

Sandy PAWS

a halifax humane society publication

Happy Reunions

**Volunteer
Spotlight**

Success Stories

**Stricter Laws for
Animal Cruelty**

*Photo by
Samantha Blizzard*



- Admissions
- Adoption Center
- All Animal Intake Center Including Domestic Animals, Wildlife, and Exotics
- Animal Behavior Counseling
- Animal Care/Protection Information and Call Center
- Community Dog Park
- Contract Services for Municipalities
- Cruelty Investigation Resources, Training & Transfers
- Disaster Response
- Dog Obedience Group Classes
- Education & School Visits
- Emergency Medical Fund
- GEM Membership
- Grief Counseling
- Mission-based Pet Retail Store
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- Legislative Advocacy
- Lost Pet Database
- Meet Your Match
- Memorial and Honorariums
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- Off-Site Adoption Program
- Off-Site Thrift Store
- Pet Assisted Therapy
- Pet Cremation Services
- Pet Health Insurance
- Pet Microchipping
- Planned Giving Programs (Gift of Estates, Stocks, Insurance, Property)
- Prison Pups N Pals/Paws of Freedom
- Public Appearances
- Redinger Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program
- SAFER Assessment Program
- Shelter for Aggressive/Quarantined/Investigation Case Animals
- Shelter Tours
- Shelter Transfer Program
- Special Events, Yappy Hours, Community Outreach Events, & Third Party Events
- Special Needs Pet Foster Program
- Sponsor Opportunities (Events, Bricks, Kennels, Naming Opportunities)
- Volunteer Program 2.0
- Wildlife Triage & Rehabilitator Transfer

Message from THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

If there was a silver lining to the overwhelming losses we have suffered during this pandemic, it can be found in Animal Shelters. Across the Country, and certainly here at HHS, shelters are waking up each day to continuously plummeting intake numbers. Though it is too early to tell why our calls for pet surrenders would be at an all-time low, one could presume it's because people are finding alternatives to social norms with their pets. Adoptions nationwide continue to hold steady, owners are keeping pets longer and previously uninterested families are turning to shelters to find companionship.

To those of us who fondly recall every pet we have had, and await anxiously at any opportunity to proudly showcase pictures of our current ones, this shouldn't come as a surprise. Pets have a long held history of supporting humans in times of difficulty. From Egyptian times when cats protected grains, pyramids and were revealed as deities; to modern day pet-assisted-therapy, domestic (and some non-domestic!) animals have been there when we need them.

This issue of Sandy Paws is dedicated to a few of the individuals who make it their life's work to repay that debt of gratitude to animals by making the world a better place for them. We showcase "Zibber", an HHS alumni who found his natural prey drive was a perfect fit for agility. We also celebrate Debbie Darino who has become a regional champion for animal cruelty prevention by improving Anti-cruelty laws. Pat Mozden, our very own enrichment team coordinator also shares how her life-time of professional animal behavior experience has been applied to help dogs thrive in a shelter setting.

Though intake is temporarily down at HHS, our work strengthening the human-animal bond continues. With events and much of our fundraising on hiatus we count on your support to help strengthen our other 30+ programs that insure those who cannot speak for themselves have a voice.

Stay safe and embrace your humanity,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miguel Abi-hassan'.

Miguel Abi-hassan
CEO
Halifax Humane Society

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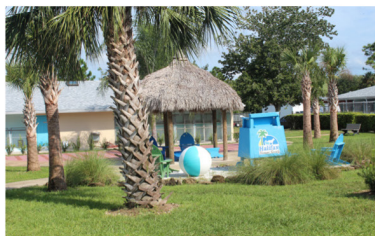
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Halifax Humane Society exists to protect animals from cruel, neglectful and exploitative treatment. It is the belief of the Society that all living creatures possess an intrinsic value, which is manifested in its creation. Further, the Society believes that mankind must become a responsible steward of animals which he has domesticated and brought under his control.

The Adoption of Lizzie – An Interview with an Amazing Chihuahua



Images above: Left to right- Lizzie after eye and dental surgery. Lizzie her first night at her new home. Lizzie, when she was brought into the shelter, was just skin and bones.

