

Vol. 03

Fundacion Familia Amor Animales

FAAN



**Will You Be a Match?
Adoption Success!
2023 Education Initiative
Garlic: Good or Bad?**



January 26, 2023

"Saving one animal wont change the world, but it will change the world for that one animal" author unknown

As I sit here putting the final touches on this month's newsletter I am thinking about changes, possibilities, and the all-of-what-we-make-of-things.

When working with animal rescue it can be a challenge to stay in a positive mindset. There are SOOOO many animals that need help - how can one person possibly make a difference?

And as I sit here with my two dogs at my feet I am reminded of the quote above. For these animals it made all the difference in the world. And for me it makes all the difference in the world to have them share my life.

I have had 29 or so animals share my life and home, plus some sheep, a llama, a couple hamsters and various other critters. 29 cats and dogs.

What's your number?

Did that change the world? No. It did allow a world of happy, life and possibility for those 29+ animals.

So, yes. One person can make all the difference.

YOU make a difference and we thank you.

V.

What's Happening

"Dogs are not our whole lives but they make our lives whole"
Roger Caras



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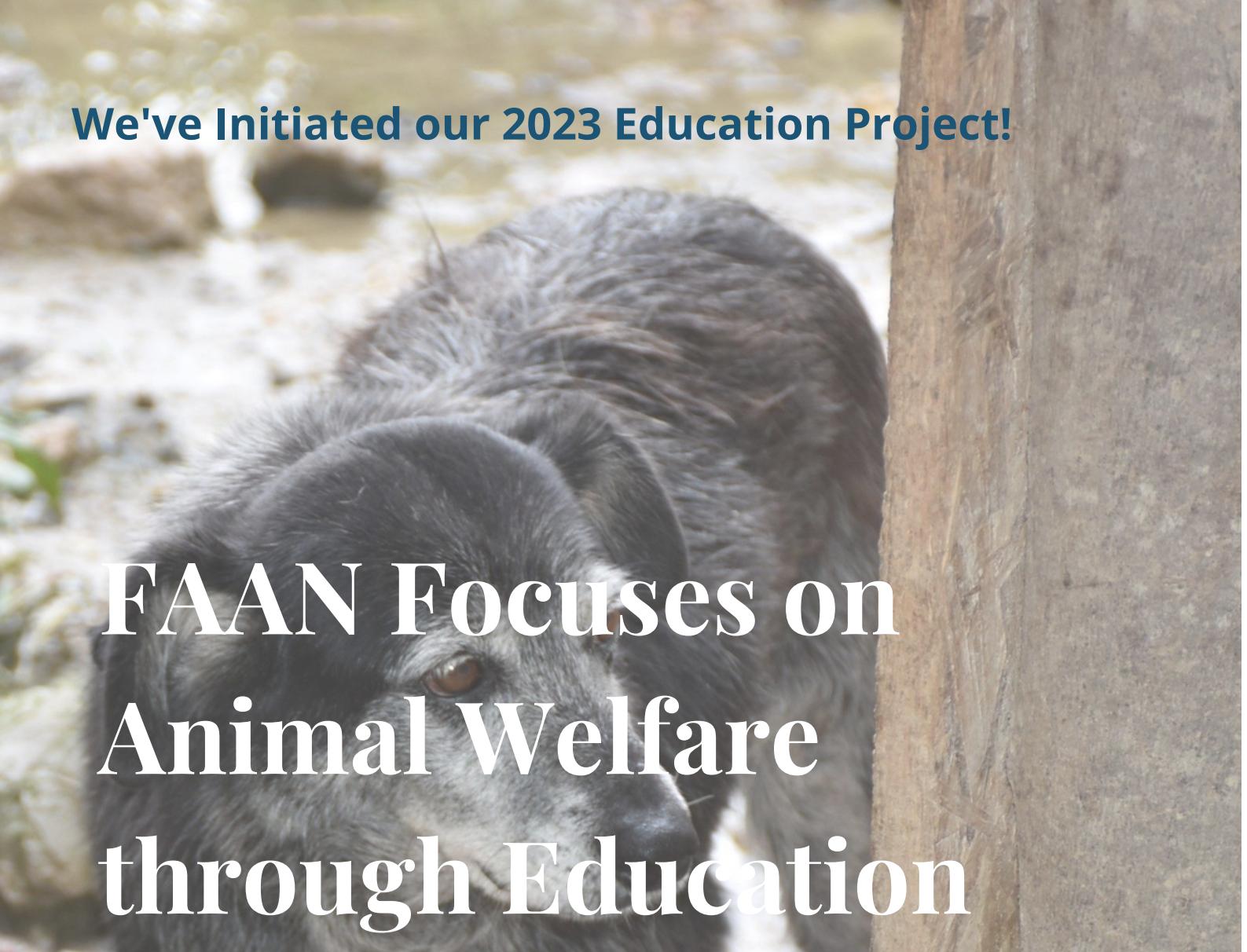
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We've Initiated our 2023 Education Project!

