helped the Shelter Animals in 2016

CAA assists the Clatsop County Animal Shelter on an as-needed basis by funding veterinary services and medicine, grooming, and promotional advertising for encouraging pet adoptions. CAA covers veterinary services that the county otherwise would not pay; the county's entire annual budget for medical, dental, and lab services is \$300.00. Some animals are released to the shelter with health problems that are treatable but beyond what the owners could afford. Many strays are also brought in, some needing veterinary care. CAA covers the veterinary bills for these dogs and cats that have health issues but are otherwise adoptable. We also provide funds when shelter animals need emergency medical care during their stay at the shelter.

CAA covered vet bills, including spay/neuter certificates, for more than 375 animals, or about 72% of the animals in the shelter in 2016 that were not redeemed within a day or two. Without CAA's financial help some of these dogs and cats may not have made it to adoption. Our veterinary care expenses, including spay/neuter costs for shelter animals, came to about \$85,000.00 for the calendar year. Additionally, we contract with a vet tech who comes to the shelter once a week and provides cat testing and vaccinations as well as health checks and follow-ups for the dogs and cats.

Hippie, a blind dog, and Tom the kitten are two great examples of what CAA can do because of our ongoing community support:

- Hippie: Several years ago, CAA members flew with Hippie to a sanctuary for blind dogs in Tennessee. Then, in December 2015 we learned that the sanctuary owner had died unexpectedly and Hippie needed to come back to us. So early in January two CAA members drove to Seattle and flew to Nashville, where they were met by Hippie and a volunteer from the sanctuary. They then flew back to Seattle on Alaska Air, which did a fabulous job with Hippie's transport, and drove back home. It was determined that his eyes should be removed, so he had surgery and stayed at the shelter until mid-July, when he was adopted. Last we heard, he's doing well and navigating his new home with no problem. CAA covered all transport costs as well as the surgery and related costs.
- Tom: Tom came in as a very young kitten and went off to the foster home of a CAA member to help him get ready for adoption. On one of his first nights there he started vomiting and straining to pass stool, and was clearly in a lot of pain. His foster parents drove him to an emergency veterinary clinic in the Portland area where it was determined that he had a stricture in his rectum that would need to be surgically widened. His surgery was successful and he spent the next couple of months recovering and growing in his foster home, where his family says he was affectionate and playful. Tom was adopted in the fall and continues to flourish. CAA covered the costs of the surgery and follow-up treatment, without which Tom would not have survived.

Adoption Promotion Efforts

CAA has a Website as well as a very active Facebook page, with postings on a daily basis. We also periodically post photos and videos of the shelter animals on our Instagram and YouTube pages.

CAA distributes monthly adoption posters to over 150 locations, sponsors an ad for an adoptable shelter animal monthly in the *Daily Astorian*, and provides photos for weekly ads sponsored by other organizations.

Many of the CAA members volunteer at the shelter, helping to socialize and exercise the animals, and assisting at adoption events. We introduce the community to some of the adoptable animals by walking them in downtown areas away from the shelter and by featuring them at the Astoria Sunday Market booth.

We're proud to say that because we are completely volunteer-run over 90% of what we take in goes directly to the animals, for veterinary care, spay/neuter certificates, supplies, training, and adoption advertising and promotions. The chart below covers our FY 2016 expenditures.