Lizzie is a 2.8 pound, 11-year old Chihuahua with a myriad of health challenges who was brought into the shelter. She was found along a road in Ormond Beach barely alive. HHS cared for Lizzie until she was saved by her adopter, Kristine, and given a second chance. Kristine named her Lizzie. Here is her story in her words.

HHS- Tell us about your adoption experience.

Lizzie- I was abandoned by my owners and I was not doing well in the shelter environment. Some may wonder why my new mom decided to save such a ‘hot mess’ with care needs that would be time-intensive and cost-extensive. She tells me she had no choice. God and the universe put her in the right place at the right time to give me, her special girl, a chance.

For the first few days when I was at the shelter I wasn’t sure I was going to survive. I was so emaciated with my spine, hips and ribs protruding and clearly visible. My right eye had an ulcer that ruptured. The few teeth I had left were rotten and hurt me so much. I had wished someone would just pull them out to stop the pain. I had two mammary tumors and an ear infection and parasites! I was a mess!

HHS- How did your new mom help you get well?

Lizzie- She fed me small meals several times a day to gradually put on weight. I couldn’t have any surgeries or vaccinations until my body was strong enough to

withstand procedures. Mom took me to the vet and he recommended that my teeth be extracted because I had an infection that was spreading throughout my body. I had 14 teeth left when Mom and I left the shelter that fateful day. They were so rotten that ALL were removed. Oh my goodness! Sockets had to be flushed due to infection and pus. Now my little tongue hangs out, but no worries, soft food is okay with me. The vet also recommended a mammary tumor removal so my mammary tumors were also removed and sent out for lab test. The vet did not suspect cancer but wanted to be certain.

Dr. Brown, an animal eye specialist in Jacksonville, had prescribed three prescription eye drops/meds four times a day. He was hoping to heal the eye so it wouldn’t need to be removed, but as it turned out, my eye needed to be removed due to the ulcer that was putting pressure on my eye. I couldn’t see out of this eye, so I didn’t mind losing it. Once the eye was gone so was the pain. All this veterinary care was very expensive! I’m so lucky to have such a caring momma now. The good news is that I am heart worm negative, have a healthy heart and I am a grateful little girl. I want to live and to be loved. I press my body close to moms for comfort and reassurance when I’m feeling lonely. She is the best mom ever!

Happy Tails!



*We help over 25,000 animals each year.
Here are a few of their stories.*

Oskar was brought into HHS by animal control. He was severely underweight and was suffering from an infection. Vet services administered several prescriptions to combat the infection, but Oskar was not responding.

It was decided that Oskar needed a blood transfusion to get him back on track to a healthy life. Below is an image of Oskar when he was first brought in and weighed less than 35 lbs. The second image is of Oskar going to his new forever home on adoption day. Vet services helps hundreds of animals every month that are abandoned by someone who can no longer care for their pets. Don't turn your pet loose on the streets to fend for themselves. Bring them to HHS and we will do our best to get them well and adopted.

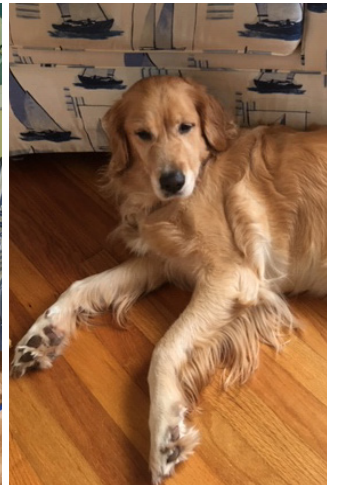


Long time supporter Caroline R. had been looking for a Golden Retriever since the passing of their Golden over two years ago. Here is a note she sent to us after finally adopting her new best friend.

"She is a perfect precious animal for my son, and for all of us! We love her so much! We're so excited so thankful and most thankful to you, for your dedication in following through on your word!"

"My son, Jesse, said yesterday 'my dog is finally home!' You will never know how much you have really blessed Jesse, and our family."

Helping people and animals find each other is what we happily do everyday at HHS.



Left: Jesse and his new dog, Sunshine. Right: Sunshine relaxing in her new forever home.





We love happy tails!