FAAN Focuses on Animal Welfare through Education

***FAAN Volunteers have
begun the work on
developing an education
program and curriculum
on animal welfare in
Ecuador.***

The program will target early grade education as well as key points of influence in animal welfare within communities including veterinarians, pet stores and youth groups.

By developing young people's knowledge about animals, we can inspire the next generation and create a future that's kinder to animals.

91% of adults polled said young people should be taught kindness to animals at school.

RSPCA.org.uk

Unfortunately, not all children have families and friends who set good examples about respecting the lives of animals and being kind to animals doesn't always come naturally.

When children learn about animal welfare, they're more likely to enjoy healthy relationships with animals and people throughout their lives.

By developing young people's knowledge about animals, we can inspire the next generation and create a future that's kinder to animals.

Director of Education for FAAN, Jari Holland Buck notes that

"existing educational materials that exist in Spanish will be reviewed by parents, students, teachers and veterinary medical professionals in Ecuador for cultural application."

CHILDREN



© Cuernavaca Agency
Photo: Elena Shumilova

Teach them to be kind to animals
They will grow up also kind to people.

*To learn more about FAAN's Education work and/or to
volunteer for the project, write info@faanecuador.org*

Why We Do What We Do

Adoption Success

Bob & Kathy Keel

Welcome a New Dog

Meet the Family:

These adorable, sweet and petite sisters and their mother were rescued from the forest by FAAN. They were scared, skinny, full of fleas, ticks and scabies.

Brisa was adopted by Kathy and Bob Keel who share their story.

What do we say about the world's most perfect dog?

We have rescued, loved and said our heartbroken goodbyes to many dogs overs the years. When we were down to just one small dog we knew it was time to take him and move to Ecuador.

We had planned on adopting an older dog but when I saw Brisa's face on Gringopost, I couldn't resist.

Jo Austin worked out the details and Vivi Calle, another wonderful FAAN Volunteer brought her to our house for us to meet.

Brisa was about seven months old at the time and had been through so much. She was shy and timid at first but her sweet and gentle nature made her the perfect match for our little old grumpy dog Puff.



The only thing that Brisa had to overcome was her overwhelming fear of going out for a walk.

We tried to help her with her anxiety and worked with Alex Flores, a true dog whisperer. Alex did wonders with her and within a few weeks Brisa was a changed dog and was able to walk without fear.

Today, we can't imagine our lives without this wonderful dog.

Her mother and sister are still at FAAN awaiting a loving home.

If we owned our own home, we'd adopt them in a heartbeat.

I pray every day that Maya and Bianca and all other homeless dogs get loving homes but at least we know that [Maya and Bianca are at FAAN](#) and well cared for.

[Learn more about adopting here](#)

Must Love Dogs!

a visit to the current shelter
in Tarqui



Nutrition Tips



Is it toxic or healthy?

What Should I feed My Dog?

Wow. If I had a nickel for every time someone has asked me this question.....

It's not a bad question.

Actually it's quite a good question.

But the answer goes something like this.....

How much time do you have???

Dog nutrition is not a one and done thing.
It depends.

How old is your dog? How much does it weigh? How much should it weigh? How active is your dog? Does your dog have play or prey drive? What is your dog currently eating? Is your dog fixed? Will your dog be having puppies? What breed(s) is your dog? And.....and....and....

the good news is that variety is key to your dogs nutritional needs so you have some leeway while you get it sorted out.....



