

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



FRIENDS *of* MEGAN

**Message from the
Board of Directors**

Thank you for taking the time to look at the 2016 annual report for Friends of Megan Animal Rescue (FOMAR). It was a unique year for us, as Rebecca Durden Raab, our executive director, will explain in her message that follows.

But our work here continues, and we are excited because 2017 marks the beginning of FOMAR's third year as a recognized 501(c)3 non-profit, which means, of course, that all donations in the U.S. are considered tax-deductible by the IRS. That has meant the world to Rebecca, who has rescued and found foster homes for more than two thousand dogs, scores of cats and an occasional burro or horse over the past 16 years. But the cost for that rescue work has been substantial, year after year, and it has been borne mostly by Rebecca, with an occasional contribution from friends and family.

But with the help of others, there is so much more that we can do. Every donated dollar goes directly to FOMAR's ongoing rescue mission. Everyone is a volunteer, so there are no salaries. The big expenses are medicines, food, and veterinarian fees (dramatically reduced). For less than a \$100 contribution, we can worm, bathe, vaccinate, feed and sterilize one dog. And each dog or pup has daily contact with the "permanent party" of FOMAR dogs (all former rescues), so it will be thoroughly socialized before adoption.

Even though things have gotten a little better over the past few years, Mexico still isn't the friendliest country for dogs. Some Mexicans now consider dog ownership a status symbol, and that's a good thing. But for every dog or puppy that finds a loving, supportive family that takes them in, there are countless others who live short and painful lives due to starvation or disease. So we realize we cannot save them all, but Rebecca just concentrates on one abandoned dog, one puppy, or one litter at a time.

We ask you to join us in this effort with either a tax-deductible financial contribution or a donation of needed items such as leashes, collars, beds, and medicines. You can go to our donation page to learn how you can become a participant in this important work.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith B. Anderson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Judith B. Anderson
President, Board of Directors

Board News

Board member Mary Ellen Sanger notified the board at its annual meeting that work restraints and new assignments in Colorado forced her to submit her resignation after helping us get FOMAR off the ground in 2015. The board officially thanks Mary Ellen for her contributions during our first two years, especially the work she did getting our web site up and running.

The board welcomes Melinda Hanson, who lives right across the road from Rebecca, as a new board member. Ironically, Melinda brings to the board the same skills in IT and website maintenance that Mary Ellen had, so the baton has been passed. Melinda is also working with Rebecca to really increase our social media efforts.



**Message from the
Executive Director**

Well, the last 12 months have been quite unusual, to say the least.

For the first time in my 16 years of living “South of the Border,” I spent a lot more time in the United States than I did in Mexico. That was due to a sudden and serious family medical emergency that consumed most of my year but ended well by year’s end.

So now I am back in Oaxaca, and 2017 got off to a predictable start. January wasn’t at the halfway point when we discovered that someone dumped two six-week-old puppies (brother and sister) in the driveway. And about 10 days later, a nice Mexican man drove in with a six month old female who was scared to death and whose face was covered with mange. She will recover, but it will take a couple of months of antibiotics.

And even though I was gone from Oaxaca for more than six months, the work here continued with other volunteers pitching in, most notable Joanne Moeschl, a neighbor and dog mom (she has x dogs, all Oaxaca rescues), and Luciano Santiago, our resourceful and committed vet who under charges for everything. For the year, we were able to perform 62 sterilizations and 22 adoptions. That’s less than we usually do over a 12 month period, so we are committed to getting back to normal in 2017.

So, I am asking you to help Friends of Megan Animal Rescue by making a donation of any amount. Visit our Donate page which has a convenient link to PayPal. You can also make a donation “in memoriam” to a family member, human or canine, in any amount. Remember, it’s tax deductible.

Finally, I’m asking you to be so kind as to tell some of your friends about our work here. Sometimes a good word goes a long way. Please direct them to our website fomanimalrescue.org and Facebook page (#FOMAR). Liking and following us on Facebook is always helpful.

Thanks for considering sending us a donation. But please, do something to help an animal in need, any animal. It will bring a smile to your face and a warmth to your heart.

Many thanks,



Rebecca Durden Raab

Executive Director, Friends of Megan Animal Rescue