ANIMAL FRIENDS
CONNECTION
HUMANE SOCIETY

Waggin' tails

Promoting Compassion Toward All Creatures

Summer 2026 ISSUE HUMANE EDUCATION & ADOPTION REFERRALS

Welcome our newest Therapy Dogs and their dedicated handlers!

We are proud to celebrate the graduation of 23 Therapy Dogs and their dedicated handlers! Among this wonderful group are **four husband-and-wife therapy teams**, as well as several remarkable handlers who completed the program with **two or even three dogs** Congratulations to each and every graduate! Your dedication, kindness, and commitment to serving others are truly inspiring. Thank you for sharing your time, compassion, and your amazing canine partners with those who need them most.

Dori & Jim Dennis with Bianca (Chiweenie)
Joy Castelanelli-Anderson with Pumpkin (Greyhound)
Patricia Sherman with Miles &Mia (Poodle-Bichon)
Robyn Cruz with Miles and Mia (Poodle-Bichon)
Dorene Jow with Sala (Whippet)
Robert Prevost with Simon (Yellow Lab-The Yeller Dawg)
Jack Barclay with Mo (Irish Wolf Hound)
Marne Simpson with Buddy (Germans Shepherd)
Halie Miner with Katsu (Cardigan Welsh Corgi)
Guy Terra with Thaddeus (Shepherd Mix)
Sandra Heinze with Phebe (Silver Lab)
Gary & Janet Heederick with Midas (Micro French)
Cynthia Ehlers with WillowBrook (Golden Retriever)
Vicki Bast with Roy (Bordercollie mix) & Sheri (Long Coated Chihuahua)
Gabriel & Valerie Casillas with Scrappy (French/Bully mix)
Dianne Morikawa with Bowie (Siberian Husky)
Gail & Darrell Gomes with Gusty, Storm, and Rainn (Sheltie's)
Beth Willett with Libby (Golden Retriever)
Roxanne & Kevin Gilley with Esther (Border Collie)

These incredible teams are already making a meaningful impact throughout our community by bringing comfort and companionship to residents in nursing homes, offering love and support to hospice patients and their families, reading with children at the Lodi Library, visiting local schools, participating in stress management events at the University of the Pacific, and attending many other community programs and special events. Our dogs and handlers are also part of Adventist Health Lodi Memorial program as well as Saint Joseph's Hospital.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the therapy dog handlers and their incredible dogs who have been part of this program over the years. Together, you have created a legacy of love, healing, and compassion that continues to touch countless lives. We are deeply grateful for each and every one of you.
**Together, you are bringing comfort, smiles, and hope—one visit at a time. **

We would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to **Cynthia Ehlers** for her incredible dedication and generosity in donating her time to train all these therapy dogs and their handlers over the past several years. Cynthia's knowledge, patience, and commitment have helped prepare these outstanding teams to serve our community with compassion. In addition to training our graduates, Cynthia and her own two therapy dogs spend countless hours each week visiting many of these same locations, bringing comfort, smiles, and companionship to those who need it most. Thank you, Cynthia, for your unwavering dedication, your generous spirit, and for making such a positive difference in so many lives—both two-legged and four-legged!

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Education Center Office & Cat Adoption Room
933 S. Cherokee Lane - Lodi, Ca
209 365-0535

Mailing Address P.O. Box 2314 Lodi, Ca 95241

Animal Help Line -
24 hour voice mail 209-368-1761

"Waggin Tails" printed courtesy of
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Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote the human-animal bond and the humane treatment of animals through public education and pet adoptions.
Guided by Kindness and Love, Caring for Every Paw."

"Not just an adoption – a perfect match"

Our Vision:

A no-kill community where every cat and dog has a permanent, loving home.

Dog and Cat Adoption Locations

Animal Friends Dog and Cat Sanctuary
933 S. Cherokee Ln, Lodi
Mon - Fri 12:00 - 7:00pm Weekends 11 - 4pm

Petco (Cats Only)
6112 Pacific Ave Stkn,
Daily and Every Sat 11-2

Petco Lodi (Cats on site)
2350 W Kettleman Ln Suite 120
Lodi, **Dogs Sat, 11 AM**

For more information call the Hotline 368-1761

Today & Tomorrow

We have an **endowment fund** to help cover our annual expenses in the future and a **building fund** to construct a new building to shelter and provide for our animal friends in our community.

You can help us *today* through gifts such as cash, stocks, or other property. You can help us *tomorrow*, by remembering us in a trust, bequest or even as the beneficiary of your life insurance!

Contact us today to learn more about how you can plan *now* to help care for our animal friends *forever*!

(209)365-0535
Email
office@animalfriendsconnect.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Immediate positions available!