The best and easiest place to start improving your dog's nutrition is to STOP feeding what is bad for them.

“ —

Let food be thy medicine
and medicine be thy food

Hippocrates

Good, Bad or actually Toxic?

You've probably web searched something like "can I feed XXXX to my dog" a time or two and most likely come up with some what seems like trusted information and then made a decision to feed or not to feed your dog.

Fantastic.

But not.

Here's the thing.....almost all of what you find on a web search at least on the first 20 or so search result pages is incorrect on this subject.

The good news is that most of what is incorrect does keep you from feeding bad things. The bad news is most of the other of what is incorrect prevents you from feeding foods that are good, nutritious and could be providing your pup with needed and tasty ingredients.

To adequately cover this subject I would need a few hours of your time and a lot more print space then is allotted here.

For now let's look at one commonly asked about ingredient: Garlic

Everyone knows garlic is bad if not fatal to your dog. Right?

Nope.

Nada.

Garlic is not only safe, it is good and beneficial and has a multitude of reasons of why you should be feeding this to your dog. Daily.

Like in every meal.

Yup. True fact.

This is where most get the dear in the headlights look.

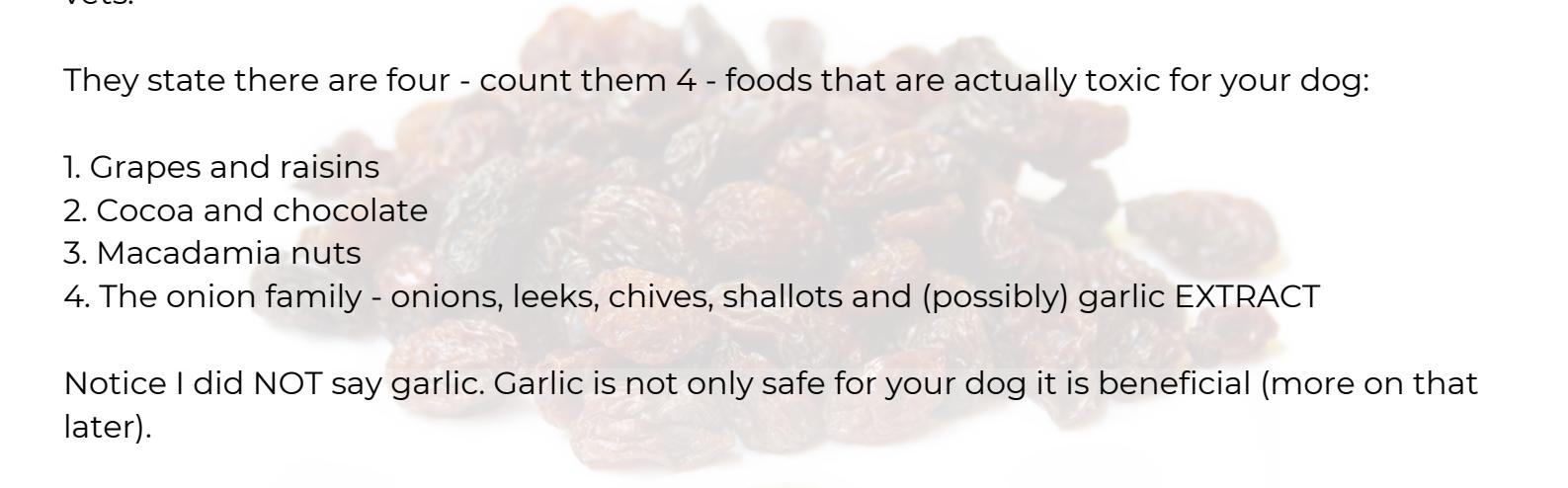
What I am going to tell you will sound strange, I can pretty much guarantee it will fly in the face of everything you (think) you know and will be different than what you have heard, read and seen.



How many times have you done a web search for can my dog eat ____?

The lists you find are loooong, and often there is an item or 10 that are different from one list to another and when you try to find specific information, well let's just say good luck with that.

