



1111 Dodgetown Rd.  
Walnut Cove, NC 27052

[www.friendsofstokesshelter.com](http://www.friendsofstokesshelter.com)



DECEMBER 2023

ISSUE #8



## Welcome Back!!

Well, it is time for Santa and ALL of the pups and kitties have put a fur-ever home at the TOP of their list! Be sure to check out our Facebook page because the residents will be sharing their "Letter to Santa". When you look at "Look at Who Got Adopted", you will see that not many sweeties found their new home in November BUT rest assured, THEIR PERSON is out there and WILL come into FOSS to find them! Zuess our "superdog" is healing nicely and our amazing volunteer Katie and her husband Lee are giving him the royal treatment and taking extra special care of him. THANK YOU to ALL who donated toward his surgery and made it possible! We are suppose to be thankful throughout the entire year but it seems like during November and December, are eyes zoom in on it a bit closer. Don't forget to let your love ones know how much they mean to you. Remember that we are still selling the "bricks/pavers" for our play yard project that will happen in May 2024. When you are checking off the names on your list this year, consider giving one of these to that special animal lover. We have made up some certificates that can be given to that special person to show what you are gifting them. You can go to [www.friendsofstokesshelter.com](http://www.friendsofstokesshelter.com) and click on the brick to order. Email [fosservicesmanager@gmail.com](mailto:fosservicesmanager@gmail.com) and she will email you a PDF of your certificate to print out. Merry Christmas to ALL of you and THANK YOU for helping make FOSS happen!



## Facts

In addition to Christmas,  
December holds many other fun dates to remember:

- 1 - Eat a Red Apple Day
- 2 - National Fritters Day
- 4 - Wear Brown Shoes Day
- 5 - Bathtub Party Day
- 7 - Letter Writing Day
- 8 - National Brownie Day
- 12 - National Ding-a-Ling Day
- 13 - Ice Cream Day
- 15 - National Lemon Cupcake Day
- 17 - National Maple Syrup Day
- 20 - Go Caroling Day
- 21 - Look on the Bright Side Day
- 27 - Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day
- 30 - Bacon Day
- 31 - Make Up Your Mind Day



DON'T FORGET THAT YOU CAN  
ORDER FROM OUR CHEWY  
WISHLIST

[https://www.chewy.com/g/friends-of-stokes-shelter\\_b114903946](https://www.chewy.com/g/friends-of-stokes-shelter_b114903946)



## Newsletter Highlights

Did You Know

New Leash on Life

Biscuit

Wrapping Up 2023

Moon Dog



**BUY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE IT ALL. "ONE STOP SHOPPING"!**

**PAVER GIFT LIST**  
 Lorrie Tammy  
 Cindy Lynne  
 Susan Katie  
 Sarah Ed  
 Nonie, Sydney

www.friendsofstokesshelter.com

**MERRY christmas**

A Brick has been purchased in honor/memory of

This brick will be placed in the play yard of Friends of Stokes Shelter. The project will be completed "around" May 2024.

**DO YOU KNOW?**

- After a chase, a cheetah has to wait about 30 minutes to catch its breath before it can eat.
- There are more pet dogs in Brazil than there are people in Canada.
- A honey badger's skin is so thick that the animal is unharmed by bee stings and porcupine quills.
- A great white shark's liver makes up a quarter of its bodyweight.
- Elephants will roll in the dust or mud to protect themselves from sunburn.
- The egg yolks of Flamingos are blood red.
- Snails can regrow their eyes.
- Some people become allergic to red meat after being bitten by a lone star tick.