(Continued from page 5)

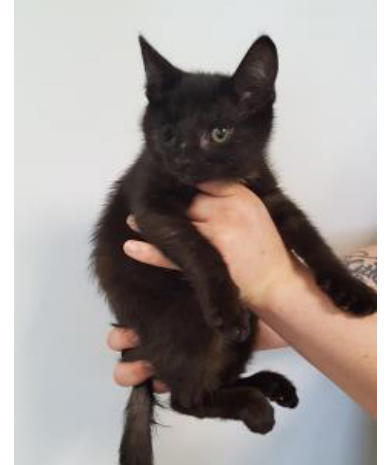


Samson was brought into HHS with very bad burns on his back. Dr. Green treated the burns with a medicated salve and then applied a treatment.

Samson was placed into a foster home to recover and although the foster parent, Nanette had fostered many animals in the past and did not adopt for herself, this time she couldn't resist the charm and personality of Samson.



This dog was found on the street and was extremely matted and flea infested. Vet services shaved the dog down and treated him for fleas. Within a couple of days, he was adopted into a loving home.



Calypso was brought in with a badly infected eye that needed to be removed. The surgery was a success and Calypso was adopted quickly once fully recovered.



Cora had been adopted several times and each time the poor dog was attacked by the resident dog in the home. This last time Cora had been bitten in the throat and needed to be stitched up and placed in foster care until she was healed. She is the sweetest dog and not aggressive. She is now in a new home and so far so good. We hope she is happy and safe with her new family!



This pup Emmee needed a blood transfusion which is actually a pretty common procedure at HHS. She recovered nicely and was adopted!

Volunteer Spotlight:

Pat Mozden



When we were in need of an Enrichment Team Coordinator, the first name that came to mind was Pat Mozden. A dedicated volunteer and very methodical when it comes to planning, scheduling, and organization, Pat fit the type of person we needed for this position.

Because of her awesome success, even during these uncertain times, we wanted to share a

recent interview with Pat.

Pat is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Enrichment Team. She has been volunteering at HHS for a little over 3 years. She is also the past president of the Obedience Club of Daytona where she has been involved as a dog trainer for over 20-years.

HHS- Why do you volunteer for HHS?

PM- I love animals and I love working with dogs. I have experience with dogs and I thought my skill set would be helpful to the organization. I believe in contributing to the community. The community was good to me during my working years and now it's time for me to give back.

HHS- You mentioned during your working years; what did you do prior to volunteering?

PM- I was an insurance agent for thirty years. I originally came to Florida in 1972 after graduating from a college in upstate New York with a degree in Speech and Language Therapy. That field typically requires a master's degree, so I enrolled at Florida State to escape the cold of the Northeast. I completed my degree and secured a position in Daytona Beach as a Speech and Language Therapist in the public school system where I worked for 10 years. Although I enjoyed that posi-

tion, after several years I wanted to try something else. I ultimately became an insurance agent representing life, health, and Medicare products. I retired about 18 months ago.

HHS- Tell me a little bit about your involvement with the dog enrichment team?

PM- I'm fascinated by animal enrichment and how it benefits the animals. For a long time, shelters were nothing more than a warehouse for animals that nobody wanted. We fed them, gave them water and put a roof over their head but that was about it. Fortunately, animal care has come a long way since then. The benefit of animal enrichment was first observed nearly 100 years ago, but it wasn't until the 1960's – 70's that the agricultural and zoonotic communities began talking about it seriously. Farmers realized that their cows gave more milk if they were happy and zoos observed improved mental and physical health when animals had activities to engage in. Today the benefits of animal enrichment are well recognized and the practice has expanded to everywhere there are animals – including household pets. Enrichment in shelters has really taken off in the last couple of decades as we have observed that even in the best shelters, without some kind of enrichment, animals can deteriorate and become less adoptable. Adopters aren't drawn to dogs that don't look friendly or don't interact with them. Enrichment helps the animals adjust to their environment and makes their stay with us more enjoyable. But shelters are always dealing with limited budgets and staff so building a volunteer enrichment team makes a lot of sense.

HHS- What is a typical enrichment activity here at HHS?

PM- The core concept of enrichment is to provide something different/novel in the dog's environment, preferably something they can engage with. Since most animals are motivated by food, enrichment typically involves activities that reward them with food. For example, volunteers at HHS made an activity out of 10" lengths of PVC pipe. We drill two holes large enough for the food to fall out, glue a cap on one end and a screw-on cap on the other end, fill it with food and give it to the dogs. The dogs quickly learn that moving the pipe around causes the food to fall out. They have to think about what to do which is another goal of enrichment – activities that require them to use their brain.

