

Animal Shelter Update

City of Chico Animal Services



Microchips Help Pets Get Back Home

What is the size of a grain of rice, doesn't have wheels but can bring your pet back home? If you guessed "microchip" then you are right!

Every day the staff at the City of Chico Animal Shelter see pets reunited through the power of the tiny microchip. We've reunited animals from as far away as Colorado and Sacramento, and after the pet has been missing for a long period of time.



This is Cheese the dog with his owner and Gina, one of the Animal Care Attendants

The Staff at the City of Chico Animal Shelter would like to **thank the following veterinarians** that have been so helpful in providing spay/neuters and veterinary care for the animals at the shelter throughout this last year:

Mike Chestnut Spay/Neuter PAWS of Oroville and **All About Pets** for all the spay/neuters, **Chico Hospital for Cats**, and **Chico Animal Hospital** for providing free spay/neuters, **Erickson Veterinary Hospital**, for all the donated and discounted spay/neuters, and **Valley Oak Veterinary Center** for all the spay/neuters and all the animals they have helped us with.

at the shelter. Cheese was brought to the shelter as a stray, and as with every animal that comes to the shelter, he was scanned for a microchip. A series of numbers and letters popped up on the handheld scanner, indicating the presence of a microchip. When staff called the chip manufacturer to see if the chip had been registered, the chip was registered to an owner in Stockton, CA. The owner was called, and much to everyone's surprise, Cheese had been missing for *three years*! The owner immediately got in his car and drove to Chico to claim his dog.

If your pet is not microchipped, now is the time to do it. Chips are available on a walk-in basis at the Chico Animal Shelter for just \$24.50, including lifetime registration. For more information, please call the shelter at 894-5630. If your pet is already chipped, make sure the registration is up to date. If you don't know who to contact for that, please feel free to bring your pet to the shelter to be scanned to get the manufacturer's contact info.

Black Friday Adoption Event

Why fight the crowds at the mall this Black Friday when you can find the best gift of all at the City of Chico Animal Shelter - a lifelong companion.

To kick off the holiday season, the City of Chico Animal Shelter is having a Black Friday "Opt to Adopt" Event on November 29th from 12 Noon until 6:00 PM.

All animals available through the City of Chico will be available for half price. That's \$17.50 for dogs and \$15.75 for cats. Adoptions include spay or neuter, first vaccinations, screening for FELV or heartworm, and a microchip.

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2013

Table of Contents

Message from the Animal Services Manager	2
Rescue Update	2
Volunteer Highlight	3
Adoption Corner	3
How to Help	3
Adoption Highlight	4
Home4 The Holidays	4

Did you know?

- Cats are 13 times more likely to get back home if they are **not** brought to the shelter
- A total of 1,531 dogs, 1,368 cats, and 99 "other" animals were housed at the shelter during FY 2012-2013
- 74% of stray dogs brought to the Chico Animal Shelter are claimed by their owners, (nationally only 25% of dogs are claimed)

Message from the Animal Services Manager

When the City resumed operations of the shelter after 26 years, no one really knew what to expect. The city was essentially starting from scratch, and the staff was mostly inexperienced. Maybe it was that inexperience that helped the City achieve some amazing goals in the first year and a half of operations because it wasn't "business as usual". In the first year of operation, the live release rate climbed from 46.3% for cats the year before to 67.1%, and from 80.5% to 90.4% for dogs..

No orphaned kitten brought to the shelter was euthanized. Rather, foster homes were utilized to care for (bottle feed if necessary) the kittens until they were old enough to be adopted. Dogs that were too shy, or had issues that made them ineligible for the City's adoption partner's program were worked with by City staff in order to make them more adoptable, then carefully placed in appropriate homes by the staff. Cats and kittens that were sick were nursed back to health and adopted out, along with cats that were too shy or not friendly with other cats.

Although the City did not anticipate doing adoptions, City staff has adopted out 76 dogs, 253 cats, and 34 "other" (mostly rabbits and guinea pigs), all while doing the day to day operations they were originally hired to do. Not only that, the City has been able to keep adoption fees low because spaying or neutering of all adopted animals (which is required by state law), and medical care has so far been covered

through donations from the public with some assistance from local veterinarians. Staff also works with rescue groups to take purebred dogs, exotics or special needs animals.

A change in the City's intake policies has had a further, positive impact on overall animal outcomes. Owners wishing to surrender their dogs are put on a waiting list (except for emergency situations). They are given counseling if the reason for surrender is a behavioral issue. Owners are also encouraged to find a home for their dog on their own. The result has been that owners often either decide to keep their dog, or find them a home without having to bring them to the shelter. The City no longer accepts healthy stray cats, and encourages the trap-neuter-release of community cats. This ensures stray cats are more likely to get back home, and eliminates the need to euthanize feral cats trapped and brought to the shelter, while actually reducing the overall feral cat population. Since the cat policies changed, the euthanasia rate for cats has dropped by 90% from the same time the year before.

