



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**"Passion For PAWS" Pet Food and Supplies Drive Supports Furry Friends of
Meals on Wheels Yolo County's Homebound Seniors**

The "Passion For PAWS" pet food and supplies drive is ongoing across Yolo County through December 31, supporting local food insecure seniors and their furry companions, as part of Meals on Wheels Yolo County's (MOW Yolo's) ongoing MOW PAWS - Pets and Well Seniors program.

"Pet food, like everything else, is expensive, but Chiquita is my baby," shared MOW Yolo meal recipient Frank Valenzuela, a widower from Woodland. "Even though the food is expensive. I will do anything for my baby Chiquita."

A part of MOW Yolo's annual "Season For Seniors" campaign, the "Passion For PAWS" drive is intended to advance MOW PAWS' year-round impact, recognizing the important role that a pet often plays in relieving isolation for mobility-limited, homebound seniors, as well as the fiscal burdens that can be incurred by these older adults to care for their pets. If pressed to choose, MOW Yolo has discovered that many seniors will prioritize their pets' nutrition ahead of their own.

"More than 50 local seniors, such as Frank, and their 90+ pets, such as Chiquita, currently depend upon the MOW PAWS program for pet food and supplies, explained MOW Yolo Programs Manager Kathy Tuel. "These deliveries are crucial not only for the pets' well-being, but also for maintaining the human-animal bond, which is essential for the social health and emotional support of these seniors."

Now available to MOW Yolo home-delivered meals recipients in Woodland, Davis, West Sacramento, and Winters, expansion of the MOW PAWS program to serve isolated seniors and

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MOW YOLO PET DRIVE

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pets in rural Yolo County is planned for early 2026, according to Tuel, and will be possible with a successful “Passion For PAWS” food and supplies drive.

Donations of unopened dog and cat food and treats, leashes, collars, and other essential supplies are invited, with drop-off locations available through year’s end in Woodland, Davis, Winters, and West Sacramento. Details, as well as the opportunity to offer monetary gifts to accelerate “Passion For PAWS,” are available at <https://mowyolo.org/s4s>; please scroll to the second half of the web page.

Additionally, if you operate a local business and are inspired to host a “Passion For PAWS” donation bin, please contact Tuel at ktuel@mowyolo.org or 530-662-7035.

MOW PAWS initiated last February, thanks to founding sponsor Cat Tales Feline Health Center in Davis, with further support from Meals on Wheels America. To learn more about MOW PAWS, please visit <https://mowyolo.org/nutrition-access/pets-and-seniors/> or call 530-662-7035.

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