(Continued on Page 13)

Letter from the Chief Financial & Development Officer Planning Ahead

Dear Cherished Friends and Supporters,

Thank YOU for believing in and graciously supporting our work through life's many challenges whether it be during wildfires, hurricanes and flooding, political campaigns, or even a worldwide pandemic. Your commitment to help those in need, right here in Volusia county, shows the true heartbeat of our community for which I am grateful to be a part of.

Earlier this year, when the Shelter in Place order was signed and all our revenue generating operations came to a screeching halt, I feared that some heartbreaking decisions would have to be made. Stripped of our volunteer army of 600+ who facilitate in almost every facet of daily operations, revenues falling 68% at that time, we had to find new ways to continue our good work. After an urgent plea was shared, our supporters stepped up to carry us through that difficult time with no repercussions to speak of.

The lingering effects of the pandemic continue to impact our ability to generate life-saving resources. Fur Ball, our largest annual fundraising event, has been canceled for 2020 for the safety of all. This will likely leave a \$140k shortfall in our annual budget for which we are working to overcome. Please support our upcoming "Locked Up for the Pups", event on December 5th where we will be raising both awareness and funds to sustain our lifesaving work. Also, please check out our online auction to find some unique holiday gifts. The critical resources you provide will absolutely make a difference in our ability to provide second chances for animals in need.

Forever grateful,

Pam

Pam Clayton
Chief Financial & Development Officer



Don't forget to support the Florida Animal Friend license plate program. Your purchase supports our spay/neuter programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS (subject to change)

ASPCA and Subaru Loves Pets Adoption Event

Thanks to the ASPCA and Subaru Loves Pets Grant Program, HHS will be hosting an adoption event in cooperation with Subaru of Daytona on October 17, 2020 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The address is 670 N. Tomoka Farms Road, Daytona Beach, FL just south of the Auto Mall. Fun, games, giveaways, and refreshments will be available. Subaru Share the Love adoption events are also planned for November 14, 2020 and January 2, 2021.



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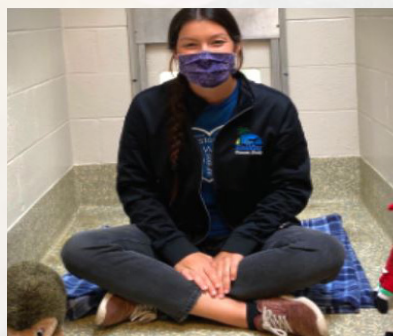
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Locked Up for the Pups!



Our largest annual fundraiser Fur Ball (grossing over \$140,000 in 2019 for the animals) has been CANCELED. Due to this, we have created a new fundraising event for the animals! Fundraise for the chance to sit in a kennel for 3 hours!

The top 30 fundraisers will have the opportunity to see what it's like to live inside a kennel for 3 hours. Raise \$200, while you're in there, to be released or stay in the kennel for the full time. Sign up today by visiting www.halifaxhumanesociety.org/events/index

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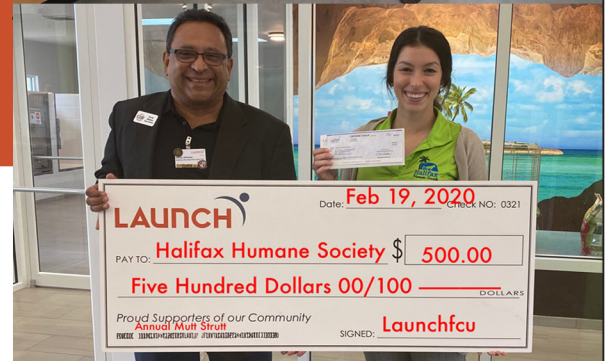
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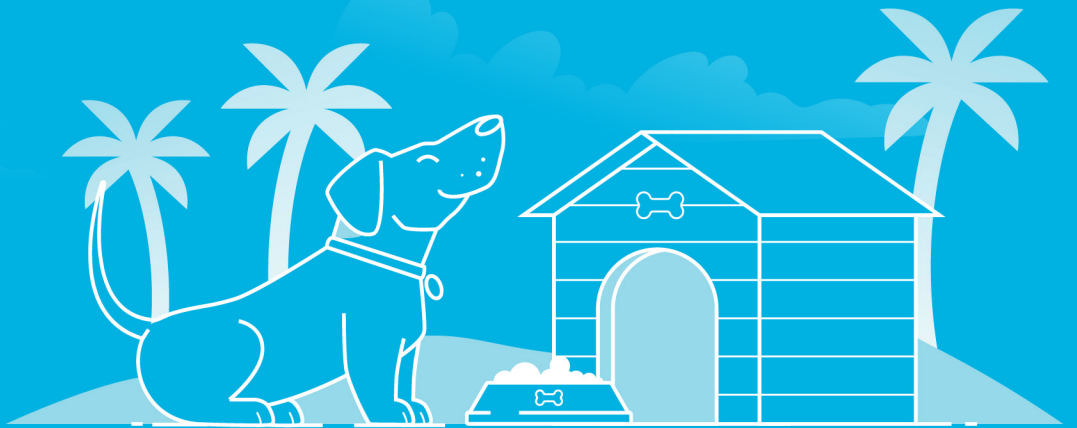