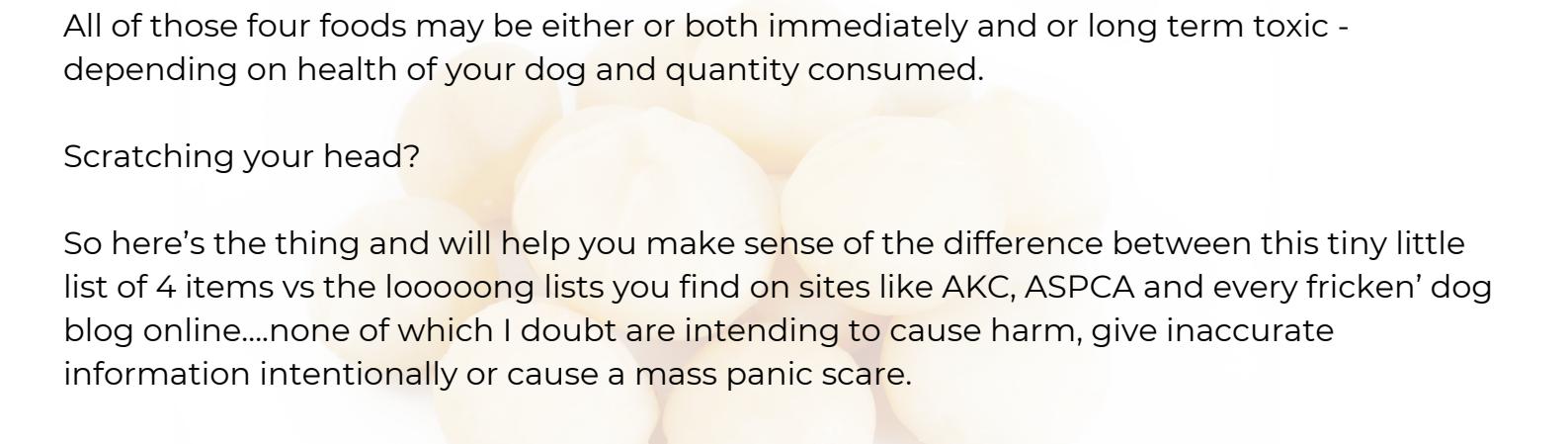
FEDIAF - The European Pet Food Industry Federation publishes the most science backed, and accurate information about food toxicity in pets. They are considered the Gold Standard as a resource in this regard for researchers, scientists and nutritionally trained vets.



They state there are four - count them 4 - foods that are actually toxic for your dog:

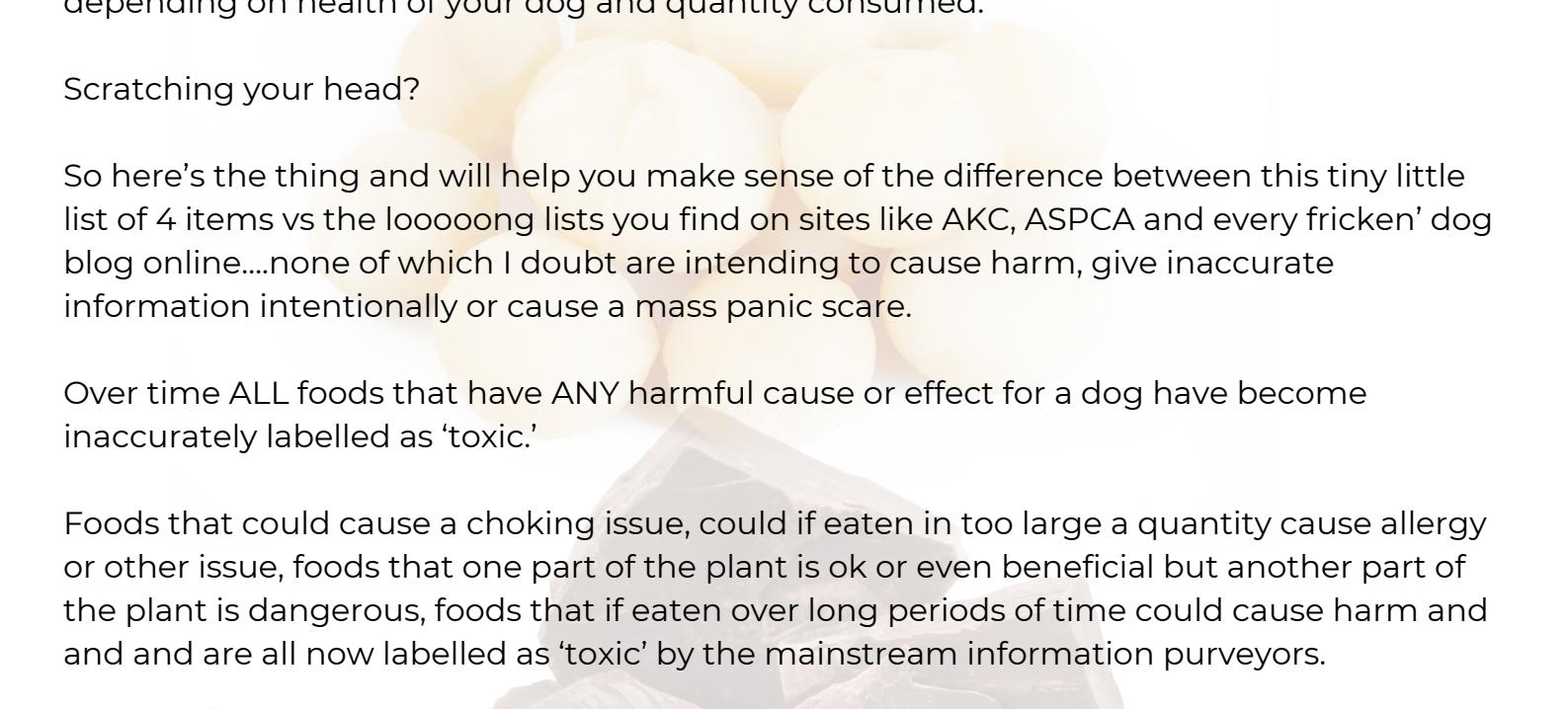
1. Grapes and raisins
2. Cocoa and chocolate
3. Macadamia nuts
4. The onion family - onions, leeks, chives, shallots and (possibly) garlic EXTRACT

