



ANIMAL FRIENDS CONNECTION

Promoting Compassion Toward All Creatures
Humane Education & Adoption Referrals
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Maddie's Pet Project in Lodi Year Four Annual Report

When the fourth year of Maddie's project began we knew it was going to be even more difficult. As always, foster homes would be key in a successful program and we were able to recruit additional homes this year. In doing so we were able to quarantine more cats and kittens before coming into the facility, which also kept illness down. We usually only brought in six to ten kittens at a time from the foster homes and by doing this they were always adopted quickly. This was by far the best year for having healthy cats. Later in this year we were able to put more emphasis on pulling dogs and finding foster homes for them. We have greatly improved in this area and are saving more dogs than before. We also completed using the remaining spay/neuter vouchers this year.

We have done a lot of remodeling in our facility. This year the ceiling kept collapsing and we were continually having it repaired. The landlord paid for a lot of it but left it up to us to find the workers and to purchase the materials. We finally decided it was enough and had the ceiling pulled down to the beams then had it completely rebuilt. It was challenging keeping the office/sanctuary open for adoptions during the nearly two months of remodeling. Then the heat/air unit went out so we had to have it all replaced including new ducting. A generous benefactor donated the \$3,000.00 of labor. It has made for a healthier place for the cats to live as well as a healthier workplace.

Vanessa, our new veterinary technician, understood how important it is for us to pull only those cats and dogs that were adoptable. Year three had damaged us by our inadvertently pulling too many treatables. Once the cat and dog foster homes were recruited she kept a good relationship going with them. The relationship she developed with the shelter staff was outstanding. For the first time ever we even had all their cell phone numbers. We are continuing to put more emphasis on dogs since that is where most of the adoptable deaths are occurring.

We continued to do special adoption events and our web site adoptions were better than ever, although adoptions overall were down from year three. Not understanding why but knowing something had to be done we started answering the telephone earlier in the morning rather than letting the answering machine take them. We are finding people are less likely to hold onto a dog if they are unable to speak to a real person immediately. By answering the phones we've been able to counsel people who would have otherwise given up their animal. Since then we have been listing more animals that need homes and are doing more adoptions of dogs at our office/cat sanctuary. While total adoptions on weekends have been decreasing, our web site adoptions are continuing to grow; most of the dog adoptions at the office/sanctuary are from web site traffic where we can schedule visitations all week long. We attribute much of this also to speaking with a real person. We continue to believe that we will achieve success in all areas even though our adoption goals have been more difficult than expected.

We still have mobile adoptions in all our locations on Saturdays. We continue to hold adoptions at least two Sundays a month and sponsor special adoptions throughout the year. As with all previous years we participated in even more school and church carnivals (taking animals for adoption, information about us and Maddie's Fund). Several months ago we moved our large cat cages to a more visible pet store in Lodi called Discount Pet foods. Adoptions at that location have increased over the previous site. We held an adoption event at one of the local wineries, a classic car show and the yearly pedigree cat show. These adoption events helped to get our name out but we generally only end up having a few adoptions per event. The trend so far this year appears that our adoptions are increasing; that is exciting and we are hopeful it will continue.

Finding enough foster homes will always be a challenge, but this year we were more successful in recruiting new homes and continue to have our long-term foster families. I've continued to advertise and put out flyers. The mass emails to volunteers that work in large offices such as humane services or other large companies continue to prove successful in recruiting new foster homes as well as permanent homes (more often permanent ones). We continue to help the department of aging and mental health with situations where people are no longer able to keep their pets and they donate unused cat and dog food through their food programs.

Our cat cuddlers program at the sanctuary is proving to be a great success and grows each year. Schools in our area require children to do between 4 and 20 hours of community service volunteering, depending on the age of the child. We have found some great volunteers by publicizing our cat cuddlers program at local schools. This program keeps our cats happy and brushed as well as making us more visible to the public – and often families adopt a cat. Last summer a man whose home is in Arizona but has family in Lodi brought his grandchildren in to cat cuddle twice a week. The man spent nearly three months in Lodi spending quality time with his grandchildren at our facility.

