



www.friendsofhstj.org

Helping Animals Since 2008

friendsofhstj@gmail.com

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER



In this edition:

**Rescues Continue During Covid19 Crisis
How FHSTJ Responded To A Rescuer's SOS**

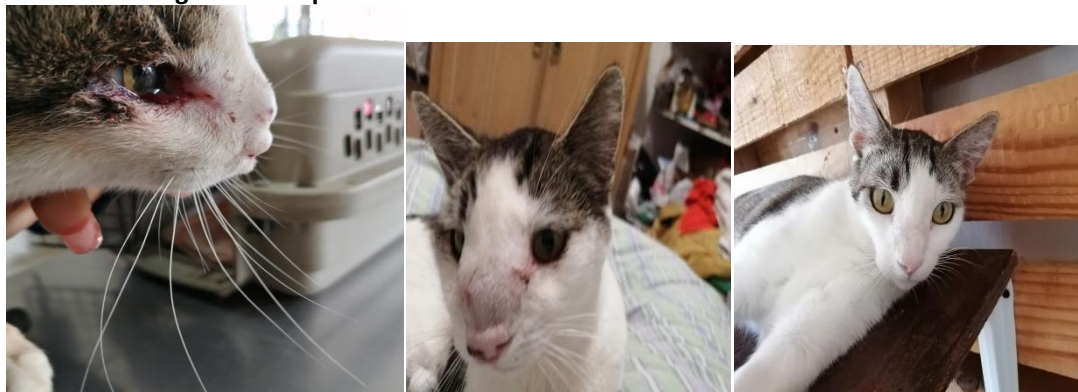
**Coping With Covid19 Challenges
Frequently Asked Questions**

RESCUES CONTINUE DURING THE COVID19 CRISIS

Examples of rescues accomplished for \$50 or less using FHSTJ veterinary care certificates and the loving care of volunteer rescuers. These photos are not staged or done by professionals. They are actual photos done by the rescuers receiving FHSTJ support.



Canela was found roaming the street, blind, pregnant and frightened. Now treated, she is safe, loved and living in a clean protected area with other rescues.



Before Treatment

During Treatment

After Treatment

This precious girl with painful face infections was also found in the streets. Now treated, she is ready for adoption. See more success stories on the web site.

We are under the same travel and stay at home restrictions as everyone else and in addition are extremely limited as to the types of trips we can make across the USA/Mexican border. They must be classified as ESSENTIAL TRAVEL. Non USA citizens and non permanent residents [green card holders] cannot enter the USA under these new restrictions. As of this moment, our priorities are to get food and medical help to those rescuers currently caring for rescued animals. Mass events such as spay/neuter were postponed March thru July 2020. Street events for parasite and mange treatment resumed in July and three spay/neuter events are planned for August. All of these events are using strict social distancing protocols and limiting the number of people. Throughout this crisis, we continued to give support to individual rescuers by providing food, supplies and veterinary care [including spay and neuter] for those animals currently in their care. Some rescuers desperately need help paying rent due to being unemployed. Without it, they will not be able to care for the animals if they have to move in with family or friends. FHSTJ has been able to provide limited assistance to those with more than 8 rescues but we will not be able to do it much longer without your help. We also need your help paying increased gasoline expenses. Most all of the Mexican volunteers cannot make trips across the border due Covid19 travel restrictions and the burden of daily food and material transport falls mainly on three people. Their gasoline expenses are mounting. **Understandably, donations are down since some donors have been financially impacted by the crisis. We are projecting that this year's expenses will exceed donations by \$15,000 and the difference will have to come from the Olive Walker endowment which will in turn decrease our ability to generate income. That means less future support for the animals. If you are one of the fortunate individuals less impacted by the Covid19 crisis, please consider a special donation to help us help the animals.**



Street Clinics Before Covid19



With Covid19 Protocols

Street events to treat parasites, mange, ticks, fleas and minor wounds are valuable opportunities to teach adults as well as children about general care and the importance of spay and neuter. When severe cases arrive, FHSTJ Vet Care Certificates are issued.

IF YOU APPROVE OF THE WORK WE ARE DOING, YOU CAN DONATE BY GOING TO THE WEB SITE www.friendsofhstj.org and clicking on **DONATE.**

Or, send a check made payable to FHSTJ to the following address:

**Friends of HSTJ
641 E. San Ysidro Blvd. #B3-431
San Ysidro, Ca 92173**

Your donations are tax deductible. FHSTJ is an IRS approved charity #77-0704404

The vast majority of FHSTJ support is done through event based "otorgamientos" to cover the expenses of grassroots groups who provide free spay/ neuter events in the poorest areas of Tijuana. FHSTJ also provides medications for street events offering free mange and parasite treatment for pets and street animals located in the most distressed areas of the greater Tijuana area. Individual veterinary care certificates are provided to rescuers to insure immediate veterinary care for rescued animals. In addition, rescuers receive food and non medical supplies. FHSTJ also provided information to the public and rescuers regarding procedures to file complaints about animal cruelty. Last year FHSTJ:

Provided funding for **1181 free spay/neuter surgeries.**

Provided funding for **medicines to treat 1686 animals** for mange and parasites.

Provided funding for **182 individual, urgent veterinary medical treatments.**

Distributed \$4409.00 of purchased pet food to rescuers.

Distributed \$ 5000.00 of donated pet food to individuals needing help to feed pets.

Distributed \$4500.00 of donated non medicine medical items to rescuers.

Provided forever homes for 57 animals via FHSTJ adoption programs at pet stores in San Diego, CA. and facilitated an additional 45 adoptions through individual rescuers in Mexico. **Without the support of FHSTJ, these groups and rescuers could not render this high level of support to the animals.**

HOW FHSTJ RESPONDED TO A RESCUER'S CALL FOR HELP

Shortly before the Covid19 crisis hit Mexico, we were contacted by a new rescuer living in the eastern most part of the greater Tijuana area.