Notice I did NOT say garlic. Garlic is not only safe for your dog it is beneficial (more on that later).



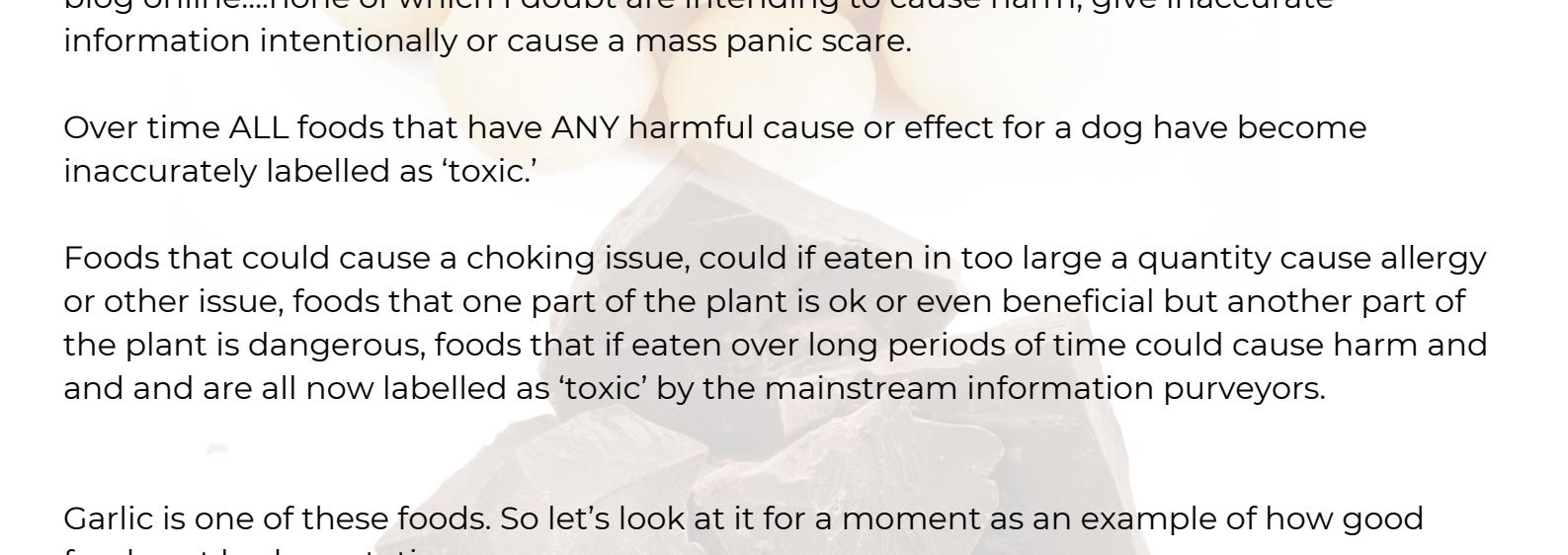
All of those four foods may be either or both immediately and or long term toxic - depending on health of your dog and quantity consumed.