Donations were down again this year; however with our new strategic planning committee we are certain that will improve. A volunteer designed a giving brochure and we have included the Maddie's Fund paragraph and a picture of Maddie on it, and our newsletter committee is working on getting newsletters out more frequently. Even still, many of our fundraising events saw increases over year three. Jog a Dog was bolstered by having a local running club and top parks, a recreation supervisor, on the committee; our fourth annual Garden Tour profits improved [by how much? 10%? \$100?] over year three; our 2nd annual Bowl for Pets profits tripled over the first year. Next year's Bowl for Pets was moved up so that school vacations and holidays won't interfere. This event is less taxing as far as volunteers needed and this year the committee is working on this being our best ever fundraiser. Maddie was named on the program that was passed out the day of the event. The Fiesta dinner is proving to be a wonderful event where our major donors and volunteers can enjoy each other's company in a relaxing atmosphere.

The ink cartridge donation program did well again this year – our volunteer from social services keeps them coming in several days a week. A retired doctor started volunteering this last year and he has recruited the cartridges from our local hospital and the doctors group he was a partner in. In August we started a Pennies for Pets program. This also holds great promise; so far the pennies are bringing in approximately \$60.00 a month per classroom. We have two classrooms at a public school and two at a private school in Lodi. A special children's home school in Stockton raised over \$150.00 in one month.

We were afraid with the lead animal control officer leaving her job things would be harder for us. That has proved untrue. We are pleased with the success of the project's fourth year and feel ready to accept challenges during the fifth year. With the City of Lodi Animal Services and AFC working together on the shared goal of establishing Lodi as a city in which every adoptable pet gets a home, we are already a success.

Sincerely,

Patricia Sherman

Patricia Sherman, President
Animal Friends Connection

MADDIE'S FUND **YEAR 4 STATISTICS Report** **Baseline targets and overall goals**

AFC ADOPTIONS

- 1999 baseline annual adoptions were **618**
- Actual adoptions for the 2003-04 for the (October 03-September 04) are **900**
- AFCHS Year 4 goal **988** .

SHELTER TRANSFERS TO AFC

- 1999 baseline Annual releases to AFC were **111**
- transfers to AFC from Animal Control Services for the reporting period were **316**
- AFCHS goal for Year 4 was 367.

ANIMALS EUTHANIZED BY AFC AND THE LODI ANIMAL SHELTER

AFC

- 1999 annual baseline totals - **9**
- 2003-2004 annual totals - **14**
 - 1 death from heartworm
 - 2 deaths to cancer
 - 2 death FIP
 - 1 death anemia
 - 5 death FIV
 - 2 death FELV
 - 1 death infected uterus
- There were 3 animals that died in kennel.

SHELTER

- 1999 annual baseline totals - **1455**
- 2003-2004 annual totals – the total number of deaths for Year 4 were **982**
- **91** adoptable deaths – 83 dogs and 8 cats (The chart below gives specific information as to breed)
- **253** treatable deaths - 6 dogs and 247 cats
- **638** non-rehabilitatable – 135 dogs and 503
- 25 cats died in kennels

AFCHS has been tracking the number of dogs (by breed) and cats that were euthanized for Year 4. The total adoptable death number for Year 4 is 91. This includes 54 pit bull and pit bull mixes and 2 dogs that showed aggressive behavior towards humans, all of which Lodi Animal services classified as healthy. AFCHS believes that these animals should have been classified as treatable or in some cases non-rehabilitatable. These animals aren't released for general adoption and LAS has placed special requirements on these adoptions. Therefore, AFCHS doesn't feel that these animals meet the definition of healthy (adoptable) as defined by Maddie's Fund.

The following chart details healthy (adoptable) deaths for Year 4:

Month	Pit	Pit X	Shep X	Rott	Lab	Lab X	Chow	Boxer	other	cats	Ttl.
October	1	3	2				4**		2	5	17
November	3	4		1					2		10
December	3						1		1		5
January	1	3	1	1***					2		8
February	4	1	3		1	1	1				11
March		5									5
April	3	1	1*	1		2	1	1*			10
May	6										6
June	1									1	2
July	1	2							1	2	6
August	6								1		7
September	4										4
TTLS	33	19	7	3	1	3	7	1	9	8	91

*Both animals showed aggressive behavior towards humans.

** These were Chow X pups – no age given

***Rottweiler mix

- Our goal was to have no more than 112 adoptable deaths. AFCHS & LAS saved an additional 21 animals.

SPAY AND NEUTER

- AFCHS has used 109 vouchers left from Year 3.
- Shelter – Lodi Animal Control spayed or neutered dogs or cats for the reporting period 328
- AFC – Animal Friends Connection spayed or neutered dogs or cats for the reporting period 358