



Paw Prints

Jodi Schneider McNamee
Columnist

Adopting a special-needs pet

Special-needs pets are among the most challenging for shelters and rescue groups to adopt out, and many never find a loving home.

There are thousands of special-needs dogs and cats across the country waiting for their forever homes. And most of these pets face euthanasia if not adopted.

A survey, conducted by Petfinder, found that pets with special needs often wait four times longer than average to be adopted.

These dogs and cats are overlooked because of their age, medical needs, or behavioral issues — including animals who were victims of abuse. But a missing leg, blindness, insulin-dependence or emotional scars make these furry friends no less lovable.

Did you know that special-needs pets still have love and devotion to give, and they can adapt to their new homes and lifestyles better than you think?

These pets are often overlooked because potential adopters don't know what their conditions involve. They may have legitimate concerns about extra medical or training costs.

These worrisome impressions can be easily overcome through research, speaking with shelter staff who are familiar with the animal, and consulting a veterinarian to better understand the pet's actual needs.

In animals, the definition of special needs is fairly broad, including physical and mental disabilities. Some pets with severe, debilitating cases of post-traumatic stress disorder or anxiety from past trauma may be considered special-needs. Other types of special-needs pets include amputees, the deaf and blind, and those with chronic illnesses like FeLV, diabetes, or cancer.

Still others may have social or behavioral limitations, including severe separation anxiety or extreme situational fears. Previously abused pets may fall into this category.

Behavioral issues are often managed through consistent and positive training. However, some animals

with physical limitations can adapt surprisingly fast to their circumstances. A three-legged dog will still run and play, while a blind or deaf pet will learn to rely on other senses to navigate his home and interact with human family members.

A special-needs pet is not defined by his circumstances, and is not aware of how he may be different from other animals of his kind. He is above all a cat or dog — a message often lost on potential adopters.

Although often requiring some type of dedicated care or training, most special-needs pets are just like any other pet. For example, a blind animal relies on his other senses — hearing and smell — to learn about and navigate his environment. So, a dog or cat who loses key senses with age, such as sight, often show no signs of a disability until his pet parent rearranges the furniture and then the animal seemingly becomes lost in his own home.

Your special-needs pet deserves the same loyalty that he gives unconditionally to you, and the best thing you can do beyond opening your heart and home to him



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE

Autumn was born deaf and ended up blind — a special-needs dog.

is providing regular veterinary care.

Before adopting your special-needs pet, meet with your veterinarian to learn about the type of care that will be required at various stages of your new furry friend's life. Knowledge and preparedness will make for an enriched lifetime with your pet, and will help lessen surprises so that you can be prepared for any changes in your pet's condition.

Remember, not every pet parent is suited to adopt a special-needs animal — lots of

time, patience, and expense are required. Many shelters are willing to cover the lifetime costs of these pets.

Regardless of how a dog or cat became a special-needs pet — by being born that way, illness, accident, the aging process or at the hands of an abuser — they have a lot to teach us about resilience and love without judgement.

If you're considering pet adoption, ask at your local shelter about special-needs pets or find a specialized rescue in the area.

SISTERS COFFEE
OPEN 6AM-6PM COFFEE ROASTED DAILY
541.549.0527 273 W HOOD AVE. SISTERS, OR

WE ARE HIRING! OUR KITCHEN CREW IS LOOKING FOR FULL AND PART-TIME POSITIONS TO JOIN OUR TEAM. EMAIL LANA@SISTERSCOFFEE.COM OR DROP BY THE CAFE FOR MORE INFO.

The Jewel SISTERS 541-549-9388

Blue Moonstone & Diamond
Custom Design Consultation
FREE \$250 VALUE
April thru May

Happy Mother's Day to all the amazing moms out there!

Sweeney Plumbing
Call us for any plumbing emergency! 541-549-4349
LOCAL. RELIABLE. PROFESSIONAL. 260 N. Pine St., Sisters
Licensed / Bonded / Insured / CCB#87587

Your Smile, Your Convenience

Early and late appointments available to fit your busy schedule!

Ben Crockett, D.D.S. Check us out on facebook
541-549-9486 / 541-549-9110
410 E. Cascade Ave. ■ P.O. Box 1027 ■ Sisters, Oregon 97759
Hours: Mon., 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tues.-Wed., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thurs., 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

SISTERS DENTAL

Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

A public meeting of the Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District, Deschutes County, will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Fire Station No. 2, 67433 Cloverdale Road, Sisters, Oregon 97759. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, as approved by the Cloverdale Rural Fire District budget committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at Fire Station No. 2, located at 67433 Cloverdale Road, Sisters, Oregon 97759, between the hours of 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.

Contact: Thad Olsen, Fire Chief Telephone: 541-389-2345 Email: tolsen@cloverdalefire.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount 2015-2016	Adopted Budget This Year 2016-2017	Approved Budget Next Year 2017-2018
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	2,665,302	1,849,091	538,000
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other			
Service Charges	27,255	14,200	14,200
Revenue from Bonds and Other Debt	2,432,848	0	0
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	19,571	75,100	7,800
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	507,127	523,219	566,656
Total Resources	5,652,103	2,461,610	1,126,656

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Personnel Services	226,339	271,464	275,725
Materials and Services	81,872	134,000	154,250
Capital Outlay	2,551,938	1,674,508	255,500
Debt Service	176,963	183,490	31,015
Interfund Transfers	2,432,848	50,000	0
Contingencies	0	20,000	20,000
Total Requirements	5,469,960	2,333,462	736,490

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name of Organizational Unit or Program	FTE for that unit or program		
General Fund/Operations	212,155	250,364	262,425
FTE	2.37	2.62	2.62
Total Requirements	212,155	250,364	262,425
Total FTE	2.37	2.62	2.62

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING *

On November 04, 2014, the electors of the Fire District approved by vote, the issuance of General Obligation Bonds be issued in compliance with Oregon Revised Statute section 478.410, and Board Resolution 2015-02, for paying capital costs for the replacement of fire engines and emergency vehicles, replacement of the Cloverdale Road fire station, the renovation of the George Cyrus Road fire station, replacement of emergency response equipment and paying the cost of issuance for the bonds.

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed 2015-2016	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2016-2017	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2017-2018
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit \$1.0924 per \$1,000)	\$1.0924 per \$1,000	\$1.0924 per \$1,000	\$1.0924 per \$1,000
Levy for General Obligation Bonds	\$155.817	\$151.400	\$173.000

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS		
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1.	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1
General Obligation Bonds	\$2,430,000	\$0
Other Borrowings (SDAO Flex Lease)	\$280,000	\$0
Total	\$2,710,000	\$0