

Shelter animals desperately need forever homes



HELP A HUSKY Dakota the husky from the Sacramento Front Street Animal Shelter was in need of a home on Dec. 2, 2022. PHOTO BY ZEMA NASIROV

Three local shelters took in 18,128 dogs and cats in 2021

BY AVA EBERHART AND ZEMA NASIROV

A motion sensor flashes the lights on when visitors walk into the dog kennels at the Sacramento Front Street Animal Shelter. Inside each room, visitors are greeted with the distinct smell of dogs. In kennel after kennel, huskies, pitbulls, shepherds and mixed breeds of all kinds jump on the wired gates, pushing snouts through to lick any hand they can find. Some bark and whine as visitors move along the corridor. Others sit in the back of their kennels, shaking, but never getting up.

“We’re feeling very full,” said the shelter’s Public Information Coordinator Haley Waugh. “We’ve got lots of dogs, so we’re trying to get them adopted as quickly as we can.”

Front Street is responsible for taking in sick, injured and abandoned animals found in the city of Sacramento. In 2021, the shelter filled its kennels with 3,386 dogs and 2,765 cats. Most were strays.

“If an individual finds an animal, they can call 311 or come to our shelter,” Waugh said.

Sometimes animal owners surrender their pets to the shelter. Sometimes they ask to have their pets euthanized. In every

circumstance, each dog and cat has a story.

Once an animal is accepted into the shelter and has not been reclaimed by its owner, the shelter staff may transfer the animal to a rescue group or determine if the animal is safe to adopt. At that point, the public can come in and visit the animal.

“They will go through a meet-and-greet process with one of our adoption counselors who will figure out if it’s a good fit, and if it is, then they get to adopt that animal and take it home,” she said.

One method the shelter uses to determine if a dog is a good fit for a potential owner is by assigning a “dog handler level” label for each dog.

The levels range from one to three. Level one is for dogs that are good for people who may have never had experience with caring for a dog, while three is for more advanced dog handlers who know how to work with high-energy dogs.

“It just helps to guide people to figure out the dogs that they’re comfortable working with,” Waugh said.

In 2021, people adopted 3,324 dogs and cats from Front Street. They also adopted 3,086 from the Sacramento SPCA, and 3,675 from Sacramento County’s Bradshaw Animal Shelter, two other local shelters.

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The repercussions of Elon Musk’s recent Twitter takeover

BY GARMAN XU

Since his Oct. 27 takeover of Twitter, Elon Musk has made radical changes to the popular social media platform. However, under the rule of the multi-billionaire and self-proclaimed “free speech absolutist,” many people, including users at Country Day, are worried about the new content moderation policies.

In an April tweet before he took control of Twitter, Musk said, “By free speech, I simply match that which matches the law. I am against censorship that goes far beyond the law. If people want less free speech, they will ask the government to pass laws to that effect.”

Senior Brynne Barnard-Bahn, a Twitter user, disagrees with Musk’s free speech argument.

She said although social media is a fun way

to converse with others online, companies should take extra care to foster a safe and inclusive space for its users.

“I think fun should definitely be involved, but fun shouldn’t involve discrimination,” she said. “Elon Musk is using the government as a shield for making a public stance on hate speech.”

Despite heated public discussion about the company’s role in content moderation, Musk followed through with his approach,

immediately imposing a massive near 50% layoff of Twitter employees across various departments, including those responsible for accessibility, content moderation and human rights.

Before the layoffs, Twitter already was struggling to take down posts users had identified as problematic, according to a Nov. 24 European Union study.

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CAMPUS CORNER

UBER ELF

On Dec. 15 and 16, the High School Student Council will host the Uber Elf event on the high school campus. Students will bid against each other between Dec. 12 and 14 for a chance to get carried around to classes in a Christmas-themed wagon towed by elves.

WINTER BREAK

From Dec. 19 to Jan. 2, students will be off campus for winter break. It’s the perfect time to spend time with friends and family, relax, travel and have fun! Happy holidays!

REVIEW

Chand’s Christmas Check-in

After tackling chicken sandwiches last issue, Jacob Chand ventures into the realm of Christmas traditions. (PAGE 2)

PHOTO BY ADAM AKINS