Scratching your head?



So here's the thing and will help you make sense of the difference between this tiny little list of 4 items vs the looooong lists you find on sites like AKC, ASPCA and every fricken' dog blog online....none of which I doubt are intending to cause harm, give inaccurate information intentionally or cause a mass panic scare.

Over time ALL foods that have ANY harmful cause or effect for a dog have become inaccurately labelled as 'toxic.'



Foods that could cause a choking issue, could if eaten in too large a quantity cause allergy or other issue, foods that one part of the plant is ok or even beneficial but another part of the plant is dangerous, foods that if eaten over long periods of time could cause harm and and and are all now labelled as 'toxic' by the mainstream information purveyors.



Garlic is one of these foods. So let's look at it for a moment as an example of how good foods get bad reputations.

There was a study done on the effects of garlic EXTRACT on dogs in 2000. Extract is more potent than the plant itself. Four dogs were used in the study and each was given the equivalent amount as if they had eaten 25 cloves a day.

The 4 dogs in this study were given a (concentrated read even more than) amount of more garlic than ANY dog would ever eat unless forced.

Why was this study done?

Garlic is of the onion family and onions have been shown to be toxic to dogs (and cats) because it contains large amounts of thiosulphate which when eaten causes Heinz body hemolytic anemia. Basically it damages the red blood cells ability to carry oxygen and then the body thinks these cells are invaders and tries to kill off the red blood cells.

Bad. Very BAD!

You know what they found in this study? Almost nothing. None of the dogs developed anemia.

So why did garlic get a bad rap?

The researchers were able to identify markers of red blood cell stress microscopically and thereby determined garlic = toxic.

Since that study was done, several OTHER studies have been conducted showing that garlic is good for dogs, just as it is for humans.

For dogs, garlic stimulates internal antioxidant enzymes, helps control blood glucose levels, has beneficial effects on blood pressure, has positive effects on the immune system, and there is promising (beginning) evidence that it may help reduce external parasites, and have (other) positive effects on both heart and immune function.

Much different information than what you read, hear and see about garlic isn't it?

Interjected reminder here: FRESH garlic is beneficial for your dog - NOT 'seasoning' powders or extract oils etc

And now you know....

Stay tuned each month we will share more helpful tips to keep your dog healthy!

Have a question you want answered? Send it to info@faanecador.org



Matchmaker, Matchmaker make me a Match.....

Animal Lovers in Ecuador and around the world are invited to *double* their impact on the animals in the World Heritage City.

The challenge grant provided by an anonymous and generous donor was announced at a Volunteer Afternoon Tea and Champagne Toast hosted at idiomART.

The grant provides an opportunity for the animal welfare group to raise \$40,000 by March 15 so they can move the dogs to a safe sanctuary sooner rather than later.

The way the challenge grant works is that all donations received through March 15 are *doubled*. This means \$25 becomes \$50, a gift of \$100 will become \$200 and a generous gift of \$1,000 becomes \$2,000.

The loan of FAAN's current shelter in Tarqui expires in 2023.

A group of Ecuadorian and ex-pat volunteers have been working to find the land for the new and permanent sanctuary while continuing with their mission to educate, spay/neuter, and facilitate a community where all animals are respected and cared for by the collective community.

FAAN Kicks Off \$20,000 Challenge Grant for Building Cuenca's Most Modern and Sustainable Shelter!

There's never been a better time to join FAAN's VIP Paws Society with the double donation offered with the challenge grant.

Members of FAAN's Paws Society will receive special recognition on the grounds of the new shelter and an invitation to a special groundbreaking reception.