## FOSS Team

### Board Members



- Mike Barsness – Chair
- Diane Coffill – Vice Chair
- Wendi Spraker - Secretary/Treasurer
- Fran Hollis – Facilities Chair
- Kate Waterman - Marketing Chair
- Aaron Sisco
- Tanya Gardner
- Caleb Swaim

### Part-Time Employees

- Emily Burgess – Animal Operations Manager
- Renea Brown – FOSS Services Manager
- Tonya Palmer – Kennel Assistant
- Crystal Finney - Kennel Assistant
- Bethany Woods – Kennel Assistant

### Volunteer Coordinator's

- Lorrie Bennett – Volunteer Coordinator
- Katie Winfrey – Volunteer Coordinator
- Cindy Taylor – Human-Animal Relations Coordinator

Along with 30+ active volunteers!!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
 FOSS Volunteer December Birthday's

**11TH - SARAH ROBERTS**  
**30TH - EMILY SHELTON**

### WHAT A GREAT WEEK!

**ALL FOUR OF OUR GREAT PUPS HAVE APPROVED ADOPTIONS AND WILL GO HOME TO THEIR FOREVER HUMANS AT OUR 14TH GRADUATION ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 5:30 PM AT THE W-S DOG TRAINING CLUB AT 3800 BETHANIA STATION ROAD.**

**COME SEE THE FORSYTH CORRECTIONAL CENTER TRAINERS SHOW WHAT THEY'VE TAUGHT THE DOGS (AND WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED FROM THEM) DURING THEIR 10 WEEKS OF TRAINING. THEY HAVE ALL—MEN AND DOGS—WORKED REALLY HARD AND LOVE IT WHEN PEOPLE COME TO SEE EVERYTHING. THEY GIVE THE DOGS (SOMETIMES WITH TEARS) TO THEIR NEW HUMANS, WHO ARE JOYFUL. AND THERE'S A DELICIOUS SHARED MEAL. YOU ARE ALL INVITED!**

**OUR DOGGIES ELLIE, MILO, SHADOW, AND SNAP HAD A FUN OUTING TODAY AT LOWE'S (SO MANY NEW SMELLS AND SIGHTS) WITH OUR SOCIALIZING WALK COORDINATOR, SANTIE, AND THEIR NEW HUMANS.**

**WE LOVE OUR NEW LEASH ON LIFE PROGRAM AND EVERYONE INVOLVED!**



# BISCUIT



Biscuit

**I AM A 2 YEAR OLD BOY COONHOUND, TREEING WALKER. I AM HOUSE TRAINED AND LOVE TO SMELL EVERYTHING. SUPER FRIENDLY AND LOVES TO PLAY. I WILL MAKE YOU A VERY SWEET AND LOYAL ADDITION TO YOUR FAMILY. APPLY TODAY AT [WWW.FRIENDSOFASTOKESSHELTER.COM](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFASTOKESSHELTER.COM)**

## Christmas Pet Safety

**DECORATIONS - BE CAREFUL WITH RIBBON AND TINSEL. CATS LOVE TO EAT IT WHICH CAN CAUSE A SURGICAL EMERGENCY**

**PLANTS - MISTLETOE & POINSETTIAS ARE TOXIC. THEY CAN CAUSE IRRITATION, VOMITING, DIARRHEA AND HEART ARRHYTHMIA**

**HOLIDAY PARTIES - EXTRA HOUSE GUESTS CAN BE STRESSFUL FOR PETS. MAKE SURE PETS HAVE A QUIET PLACE TO GET AWAY**

**HOLIDAY FOOD - TURKEY BONES CAN CAUSE INTESTINAL DAMAGE. ONIONS, GARLIC, GRAPES & RAISINS ARE ALL TOXIC TO PETS**

**CORDS & CANDLES - BE SURE ELECTRICAL CORDS AND CANDLES ARE OUT OF REACH OF PETS**



### PET PORTRAITS

December 16th 2-5 pm  
at  
Friends of the Stokes Shelter  
1111 Dodgetown Road, Walnut Cove, NC

**\$25**  
Minimum Donation to Friends of the Stokes Shelter per pet.

You will receive 2 digital images (file with print release via email)



**WE WILL HAVE SANTA TOO! HE WILL BE THERE SPREADING SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER FROM 12-3. BRING THE 2 AND 4 LEGGED KIDS OUT SO THEY CAN LET HIM KNOW IF THEY HAVE BEEN GOOD OR BAD. BE SURE TO EMAIL [WALTERVSTPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WALTERVSTPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM) TODAY TO SET UP YOUR APPOINTMENT.**