All it takes is a few hours of spare time once a week to make a difference to the animals. Whether it's working with the public or on a computer, opening your home to a foster animal, spaying/neutering and supervising feral cats, or helping people over the phone, we have something for you! Students can also get credit for their volunteer hours!

Dog Walkers and Kennel Help Cuddling the dogs and playing with them
Adults or teenagers that enjoy walking and would like to walk our dogs one or more days a week year round. Join our "Walk n Wag" walking group. Mornings after 9 am or late afternoons during the fall and winter. Spend time socializing and playing with the dogs. Dog experience needed. Take one or two of our dogs out to enjoy the day with you.

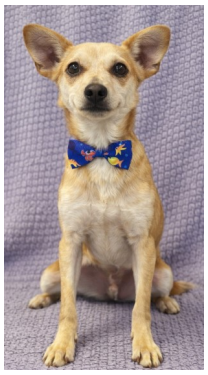
Follow-up on Dogs adopted. Mobile Adoption Site Counselors
Follow up on adoptions to see how they are doing in their new homes. Help with transport to adoption sites, set-up and breakdown of special adoptions.

Cat Cuddlers
Youth or adults to brush, pet and socialize cats and to help with cleaning. Weekdays 9am to 6pm, weekends 9am to 4pm

Fundraising and Raffle Help
Help organize one or more events each year (such as the Italian Dinner) and/or organize (acquire) raffle prizes.

It does take a commitment to help out. To receive a volunteer application e-mail Patricia Sherman at office@animalfriendsconnect.org or link to https://animalfriendsconnect.org/volunteer-adult/

Frankie Desperately Needs Your Help!



Frankie is a charming 14-month-old Chihuahua mix weighing just 16 pounds. This adorable little guy is looking for a loving forever home where he can finally enjoy the happy life he deserves. Frankie has the cutest personality—when he's happy he actually **SMILES** showing off his tiny little teeth in the sweetest way. He loves being close to his people and will happily follow you from room to room, filling your days with love, companionship, and laughter. He is friendly with other gentle dogs and would do well in a home with another calm canine companion. Larger or overly energetic dogs can make him nervous, so he is looking for a peaceful, patient family where he can feel safe and secure. Frankie is already using a doggie door for potty breaks, is leash trained, neutered, microchipped, and current on all of his vaccinations.

When Frankie was less than a year old in January, he suffered a broken leg that required emergency surgery. A metal plate and screws were placed in his tiny leg and we believed his recovery had gone beautifully. Sadly, five months later everything changed. Frankie suddenly developed an open wound over the surgical site. We learned that although his bone has healed, his body is now reacting to the metal plate, and it must be removed to prevent continued pain, infection, and further complications. **The surgery to remove the plate will cost between $2,700 to $3,100**.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are desperately seeking a loving foster home where Frankie can recover after surgery.

We need donations to help cover his surgical expenses. Every dollar, every share, and every act of kindness brings Frankie one step closer to healing and finding the forever family he has been waiting for. Frankie has already overcome so much in his young life. Now he needs all of us to help him through one more hurdle.

If you can foster, adopt, or make a donation, you will truly be changing this sweet little boy's life.

Donations can be made here: https://www.paypal.com/donate
Thank you for believing in Frankie and giving him hope for a brighter tomorrow

Frankie adoption is Sponsored!

To the world you are one person, To a rescued animal, you ARE THE WORLD!

Happy Tails

Dax is a tuxedo boy who was very shy at the sanctuary and was overlooked by adopters. Julie saw Dax on our website and noticed he had the same birthday. He seemed to know she was special because he responded to her immediately. He is very happy and loved in his new home.
Thanks to Julie for giving a shy kitty a chance for a furrever home.

Hank (formerly Brody) is settling into his new home beautifully! Here's what his wonderful family of Four shared:
"Hank is doing great! Our family all took him to puppy class, and he's getting along with everyone—including other dogs—really well. We could tell he was already being trained before we came along. Hank is a real treat. He's a little devil too, but he's learning the ropes. He's a clever little rascal, and we love him dearly!" — - The Dumm family.
We are so thrilled that Hank has found such a loving family. Thank you for giving this sweet boy the forever home he deserves.

Jason & Ryan Kelly are thrilled to have welcomed little Georgie into their family! From the moment they met him, they were excited to add this sweet boy to their home, and he has settled in beautifully. Georgie is having a wonderful time playing with his new Frenchie siblings, and they have quickly become the best of friends. Watching him enjoy his new life surrounded by love has been such a joy.
Georgie is 100% loved and living his very best life in his forever home.
Congratulations to Jason, Ryan, and Georgie! We wish your family many years of happiness, love, and unforgettable adventures together.

