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www.friendsofhstj.org

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

friendsofhstj@gmail.com

IN THIS EDITION

Weak U.S. Dollar vs. Strong Mexican Peso Is A Serious Economic Setback.

Program Support Level May Be Unsustainable.

Are Parasite Control Events Important?

Man Bites Dog! Frequently Asked Questions.



Another Serious Economic Setback

No sooner had we sent our last newsletter reporting that we were seeing some signs of recovering from the economic setbacks from the Covid crises, we were hit with another devastating blow to our ability to maintain programs. Before January 2023 we were getting 20 Mexican pesos for 1 US dollar. Then, suddenly, the US dollar slipped and the Mexican peso strengthened. Now, in November 2023, we are still only getting 16 Mexican pesos for 1 US dollar and that means that our purchasing power for items and services in Mexico has diminished. Costs have increased 20%. To make matters worse, during the last six months, we did not see donations even come close to pre-Covid levels. In fact, with the lag in donations and increased costs, we are currently receiving donations to cover only 60% of our actual costs. That is unsustainable.



There are many, many more like this that need our help and we will not be able to help them without more support.

Please **DONATE**. You will sleep better knowing that you didn't ignore a street animal pleading for help.

Street rescue of mother and pups before (below) and after (above).



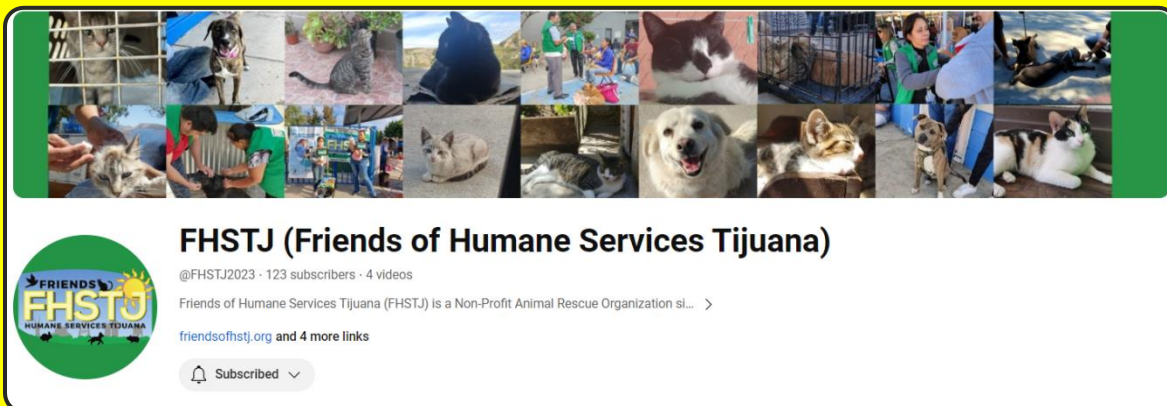
Amber was found in the street, starving and ill. The rescuer needed support and attended an FHSTJ street clinic seeking help.

FHSTJ provided food, supplies, veterinary care and therapeutic grooming. Amber is well now and has a loving home.



We were able to maintain a decent level of program support during our fiscal year 2022-23 because some of our volunteer board members and volunteer rescuers paid event expenses from their own pockets which amounted to several thousands of dollars. In addition, we had to liquidate a saving certificate that we were relying on to provide us with a supplement to the income from donations. This can no longer continue, and we will have to cut program support in order to maintain a viable organization. Fewer animals will be helped and that means many sleepless nights for our volunteers. PLEASE HELP US HELP THE ANIMALS. **DONATE!**

FHSTJ YouTube Channel



View this 1-minute video to see how FHSTJ supports rescues & groups.



View this 1-minute video to see your donations at work.



Scan to see videos.

ARE PARASITE CONTROL EVENTS IMPORTANT?

In this time of budgetary constraints, the question arises if we should be putting resources in street events to control parasites. While the scientifically proven solution to overpopulation of animals is spay and neuter and FHSTJ supports this position without reserve and with emphasis on spay and neuter events, we also recognize that the public needs to be educated and guided to take advantage of free and low cost spay and neuter program as well as how to care for their pets and rescues. Our street events, also known as Itchy-Scratchy clinics, focus on the poorest areas of the city of Tijuana where just about every animal has parasites and the people are eager to attend the events. The animals are treated for fleas, ticks, mange, and internal parasites. Animals needing additional veterinary care are triaged and pet owners as well as rescuers are given food and support for veterinary care. Most important is the information provided as to how to schedule a free surgery and transport animals to a sponsored spay/neuter clinic. As this newsletter was being prepared, an event was held in the colonia [neighborhood] of Cumbres. Seventy people showed up with 210 animals, some of which were rescued from the street. Thus, we can honestly say that parasite control events are very important! Last year we treated 2537 animals at street events.



This mother and pups featured *above* were found in the trash by a resident who is going to care for them. FHSTJ is providing food, care, and eventual spay/neuter and well as assistance with adoptions.



THESE PROGRAM LEVELS ARE UNSUSTAINABLE WITHOUT MORE DONATIONS.

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 2023, 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.



IF YOU CARE ENOUGH TO SAVE ANIMALS FROM
STARVATION, DISEASE, PAIN, AND FEAR, YOU CAN
DONATE BY GOING TO OUR WEBSITE.

friendsofhstj.org/donation/

There are options to pay with a credit card, PayPal,
Venmo or eCheck.

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.

MAN BITES DOG

We really don't have anything to report that relates to this headline but please read on.

Now that we have your attention, we would like to know if you can help our animals with a special donation. If you haven't read the section PROGRAM LEVEL IS UNSUSTAINABLE WITHOUT MORE DONATIONS, you may want to. We need a lot of help to keep our services viable. Please help us avoid rationing care to animals in need. We promise that you will sleep better knowing that you did your share helping animals that deserve a better life. Please **DONATE**.



Goodbye Animal Alliance of San Diego. We Will Miss You!

Animal Alliance of San Diego, a rescue group that has been a faithful and longtime supporter of FHSTJ, officially ceased operations in October 2023. Over the years, among other things, they supplied us with 4DX testing kits as well as facilitating some adoptions. Upon dissolving their organization, they made a final, generous cash gift for the FHSTJ animals. Animal Alliance and its president, Victoria, will always remain a true FRIEND.

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, 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 newsletter reports a year. Donors can review FHSTJ's work by visiting the web site: www.friendsofhstj.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: How is my donation safeguarded?

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 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 the 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 increases 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.