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(continued from page 4.)

HHS- And how are you doing now?

Lizzie- Mom was amazed at how quickly I bounced back. No more pain and I am perky as can be! I can see just fine with my remaining eye. I am feeling great and my cute personality is emerging. Notice my tongue? No teeth left to hold it in. Mom calls me her million-dollar baby. Well not quite, but \$3,000+ which is a million dollars in dog years. Mom says I am worth it many times over. I love my new home and my new mom! Please don't ignore the older and sickly dogs at the shelter. We can be your best friend ever if you give us a chance.





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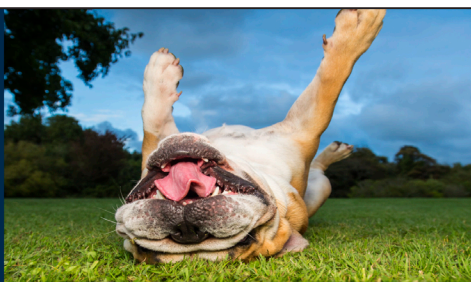
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STIFEL

(continued from page 7)

HHS- How does enrichment provide opportunities for volunteers?

PM- Enrichment offers an opportunity for people who want to work with the dogs but are not up to the task of actually handling them. Many of the shelter dogs are large and quite young, and therefore can be challenging to control. If a volunteer has physical limitations that will often make it difficult to handle the dogs safely. In the enrichment program, we don't handle the dogs but we are working directly with them in a way that both the volunteer and the dogs enjoy. We get instant feedback from a dog when their Frisbee is coated with peanut butter, or when we give them a frozen popsicle – two other activities we use weekly. Their attitude and demeanor changes within seconds and confirms the dogs like the treats they are receiving. Everybody wins.

HHS- Your role is the coordinator of the enrichment team – correct?

PM- Yes, to keep the program running smoothly we need someone to coordinate schedules, keep track of supplies, and train new volunteers for the team. I also fill in when one of the scheduled volunteers has a conflict and will miss a day.

HHS- You started volunteering as a dog walker.

PM- Yes. My only intention was to come out once or twice a week to walk a few dogs, but my focus turned to enrichment. If I am at the shelter for enrichment tasks and happen to have some time available, I will still walk a couple of dogs. It's a chance to get to know them better. And it's fun.

HHS- How has COVID impacted enrichment?

PM- It's been difficult due to the necessary COVID restrictions such as a limiting the number of people in one area and asking at risk volunteers to not come to the shelter for their own health and safety. A large percentage of the volunteers are retired – that's why they have the time to volunteer. We've been lucky to have enough active volunteers to keep the program going but we are stretched thin and it's an issue that's on my mind every day.

HHS- Have you been able to recruit any new volunteers?

PM- I am creating some videos demonstrating what we do in enrichment so people can get a better understanding of our activities and perhaps consider joining the team. At the moment, HHS is not taking new volunteers due to COVID complications, so I am concentrating on current volunteers who might like to add enrichment to

what they are doing at the shelter. As soon as we are able to train new volunteers, I'm confident we will have some new faces. And, of course, I can't wait to welcome back our regular team members.