# FOSS Donation Wall

We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact (336) 914-9270 or [fosservicesmanager@gmail.com](mailto:fosservicesmanager@gmail.com) with any corrections or questions. Gifts are listed from A-Z

## In Honor of People

Nelda Wilkinson  
Candis Loy  
Sophia Rothberger-Kraal  
Amy Starnes & David Lusk  
Susan Smith  
Norman Smith  
Mary Lawson  
Rebecca Ashby  
Mary Lawson  
Andrea Ashby

## In Honor of Pet

Susan Smith  
Bailey

## In Memory of People

William Taylor  
Memory of Noel  
Beloved Companion of  
Betty and Forrest Cheek

## In Memory of People

Donna Tuttle  
Angela Lynn Tuttle Alvear

## Grants & monthly donor

Karen Fulscher  
Vicki Lathery

## Special Thank You

Katie Cook  
Patricia Hetrick  
Elizabeth Repetti  
Stormie Speaks  
Nancy Young  
Brian Newsome  
Angie Gamble  
Sandy Rhodes  
Nancy Bullins  
Jane & John Gehrir  
Vicki Lathery  
Sandra Crawford

## Recurring Donors

Elizabeth Trumpie  
Lisa Tutterow  
Karen Coleman  
Robin Amos  
Sandra Kollar  
Robert Barnett

If you would like to send a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one, please send it to: Friends of Stokes Shelter  
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# Wrapping Up 2023

While The Friends of Stokes Shelter (FOSS) is celebrating Christmas with the pups and kitties, we are also preparing for some really cool things for 2024! The upcoming fundraising committee is getting their game plan together, our marketing committee is mapping out how to get FOSS out into the community and the staff (4 part-time employees) are outlining some updated cleaning procedure, think tanking some fun activities for the residents and gearing up to say goodbye to our current board chair Mike Barsness and welcoming in our 2024 board chair Diane Coffill.

Mike and his beautiful wife Mary Anne (AKA the cat whisperer") have played an instrumental role in the day to day functions at FOSS as well as been a loyal supporter but most of all a friend. Don't worry though, they plan to stay active at FOSS and help in anyway needed.

Diane has been our Vice Chair and we are looking forward to learning from her and working closely with her. Don't fret... FOSS will remain in amazing hands with Diane at the captains chair.

BIG things will happen next year because we have an amazing group of volunteers, staff, board members, supporters and MOST of all, residents!!

One thing that we would LOVE for you to consider, please consider signing up for recurring donations. NO amount is to small! It can simply come out of your account monthly and it will help us to be able to stay within our upcoming budget. Just go to [www.friendsofstokesshelter.com](http://www.friendsofstokesshelter.com) and sign up today.

We wish each and everyone of you a very Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER WE HAD 554 HOURS!! THAT IS AMAZING!

OUR VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER IS A DYNAMIC DUO!!!

KAREN & SCOTT LINDEMUTH ADOPTED OUR VERY OWN MAMACITA AKA TRIxie. SINCE THEN, THEY HAVE BECME INSTRUMENTAL IN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AS WELL AS SERVING AT ANY AND MOST OF OUR EVENTS. BOTH OF THEM ARE SO VERY KIND AND YOU CAN SEE THE LOVE FOR ANIMALS JUST FLOW OUT OF THEM! CONGRATULATIONS KAREN AND SCOTT! WE ARE SO THRILLED THAT YOU HAVE JOINED OUR TEAM.