Bronze Paws: Your \$100 gift becomes \$200

Silver Paws: Your \$500 gift becomes \$500

Gold Paws: Your \$1,000 gift becomes \$2,000

Visit www.FAANEcuador.org to learn about the shelter project
and become a "Matchmaker"

Here's How One of our Advisory Board Members got her “Pawty On”

Our volunteers at (FAAN) Foundation Familia Amor Animal are finding lots of creative ways to meet the Matching Gift Challenge including hosting gatherings with their friends.



*Do what
Debbie did!*





My friend, Lynne, recently organized a birthday luncheon for me and 9 of my dear friends.

I insisted on no gifts, but told my friends that they could contribute to my favorite animal shelter, FAAN, in lieu of buying a gift.

I selected FAAN because I am impressed with their clear goals of rescue, reducing animal abuse through education, promoting sterilization, and hosting a shelter for dogs.

I feel strongly that each of these goals must be met to achieve a long-term impact for the well-being of dogs in our community.

My girlfriends and I met at Cafe del Museo on a beautiful sunny day and enjoyed a long, leisurely lunch overlooking the Rio Tomebamba.

The ladies surprised me with a birthday cake and a gift bag with a donation of \$160 for FAAN.

Thanks to the match, that's \$320.00 It was the perfect birthday celebration!

FAAN is dedicated to creating a sustainable and community-based shelter and continuing with their mission to educate, spay/neuter and facilitating a community where all animals are respected and cared for by the collective community.

Cheers!
Debbie

Through March 15, a generous anonymous donor will match your gift!
<https://www.faanecuador.org/match.html>

IDEAS: How to Fundraise

Fundraising. Asking people for money....argh!

This can feel awkward to downright just yucky.

It can also be fun, enjoyable and bring people together

Here are some low key and easy ways to raise some money and contribute during our Matching Donor Campaign:



Do what Debbie Did!
Host a gathering at
your home or one of
Cuenca's pawsome
restaurants and pass a
'Matchmaking-Bag'

Contribute \$1 for every pet you've had and ask those you know to consider doing the same (I've had 29 - what's your number?)

Give a donation on behalf of someone AS the gift - we will send you a Donation Gift Certificate that you may 'gift'

Simply tell everyone you know that you are involved with FAAN and that right now we have a huge opportunity with a Matching Donor Grant - many will contribute just because they hear about it

Through March 15, a generous anonymous donor will match your gift!
<https://www.faanecuador.org/match.html>

Canelazo Stories



FAAN is thrilled to welcome and support Cuenca Businesses that partner with us to support our mission for animal welfare and safety in Cuenca.

Mark your calendars for Monday, February 27th at 6 PM when La Guarida's Canelazo Stories will support FAAN's matching grant challenge!

This always-sold-out storytelling event is a community favorite.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED! At FAAN we believe volunteerism is at the Heart of our work.

We currently have a need for these things and are looking for those of you who will commit to joining in these groups:

Writing

*we need people who will write a variety of articles both feature and social media length that we may draw from throughout the year - we have a list of suggested topics and are open to your ideas - this is a do it as you have time thing/not a deadline thing

*we need people who will write business specific write ups and social media posts for Business Partnership promotions we will schedule monthly - this is a day or three a month and needs a quick-ish turn around

*we need people who will write stories about the dogs in our care, and to do follow up with previously adopted dogs etc so we may share these stories - this is a do it as you have time thing

*we need people who will do the write ups for website and social media posts about dogs ready for adoption - this is a quick but not immediate turn around

