ANIMAL FRIENDS
CONNECTION
HUMANE SOCIETY

Waggin' tails

Promoting Compassion Toward All Creatures

Winter 2025 ISSUE HUMANE EDUCATION & ADOPTION REFERRALS

The Power of Rescue, Hope and Adoption

Every animal brought into our care begins a new chapter. A once frightened kitten or puppy finds warmth in a caring hand, slowly trusting again. A battered dog, after months of patience and love, transforms into a loyal companion, wagging its tail with joy. These stories remind us that no matter how dire the beginning, every creature deserves a second chance—a fresh start filled with love, trust, and happiness. Rescue is more than just saving animals; It's about providing medical care to the injured and restoring hope—hope that even in the darkest moments, kindness can prevail. It's about proving that love and compassion can turn lives around.

**To everyone who supports rescue efforts—your compassion makes miracles possible. Your time, donations, and kindness help give these animals the second chance they deserve. Remember, each life saved is a testament to hope—a promise that even the most broken can be made whole again. Continue to open your hearts and doors, because together, we can transform despair into hope and a lifetime of love. **
Here are a couple of short stories of how rescued dogs have become Therapy dogs bringing joy to who need the love and compassion of a therapy dog.. Cats also bring love and joy!

Barbara Vietmeier adopted her first puppy from AFC - 5 month old Sophie in June 5, 1999, she was a product of accidental breeding (Mama was not spayed). She became a Therapy dog in 11-23- 2002.. Passed away Dec 23 of 2014. She adopted Mia (who was 2 years old at the time) - and Petie was 5 years old – they came from a the same Shelter March 2015. She lost Petie to cancer in 2020. On Jan, of 2024 she rescued Dottie one of a litter of eight from a rescued pregnant dog. Barbara has taken all of those dogs through Therapy dogs training for the last 25-26 years. She has been going to Arbor Place for the last 25-26 years, she also goes to Adult day care and Adventist Lodi Memorial Hospital. And other facilities. Barbara has also trained them to do tricks. What she finds most rewarding is to go into a room where someone is sad and depressed, watching them light up when they see the dogs and to see how the therapy dogs turn their sadness into Joy.

(Mia and Dottie)

Cynthia Ehlers and her dog Bailey Marie have been doing Pet Therapy in the San Joaquin Valley for the past 8yrs. She has been running the Animal Friends Connection Humane Society Therapy Dogs program since the end of 2022 training handlers and their dogs to be part of the program. They have visited many Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Memory Care facilities, along with three local hospitals. Cynthia and Bailey Marie visit Elementary Schools, High schools and Universities. They are active members of Hospice of San Joaquin, They are part of the Stockton Schools Districts Canine Kindness program, Valley Springs Reading to Paws program and UOP campus visits. They actively visit with Veterans at several local locations, and take part in many other community events, including Tim Tebow's Knight to Shine! Cynthia and Bailey Marie enjoy giving back and then some to the community.

(Bailey Marie)

(Continued on page 3)

AFCHS Board Members

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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

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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
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.

Mobile Adoption Site Counselors
Help with transport to adoption sites, set-up and breakdown of special adoptions. Interview prospective adopters. Coordinate pet deliveries to their new homes.

Cat Cuddlers
Youth or adults to brush, **pet and socialize cats and to help with cleaning**. Seven days a week 9am to 7pm.

Fundraising and Raffle Help
Help organize one or more events each year (such as the Fiesta Dinner and our Jog a Dog) and/or organize our Jog a Dog raffle.

It does take a commitment to help out. To receive a volunteer application e-mail Patricia Sherman at office@animalfriendsconnect.org

The Power of Rescue, Hope and Adoption (Continued)

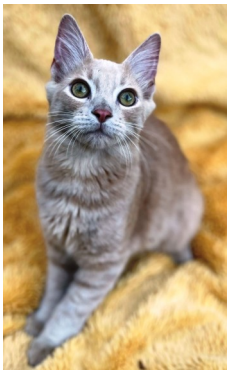
Patricia Sherman started the Therapy dogs program for Animal Friends Connection Humane Society back in 1997, since then she has had 5 dogs of her own go through the training. She currently has Miles and Mia siblings who just finished training and have started visiting Memory Care facilities and UOP along with friend Robyn Cruz who co-trained them and will be taking them along with Patricia to do their visits. These wonderful dogs were running for weeks in the country and had to be trapped. They blossomed into loving dogs while at the sanctuary. Patricia and her husband Dave adopted them in March of 2024. After having them for a year we decided that they would be great Therapy Dogs, they love everyone, including children and all adults that they meet. We are looking forward to all of the people that they make happy.