**THIS YEAR, WHEN MAKING THAT YEAR END DONATION**



**PLEASE CONSIDER FOSS AS YOUR CHARITY OF CHOICE** ❤️



# Moon Dog

By  
David Lusk



Out my window a most intuitive, mystical creature sits and watches the autumn leaves fall on an overcast day. The dry, semi-barren trees silently beg for rain as a cold wind clears the way for a stark, leafless winter. The yellow, red and brown falling leaves sweep the air, infusing it with a musty smell that complements the gentleness of her nature. Like a woodland deer she lays camouflaged in the autumn leaves giving me reason to check on a regular basis to make sure she is real, that in the stillness, she is still with me. Fading eyesight is no help as it seems she can mysteriously disappear then reappear. Even in repose, facing windward, she monitors far more than mere humans can discern. I usually call out to her but this time she turns to find me staring at her, turns again and finds me still staring. I don't speak a word. She effortlessly gets up, abandoning one of her self-appointed posts and walks lovingly, dutifully toward me - a newcomer to the amorphous realm of retirement where the ever quickening days drift into fitful nights of disturbing, bizarre, kaleidoscopically colliding dreams that will thankfully dissipate with the morning light, the sweet light that both reaffirms and reassures but also retires, like me, from the work-a-day world, fade to dusk, then fade farther back into night.

On occasion, another intuitive soul, the moon, will scatter light through the swaying tree branches, through my window, through groggy eyelids, to awaken, to benevolently intervene, to ease the internal fighting, the regrets, the longings, the desires, the unresolved questions that the wise tormentor, The Unconscious, surreally stirs up with blurred juxtapositions of forgetful, unforgettable, forgiving and unforgiving dreams. The older I get, the more cumulative and layered the dreams become of the living and the dead. More often though, I am awakened, brought back to reality, by a big paw to my arm or leg from Jessie, as an early morning reminder that it is time for an old man to fix a big dog's breakfast because being a Great Pyrenees, St. Bernard and Anatolian Shepard mixed breed dog, she requires lots of energy. The big paw demand is unlike most other dogs I've known. With breakfast in place she so slowly and reservedly approaches her bowl that I will say "it's ok, it's ok to eat now." And she does, knowing full well that there will also be a hand fed pancake or two, a morning ritual my wife and I share with the one who barks away every real and imagined deer, squirrel, turkey or chipmunk that does or does not appear within her acute hearing and super hero eyesight. She is, after all, in her genetic make-up, a livestock guardian dog, well fed and ready to commence with the day ahead. The massive herd she conscientiously watches over consists of me, my wife Amy and a once lost kitten found under a friend's maple tree years ago we indubitably named Maple Tree.

Jessie's size intimidates people, however, they soon realize that she is just a big, cuddly bear of a dog that likes to show off by running through the late summer field of tall, wild coreopsis like a hell bound freight train through a tunnel then reappearing dotted in yellow flower petals. She makes us laugh. How she ended up in an animal shelter we will never know. We just assume she was lost in the woods and how lucky we are that she rescued us. We did not even know we needed rescuing. Sometimes she is no more than a silly soul who sleeps on her back, legs spread in some kind of unabashed doggie dreamland where she might startle herself by suddenly sneezing once or twice. Amy says we should write children's books about her.

One thing is for sure, we had no idea how much this domesticated lioness dog with the dark outlined eyes evocative of an Egyptian wall painting would impact our hearts and lives. Now, in retirement, she is my constant companion. After several not so gentle paw taps, she turns around to make sure I'm to follow her to the basement for my morning exercise. She likes routine and snack time.

These preludes and clues to retirement life have proven that if I don't reinvent myself, god only knows what will prevail since there is no longer a structured life path to tread. Putting worrisomeness aside, I have found real trails to walk, the trails that Jessie has made through the trees. They don't go far but they go far enough to get my attention, place me back on solid ground, back to being grounded to the present and the elusive solace found in the rear view mirror of a hard worn past. She and the moon teach us mere mortals that even the most novel of human paths will ultimately arrive at the same place. "One big circle," says the moon to man and dog. This once homeless, shelter dog teaches me everyday the value of embracing a shared walk homeward. May you too find one another. May you walk the trail with a once-upon-a-time lost soul. May the light of a benevolent moon find you aging well, sleeping well.

