

# A home for the holidays

Clatsop Animal Assistance holds fundraiser to care for North Coast pets

BY CAROLYN HOARD AND NIKKI DAVIDSON

When an animal comes into the Clatsop County Animal Shelter, Clatsop Animal Assistance jumps into action to help.

The nonprofit partner provides spay and neuter services, cares for the animals and facilitates their foster and adoption. More than 93% of the animals who end up in the shelter are adopted to forever homes.

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Adopted Clatsop Animal Assistance dog 'Kent' enjoys exploring the North Coast on walks with his new owner, Sushanto Shenai.



Carolyn Hoard

Clatsop Animal Assistance Volunteer Anita Switzer poses with a shelter cat.



Carolyn Hoard

CAA President Marcy Dunning.

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## VOLUNTEER FINDS 'BLESSING' IN ADOPTED SHELTER DOG

A job brought Clatsop County Animal Shelter volunteer Sushanto Shenai from Canada to the Oregon Coast.

Making a home in a new country during a pandemic was difficult, so Shenai started volunteering to help out with the animals. That's when he met a shy American pitbull mix named "Kent," who stole his heart.

"There is a quote out there when it comes to shelter and rescue animals," said Shenai. "Who rescued whom? I think it fits perfectly when I think about Kent coming into my life."

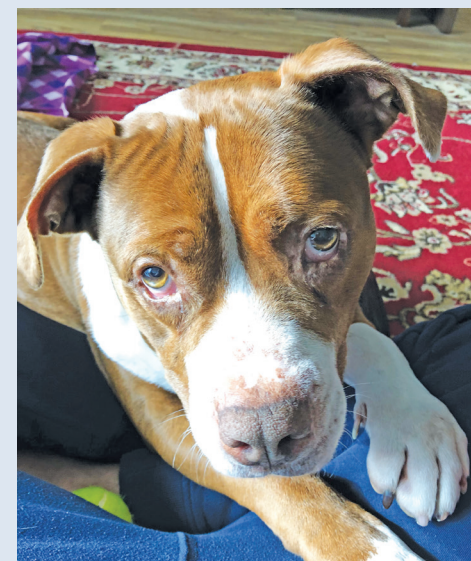
Kent needed a lot of medical care for a bad back and hips. After a long recovery process, the 10-year-old dog is back to chasing tennis balls and going on walks.

Shenai initially fostered Kent, before adopting and giving him a forever home two years ago. He and Kent have formed a strong bond, one that Shenai called "a blessing."

"After a hectic day at work, it feels so good to come back to a home where someone is excited to see you and ready to snuggle with you," Shenai said. "(It) melts your worries away."

That companionship is especially meaningful to Shenai during the holidays, as he'll be spending the time away from his family in Canada.

"It will be me and Kent celebrating the holidays together," he said. "Although we will miss the family over the holidays, we are grateful for having each other during these festive times. Cannot ask for anything more from Santa."



Adopted dog 'Kent' enjoys playing fetch with his new owner, Sushanto Shenai.