(Miles and Mia)

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

Sally is a 3year old girl who needs a loving furever home.
She is beautiful and shy. She gets along with other cats but is not used to dogs or small children.
She is up to date with routine shots, house-trained, spayed, FELV/FIV/HTW negative and is an inside-only cat.
Go to www.animalfriendsconnect.org and fill out the application to adopt her.

Murray is a 5 month old buff boy who needs a loving furever home.
He gets along great with other kitties. He is not used to dogs or small children.
He is up to date with routine shots, house-trained, neutered, FELV/FIV/HTW negative and is an inside-only cat.
www.animalfriendsconnect.org fill out the application to adopt her.



Special Needs Pup Needs A Forever Home

Echo is the Sweetest Deaf Australian Shepherd Puppy! 14-16 week-old, blue eyed, 18-pound Aussie is a stunning white and merle boy who looks like he's purebred ?. Found dumped Thankfully, a kind family has taken him in. Echo was likely abandoned because he's deaf. Don't let that stop you, he's a quick learner and has made incredible progress! Echo is vaccinated, microchipped, and will be neutered. Go to www.animalfriendsconnect.org and fill out the application to adopt.

Meet Wilbur, a truly special boy who's been waiting patiently for his forever family. One of ten siblings, Wilbur was born on March 4, 2025, and has grown up surrounded by love in his foster home. Now, at just 8 ½ months old and weighing around 45 pounds, this handsome and happy-go-lucky pup is ready to find his special place in the world - with you. Wilbur is a delightful mix of Australian Shepherd and Malinois. He's affectionate, friendly, and full of puppy energy.

He's house trained and leash trained, neutered, microchipped and vaccinated
Could you be the family to give this wonderful boy the forever home he truly deserves?
For more information call 209-365-0535

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We accept donations online !
www.animalfriendsconnect.org

You can scan this QR Code to donate

Animal Friends Connection

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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

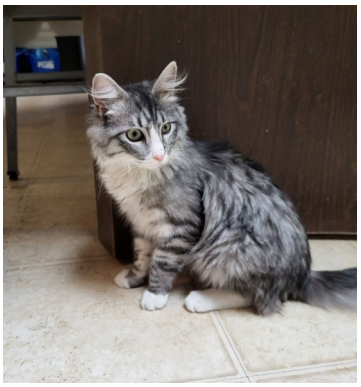
Land or a house with a little property, located (if possible) between Stockton and Lodi for a permanent adoption center/shelter. We have outgrown our location. ***

Happy Tails

Justine says Shadow (now Aiden) is coming out of his shell every day. He is so sweet and so loving she can't believe how lucky she is.

Wobbles came to us with wobbly cat syndrome. He couldn't control his body and was jerky and wobbled when he walked. He charmed everyone at the sanctuary. Matthew had experience with wobbly cats and fell in love with him. Matthew's other cat wasn't sure about Wobbles when he first came, but came to understand him and both cats are getting along well.

Thank you to Matthew for giving this special needs cat a loving furrever home!



Aurora had to wait 2 years to find her forever home. Jennifer adopted her, and she is doing wonderful. Aurora is very happy and even allows Jennifer to rub her belly. Jennifer says she is the perfect cat for her.

They are a very happy family.

Robert and Parker are getting along beautifully. It only took Parker a couple of days to give kisses now they are best buds.

Parker enjoys going out to lunch with Robert, enjoys reading with him and cuddling.
They have become best buddies.

The Leventini Family adopted Layla.

Layla's new name is Sugar Lala Baby Cakes.

Her adopters feel like new parents all over again.
She entertains them for hours with her cute antics and she gives great two armed hugs!

Megan saw Zane's picture online, came to meet him and fell immediately in love. He was a little shy at first, but now he owns the home. He sleeps on the pillow next to her every night and is a total sweetheart. Megan couldn't be happier!

Thanks to Megan for giving this sweet boy his furrever home!

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

June 2024 - October 20225

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Trapper the Dog
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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.
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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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Waggin' Tails Winter2025

Animal Friends Connection Humane Society

Promoting Compassion Toward All Creatures

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Our Waggin' Tails newsletter reaches thousands of San Joaquin County residents.

The cost to advertise in each issue is as follows:

$35	**Business card size**
$120	**Quarter page ad**
$200	**Half page ad**

For more information contact Patricia at: (209) 365-0535 or send an email addressed to: office@animalfriendsconnect.org