The success of the City operating the Animal Shelter has been because of all the support it has gotten from the community – from animal welfare and rescue organizations, from local veterinarians, from donors, and from volunteers. Thank you, Chico for making the shelter a success! - Tracy Mohr

Follow Us!

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/chicoanimalshelter
On Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/chicoshelter/

Rescue Update — Joel



Joel on intake to the shelter.
Joel came to the shelter as a stray, badly mat-

ted, lethargic and dehydrated, and with multiple problems including broken painful teeth, an ear infection, and stiff painful hindquarters. In many shelters, Joel would have been euthanized if no owner claimed him. But the staff at the shelter worked hard at finding a rescue for him. Joel was transferred to K9BFF rescue, where he was bathed and groomed, restoring some of his dignity. Joel was estimated to be over 13 years old and has some incontinence and other age relate issues.

It has been a roller coaster of ups and downs with this guy, but Linda with K9BFF has done so much in getting this old boy ready for a new home. We are happy to report that Joel has found a new forever home in Virginia where he can live out the rest of his life being loved and cared for. We are lucky for having such great

rescues to work with in finding permanent and loving homes for the dogs who come into the shelter.

Joel in his new home.



How to help:

You can make a donation in person, by mail or by phone. We accept cash, debit and major credit cards, and checks. 100% of your donations are used directly for the care of sheltered animals.

☐ I'd like to make a donation, enclosed is \$_____ for the following:

☐ Medical Fund ☐ Equipment Fund

☐ General Fund ☐ Wherever is needed most

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

☐ I'd like to help save resources, please send me your newsletter by email.

My email is: _____

Other ways to donate: <http://www.chicoanimalshelter.org/donate.html> click on the "Donate" button where you can safely and securely donate through North Valley Community Foundation

Wish List:

Dog food, Canned – Pedigree any size

Dog Food, Dry – Diamond Chicken and Rice, or Kirkland Chicken and Rice

Leashes and collars - nylon leashes and buckle collars

Cat litter - clay only (non-clumping type)

Cat toys – all types

Kong toys

Volunteer Highlight — Karen H.

Karen H. has been volunteering for the City since May of 2012. Karen is our primary transport volunteer, transporting dogs to rescue groups all over the state, including to the airport for a flight to a rescue group in southern California, and to or from local veterinarians for spay/neuter so they can be adopted. Karen has also fostered several kittens. If you would like to volunteer for the shelter, please call or visit the shelter, or for more information visit our website at www.chicoanimalshelter.org. Stay tuned for new volunteer opportunities in the near future!



Cuddles is a senior dog (10 yrs.) that was surrendered to the shelter by her owner. Surrendered dogs, especially older ones, have a hard time adjusting to being at the shelter. For a very long time, Cuddles would growl at everyone and not let them get near. Staff was not sure a new home could be found. But gradually staff was able to gain

Adoption Corner

her trust. Cuddles was spayed and was treated for infected feet. Cuddles has lived with other dogs and doesn't seem to care too much about cats. She had a day out at the park and was very well behaved around a lot of other dogs. She is very happy to nap under the desk in the office. She is a really sweet dog who is ready to find a place where she can live out her senior years with someone who will love her. An anonymous donor has recently covered the cost of Cuddles' adoption. If you'd be interested in adopting Cuddles, please call or visit the shelter to meet her.



Chico Animal Shelter

2579 Fair St. Chico, CA 95928

Phone:

530-894-5630

Fax:

530-894-5338

Email:

chicoanimalshelter@yahoo.com

We are also on the Web!

www.ChicoAnimalShelter.org

[www.facebook.org/
ChicoAnimalShelter](http://www.facebook.org/ChicoAnimalShelter)

Adoption Highlight — Tangerine



Tangerine is a special cat that came to the shelter in July. He was caught by his back leg in a fence, until rescued by one of our animal control officers who freed him from the fence and brought him to the vet. The vet attempted to save his leg, but the damage was too severe. It had to be amputated. With generous donations from the public, and a discount from

Valley Oak Veterinary Center, the shelter was able to afford the surgery!

Just over a month later, Tangerine was getting to be a pro at walking with only three legs, and quickly found a loving home. Here he is pictured with his new mom!



Home4 the Holidays

The City of Chico Animal Shelter is participating in Home 4 the Holidays, one of the world's largest annual pet adoption drives, which begins October 1 and runs through January 2, 2014. It was started in 1999 by the Helen Woodward Animal Shelter and focuses on the holiday months because more families bring pets into their homes during the holidays than any other time of year. Every pet deserves a forever, loving home during the holidays, and all year long. If you're thinking of getting a pet, consider adopting from the City of Chico Animal Shelter. Visit our website to see a list of pets available for adoption:

[www.chicoanimalshelter.org/
adoptable-animals.html](http://www.chicoanimalshelter.org/adoptable-animals.html)