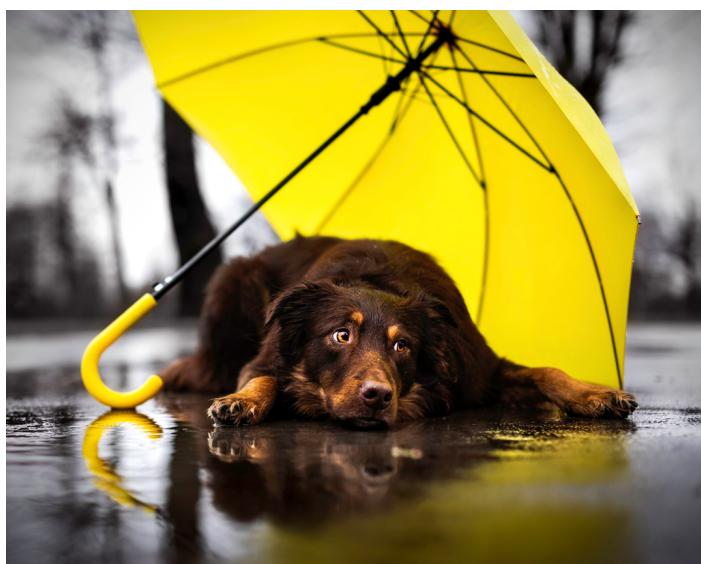
Graphic Design

* we need people who will create the social media posts to coincide with the writing tasks above - some are immediate need and some are do it as you have time things (please specify which you may be interested in)

* we need people who would like to work on event specific fliers and handouts - these will be quick-ish turn around - generally the month before they are used - but need to be done well before they are needed to be used so they may be coordinated with social media posts and articles etc

Photography/Videography

- * we need people who are willing to go to the shelter regularly - once a month, every 2 weeks or ? to take photos of dogs ready for adoption - this is a quick-ish turn around but not immediate need
 - * we need people who will take photos of events as scheduled and then turn those photos around immediately
 - * we need periodic portraiture shots done
 - * we will need product photography for the upcoming auction event and periodically as we do static items
- ****a decent SMART phone works great - no special equipment needed



“ —

No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted
Aesop

Translation

- * we need people who can read/write English and Spanish to proof and correct one to the other specifically in writing for articles, social media, newsletter etc - some of these are as you have time and some of these are quick-ish turnaround (please specify your preference)
- * verbal - we need people who can translate at meetings and at events - these are both one off and regularly scheduled

Shelter Work

- *we need people who are wanting to schedule themselves for specific days (no matter how often, weekly, bi weekly, monthly etc)
- *we are also happy for spontaneous help

Adoption Work

* as above we need people who will write up and take photos of dogs ready for adoptions

* we need people who will coordinate potential adopter inquiries, phone and in person visits to ascertain viability of potential people, and who can make decisions on whether they are a good fit for our dogs - some basic understanding of dog types/breeds/behaviors, training needs, re hab needs etc is needed for this

*** You will not be solely responsible for these decisions - it is a PROCESS*

NOTE: ALL graphic design, writing and photo editing etc will be done in CANVA

This is a web based program, it is FREE to use, and NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY

We can teach you in a few minutes how to use Canva - it really is easy

It is important that all use the same program to allow easy editing, and collaboration

Photo credit and writing bi-line will be given when you would like it and where appropriate to do so

If you have a desire to help the animals have a better life then we will find the right place for your talents and skills. Whether you have an hour here and there or want a regularly scheduled thing we would love you to join us!

Want to chat about Volunteer opportunities? Send Rosemary an email at
info@faanecuador.org

And one more thing.....

We are looking to expand our Volunteer involvement and capabilities.

That means we need a few special folks who are willing to take on Chairing a few areas.

Basically if you can work with a few people remotely by phone and email, deal with a few deadlines, and keep track of other volunteers to ensure that a body of work is getting done then we want to chat with you!



It takes a village to raise a child and it takes a small army to run an organization.

Every dog we save, every child who learns kindness, every person we encourage to treat animals better and every dog's life we improve makes it all worthwhile.

Would you like to join us?

Let's chat. Email Rosemary at info@faancuador.org

In Case You Missed It:



Secret Santa successfully collected:
785 kilos of food + blankets and other supplies

The 140+ doggies in our care are thankful!



Congratulations!
Betty Sue won
our first
Dress Up Your Pet
competition



Volunteer Meet and Greet
Afternoon Tea at IdiomArt



Don't miss out on upcoming events and opportunities.
Subscribe to be kept up to date and in the loop

Fundacion Familia Amor Animales

FAAN



We believe all animals including those of pet owners, community dogs, and street dogs deserve to be respected and cared for by the collective community.

We are helping Cuenca become known as the City That Cares.

FAAN

Fundacion Familia Amor Animales

info@faanecuador.org
www.faanecuador.org

