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Helping animals since 2008

Each like & follow helps us reach more people and save animals from of life of starvation, disease, pain and fear.



www.friendsofhstj.org

WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

friendsofhstj@gmail.com

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ECONOMIC DOWNTURN NEGATIVELY IMPACTING OUR ANIMALS

The last 12 months have been the most challenging in our 14-year history. It was the first time that we had to begin rationing care due to ever increasing costs and a marked decline in donations. At present, we must continue to plan accordingly. As we approach the new year, we face the painful task of planning how to minimize the negative effects that program cutbacks will have on the animals.



We need your help more than ever! We don't want to have to ration care, especially when these animals have a future. We ask that you put yourself in our place and feel the pain and anxiety that comes with these tough decisions. Take a look at the results of your donations. The following animals are just a few examples of animals you saved from a life of starvation, disease, pain, and fear. Will you be a hero to the others that need this kind of care?



Katrina was found with mange and a lacerated neck. She recovered after treatment and was adopted.



Start the New Year with an act of kindness by helping the animals.



Angelita was found with an injured eye, unable to walk and malnourished. She continues to receive treatment and we're hoping that one day she will be adopted.



Marley's previous owner wanted to abandon him at Tijuana's Animal Control. He was rescued by one of our volunteers and has found a new home.



Free street clinics for people who can't afford vet care. These animals were treated for severe parasite infestations.



Nano suffered extreme malnutrition, a respiratory infection, and an eye ulcer. He recovered after treatment and has been adopted.



FHSTJ President's Feral Cat Project. The Feral Cat Project trapped, vaccinated, spayed/neutered and treated 11 cats to date.



FHSTJ Feral Cat Project: Marmi (seen here) was captured using a humane trap, treated for injuries, vaccinated, neutered and released.

Please consider giving a special donation.

URGENT MESSAGE FROM FHSTJ'S PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Humane Services in Tijuana:

As mentioned in our Summer 2022 Newsletter, we were already seeing how the economic downturn was starting to negatively impact our ability to maintain current support, not to mention the ever-increasing requests from our rescuers. Those 2021-22 fiscal year's accomplishments were reported in our last newsletter, and we have included them again in this newsletter to remind our readers of the number of animals we have helped. That report appears in the section FHSTJ DOES A LOT MORE THAN RESCUES. We actually exceeded last year's goals; but, even at that time, we were concerned that we may have to begin rationing resources if donations could not keep pace with expenses. Unfortunately, that concern has become a reality and donations are no longer sufficient to maintain current program levels. All volunteers, myself included, are spending time anguishing over which animal gets support and how much. It is painful, stressful and heart breaking!

We are aware that many of you are making difficult financial decisions, so we do understand why you have decreased or stopped donating; however, if you find yourself in a better position, we urge you to consider increasing your donation to help us during this difficult period. Just take a look at the photo reports above and know that your support will help us to help more like them. Your donation is saying to that fearful animal who is looking up at you: **"Yes, I am here to help you!"**

Richard Massa
President, FHSTJ

FHSTJ and CALLE CERO Strive for Zero Strays

FHSTJ participated in a mass spay clinic on 16 Oct 2022 in Salvatierra, a poor neighborhood in the southwest section of Tijuana. A Guadalajara volunteer group, Calle Cero, has been providing mass spay clinic to organizations throughout Mexico in conjunction with respective local groups such as ourselves and the ones we assist in the greater Tijuana area. Calle Cero has a corps of veterinarians experienced in performing surgeries at mass events. Our local groups organize the event and provide volunteer staffing for the admissions process, preoperative and post operative care and provide funding for the medications and surgery materials. All spay and neuter surgeries are free of charge. At the last event, FHSTJ sponsored 68 FREE spays/neuters for rescuers and people with limited resources. The event was a big success and FHSTJ is looking into plans to work with our local volunteer groups and exploring ways we can continue to work in conjunction with Calle Cero doing spay and neutering in a more cost-effective manner while providing safe, quality care. Spay and neuter is the only effective solution to the overpopulation of animals and the prevention of animal abandonment and suffering. Even in these times of budgetary austerity, we must continue our spay/neuter efforts. By partnering with Calle Cero and also continuing our support for the local volunteer groups doing monthly spay and neuter, we can better use our resources. The following is a photo report of the Calle Cero (Zero Strays) event:





FHSTJ DOES A LOT MORE THAN RESCUES.

Friends of Humane Services in Tijuana [FHSTJ] supports 4 grassroots organizations in addition to several individual rescuers. These groups/people have no significant funding sources locally and rely on FHSTJ to provide needed services to pets of people with extremely limited income as well as to street animals in desperate need of food, medical attention and protection. The greater Tijuana, Mexico area borders the greater San Diego, California area and these services contribute to a healthier environment for both American and Mexican communities along the border.

For the fiscal year ending on 30 June 2022, FHSTJ provided **1225 free spay/neuter surgeries** for rescuers and people with limited resources, **2537 treatments for mange and parasites**, **431 veterinary medical/surgical treatments for animals of rescuers**, placed **64 dogs in forever homes in the San Diego area**, facilitated **52 cat and dog adoptions in Mexico**, and distributed **17,496 pounds of pet food**.

The vast majority of FHSTJ support is via event-based funding to cover the expenses of grassroots groups of rescuers who provide free spay and neutering events in the poorest areas of Tijuana as well as medication to provide free mange and parasite treatment street events for pets as well as street animals located in the most distressed areas of the greater Tijuana area. Additional individual case grants were provided to rescuers via a certificate program that provides for immediate veterinary care for rescued animals. The aforementioned programs also provide public education through both formal public sessions and informal one on one counseling.



Mass spay and neuter events held monthly. FHSTJ covers the full cost for persons without resources to pay the low-cost fee for pets. FHSTJ also covers the full cost for rescuers.

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

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

Help Spread the Word

You can help animals just by spreading the word. A simple forward of this FHSTJ Newsletter to people like yourself who have an interest in animal welfare is an easy and effective way of helping us. A simple message such as: "Thought you might want to see what this organization is doing for animals" is a great way to introduce your friends and family to FHSTJ.

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 and for what?
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 the above address or by email to friendsofhstj@gmail.com

To assist volunteers, FHSTJ has three part-time employees for an average weekly combined total of only 38 hours a week. They assist volunteers by providing logistical support, record keeping, finance, and communications. No monetary or in-kind compensation is given for volunteer or board member service. That is why we do so much with so little. FHSTJ provides donors with two reports a year. Donors can review FHSTJ's work by visiting the web site: www.friendsofhstj.org

HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE SAFEGUARDED

- 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 review past events.
- Resources are distributed per event e.g., spay/ neuter and 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.
- Lead rescuers are given FHSTJ Veterinary Care Certificates to distribute as needed. Veterinarians are paid after service is rendered and the report is received.
- Donors may contact FHSTJ at any time to inquire about their donation at friendsofhstj@gmail.com

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

Answer: FHSTJ received approval 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 FHSTJ 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. Payments for out of area mailings, special sorting and special retrieval of returned mail require clerical time that could be better used on the food distribution and other programs.
- If the number of hard copy mailings increase dramatically in the future, we will use NPP.

Question: Why Doesn't FHSTJ run a shelter?

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

- Shelters in Mexico, whether private or public, are subject to local regulations that could require them to work with local agencies which, when enforced, can provide the government an avenue to lean on the private resources that would otherwise be better and more efficiently used.
- Shelters require owning/leasing land and having paid employees which is expensive considering the very limited number of animals that can be housed at any given time.
- The FHSTJ Certificate Program places resources in the hands of rescuers so they can immediately respond to urgent situations.