Fiona is a beautiful long haired torti. She came to us with 4 kittens and was very unhappy. She became feral in the sanctuary because of the stress. When she started overgrooming and losing hair, our head cat person Diane decided to get her out of the sanctuary, took her home and adopted her. Fiona only took 2 days to come out and ask for love. She is the sweetest cat now and has all of her fur back. Thanks Diane for rescuing Fiona and giving her a furrever home.

Katie and Brenna are 2 black girls who bounced around between multiple foster homes for 14 years. Finally, Heather and Christopher were looking to adopt a pair of senior kitties and took a chance on them. They took a while to get comfortable but are now very happy and loved in their new forever home. Thanks to Heather and Christopher for finally giving them a loving home!

Scout and Beau are living the good life with the Vice family! These happy siblings are enjoying the best of country living, with plenty of room to run and play, while still spending lots of time inside with their family where they are spoiled with love and attention. The Vice family recently did DNA testing on both pups and made a fun discovery—they actually have two different fathers! Even with their unique family tree, Scout and Beau share a special bond. They love to play hard together, then settle in to enjoy life surrounded by the people who adore them. We couldn't be happier to see these two thriving in their forever home. Thank you, Vice family, for giving Scout and Beau the wonderful life they deserve!

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We accept donations online !
www.animalfriendsconnect.org

You can scan this QR Code to donate

Animal Friends Connection

FOLLOW US ON facebook

https://www.facebook.com/AFCcatsndogs

WISH LIST

Animal Friends Connection Humane Society has many wishes. These wishes are things that can help us do a better job at helping the animals in our adoption/foster network. Also, these wishes can improve or expand our organization to be able to help more homeless animals. Below is a list of our current wishes:

Dog food - Canidae "All Stages"

Dry dog food, Kirkland Chicken & Rice dry dog food (red bag)

Kirkland rom Costco Natures Domain canned dog food

Cat Food - Felidae dry cat food

Kirkland dry cat food, Natural Balance or Blue Buffalo or Nutro for the Cats

Friskies canned cat food and other higher quality canned cat foods

Treats for Cats and Dogs (please made in the USA only) – Nutro Greenies are also a good treat for cats (not for dogs)

Cat litter – "Litter Perfect" from Costco, or other high quality litter

Cleaning products such as bleach (we go through at least 24 two gallon bottles of bleach every month)

Laundry detergent, Pine-sol - mops, brooms- squeegee

Paper towels and toilet paper

Toys for Cats and Dogs (toy's that have a squeaker in them for the Dogs but no stuffing)
.

Four foot leashes for the Dogs

Collars that are for small Dogs (size's 7-11 and 11-14) we have plenty of large dog collars

Blow dryer to dry dogs after bathing

Postage stamps

Break-away cat collars (or stretch kitten collars)

COT style cat and dog beds, or gently used beds and cots

Smaller twin-size blankets for the dogs that sleep inside

Small blankets for the cat beds (baby blankets work well)

A handy-person willing to donate time. We need repairs inside and outside, as well as electrical work

Van to transport our dogs and cats

Land or a house with a little property, located (if possible) between Stockton and Lodi for a permanent adoption center/shelter. We have outgrown our location. ***

Animal Friends Connection Humane Society

Gratefully acknowledges donors that have assisted us in maintaining our commitment to the health and welfare of animals in our area

October 2025 - May 2026

Donations:

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John Charlesworth

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Copper
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Teresa Mandella

Patch
Edward Odron

Tux/Missy
Joe & Sheryl Pimentel

Dozer
Tim and Kim Martinsdias
Patricia Sherman

Animal Friends Connection sincerely apologizes for any errors made in posting your dedications

Animal Friends Connection Humane Society is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit that is dedicated to Humane Education and the promotion of spaying and neutering.
Donations can be sent to
Animal Friends Connection Humane Society P.O. Box 2314, Lodi, CA 95241
All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.
You can designate your United Way contribution to our organization. EIN # 68-0315789

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We Need Your Help Rebuilding Our Facebook Family

Our Facebook page was hacked not once—but **twice**. Losing more than **11,000 followers**

Those followers weren't just numbers, they were the compassionate people who stood by us during medical emergencies, donated when animals desperately needed lifesaving care, shared our adoption posts, and helped us save countless lives.

We now have safeguards in place to better protect our page, but rebuilding our Facebook family takes time—and we're still a long way from where we need to be.

You can help by:

- Following our page
- Like and share our posts.
- Invite your friends and family to follow us.
- Ask others to share our page with their friends, too.

Every new follower helps us reach more people, find loving homes for our animals, and raise the emergency funds that make lifesaving care possible.

Animal Friends Connection Humane Society on Facebook —-
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582104536779

Thank you for believing in our mission and for helping us continue to be a voice for animals in need.
Together, we can rebuild even stronger than before.