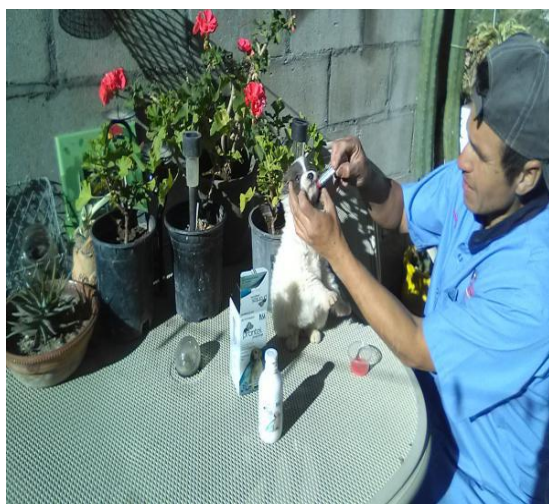


Juan's urgent message explained that he had been sheltering starving street animals and the numbers were growing every day to the point that he had a food shortage problem not to mention the need for medications and veterinary care. Soon after the word got out that Juan was providing care for abandoned dogs, local people starting dumping dogs on his property. Within a few short weeks, the number jumped from 5 to 15 and Juan was overwhelmed. FHSTJ volunteers visited Juan and delivered food, medicines and supplies and also made an assessment for future support. (continued page 4)



Pups Recently Dumped

When we arrived at Juan's home, we found that a bunch of pups had just been abandoned on his property. In addition to food and medicines, FHSTJ provided hygiene supplies to clean the pups.



With the support of FHSTJ medications and veterinary care certificates, treatments were started on Juan's rescues to ready as many as possible for adoption. FHSTJ also plans to have a mass street event in this colonia (neighborhood) to treat pets of the residents for parasites and mange and evaluate them as to the need for veterinary care.

Be An Ambassador

You can be a great help by spreading the word about helping animals in need. Be an ambassador for FHSTJ and send this information on to good people like yourself and who are genuinely concerned about animals.

Be A Responsible Donor

Before you donate to an animal charity, the minimum you should ask is:

1. Is the organization approved by the IRS as a charity? Do they publish their IRS number so that you can avail yourself of the information if you choose?
2. To whom do they pay salaries?
3. Do they provide donors with periodic reports?

FHSTJ can respond to these questions:

Friends of Humane Services in Tijuana is an IRS approved 501 c 3 charity #77-0704404. Contact information: Direct your questions to our mailing address or by email to friendsofhstj@gmail.com

No monetary or in-kind compensation is given for volunteer or board member service. FHSTJ provides donors with two reports a year. Donors can review FHSTJ's work by visiting the web site: www.friendsofhstj.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Why doesn't FHSTJ use non-profit postage?

Answer: FHSTJ is approved by the United States Postal Service to use non-profit postage [NPP] but chooses not to do so at this time for the following reasons:

- >The vast majority of mass and individual mailings are electronic.
- >NPP has a minimum mailing requirement and requires either a USPS permit which comes with a fee or an option to use presorted and bar coded envelopes.
- >NPP requires us to bring the bulk mailing to a special location and then complete an inventory and weigh-in and separate the mail in bins according to zip codes.
- >NPP requires an up front extra fee for each piece going out of local zip areas according to the aforementioned inventory and to be paid at the time of mailing.
- >NPP, unless addressed as "Resident", requires us to pick up returned mail and pay a fee for the return and for forwarding addresses.
- >NPP cannot be used to send first class mail such as our special thank you letters that so many of you appreciate and/or correspondence that you request.

Considering the above requirements and the actual small amount of saving versus the valuable volunteer time to handle it, FHSTJ chooses to allocate volunteer time for other cost saving programs such as the food distribution, among others. Should our number of hard copy mass mailings reach a point where it is more economical to do so, we will use NPP.

Question: Why Doesn't FHSTJ run a shelter?

Answer: FHSTJ can do much, much more with your donations by supporting a corps of individual rescuers located in various parts of the greater Tijuana area rather than running a shelter holding only a few animals.

>Shelters, whether private or public, fall under the supervision of the local department of health's local dog pound. The government can require them to respond to actions needed to assist the local pound thus giving the local government an avenue to lean on private resources that would otherwise be better and more efficiently used. (continued page 6)

>Shelters require owning or leasing land and having some paid employees which is expensive considering the very limited number of animals that can be housed at any given time, to say nothing of the disadvantage of an animal not having a foster parent to socialize it for adoption.

>The FHSTJ Certificate Program places resources in the hands of rescuers so that they can immediately respond to urgent situations which is more efficient than running a shelter clinic.

Question: How does FHSTJ know that my donation is being used properly?

Answer: FHSTJ does not "send" money to Mexico. Rather, it distributes resources per event or per individual animal rescued and with an accountability procedure.

> Board officers meet monthly or bi-monthly as required with the leaders of four grassroots groups and lead rescuers to plan new events, plan budgets and also review past events.

>Resources are distributed per event e.g. mass spay and neuter and mass parasite control clinics.

> An FHSTJ board member or board adviser is present at events and a numerical and photo report is submitted to FHSTJ and data is recorded.

>Group leaders and lead rescuers are provided with FHSTJ Vet. Care Certificates to distribute to rescuers as needed and the veterinarians are paid after service is rendered and the veterinary report is received. Participating vets usually give a special rate to FHSTJ rescues.



Mass spay and neuter clinics are the key to prevent over population of unwanted cats and dogs. FHSTJ supports four grassroots volunteer groups doing mass spay and neuter in Tijuana.

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