HHS- Tell me a little about your involvement with Obedience Club of Daytona (OCOD)?

PM- I have been a member of OCOD for twenty years and have served as president twice. My most recent term was for 4 years and just ended December 2019. I have also been an obedience instructor for most of the 20 years which has given me the opportunity to work with a large number of dogs with varied personalities and behaviors. As a trainer, my goal is to help the owner learn how to teach their dog to be a polite and well-behaved member of the family because a dog that is pleasant to live with is much more likely to stay in that home for their lifetime.

HHS- Do you feel requiring adopters to participate in at least one basic obedience class would be beneficial?

PM- Absolutely. Many failed adoptions are the result of adopters expecting the dog to fit into their new home from day one without any hiccups and that rarely happens. Most dogs will take several weeks or even several months to adjust. A class would help owners form realistic expectations for their new family member and give them a resource for learning how to handle the issues that can arise as the dog adjusts to their new home.

HHS- Is there anything else you would like to add?

PM- The changes that have transpired at HHS during the last three years have been very impressive. From empowering the staff to be proactive, to the massive campus and facility renovations, and the addition of a fourth play area for the dogs, these have all enhanced the mission of providing a high level of care for the animals.

One change that affected me personally is the improvement in the dog walking program which now offers online education, on-site training with mentors, online scheduling for walking times, and plenty of involvement and support from the volunteer manager. None of that existed 3 years ago and the improvements resulted in a substantial increase in the number of dog walkers. That allowed me to shift my focus to enrichment knowing the dog walking program was well staffed with other volunteers.

Overall, the planning and long-term vision provided by Miguel is creating a community resource to be proud of and I'm happy to be a part of that mission.

Don't Bully the Breed

By: Dr. Jennifer N. Green



What's in a name, or more so what's in a breed? When you hear the term "pit bull", what comes to mind? With so many myths that exist around pit bulls, people have a myriad of reactions to that name. Some people may think that they are more aggressive than other dogs, that they bite with locking jaws, or that they are not good family dogs. Other people may associate pit bulls as victims of dog fights or sad commercials of animals being res-

cued. For some, pit bulls are large goofy dogs with big lolling tongues and a fondness for their families. Let's take a closer look at these dogs and see who they really are.

First things first, from where did the term pit bull come? Pit bull is synonymous with American Pit Bull Terrier and Bull Terrier. However, the pit bull is not a recognized breed of the American Kennel Club, and the label has been used on Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, and American bullies. For ease of reading, the term pit bull will be used throughout the article to identify what is commonly termed as a pit bull.

Pit bulls were fighting dogs that were developed originally in the 19th century in England, Scotland, and Ireland by mixing hunting bulldogs and terriers. Their original purpose was to capture and restrain fractious livestock (ex. bulls). Because of the intended purpose, these dogs did display aggression towards animals; however, aggression to humans was not encouraged. The American pit bull terrier was also bred for dogfighting in New England in the late 1800s. These fights were tame by modern experiences in that the dogs did not die often in the fighting pit.

Despite their rougher origins, during the first part of the 1900s, pit bulls were often seen as stunt dogs or as sidekicks in comedic performances. They could even be seen in comic strips or as the "spokes-dog" for a brand of shoes. As time progressed, pit bull type dogs were bred as pets and could be seen in the home of all socio-economic classes but were especially found in working class homes and were affectionately named "nanny dogs" for children. Starting in the 1950s, pedigree breeds like Labrador or Golden Retrievers and Irish Setters became more common to fit with the current definition of the American dream, so the pit bull status as a companion pet waivered slightly.

Starting in the 1960s and 1970s, the brutality of dog fight-

ing increased as humans began using drugs and devices in or against the dogs. Due to the new cruelty of this sport, awareness of the horror that is dogfighting became more mainstream. The movement to outlaw dogfighting began to attract media to garner support for their efforts. With the terrible increase in dogfighting, irresponsible breeding and poor treatment resulted in the occasional bad-tempered dog. These dogs were then involved in very publicized attacks on people, which incited fear of pit bulls. The public also began to read accounts of these dogs with alleged terrible characteristics. Sadly, public opinion turned against the dog and not the people perpetrating the heinous act of dogfighting.

Unfortunately, mistaken public perception of the dogs involved in dogfighting was not the only thing working against pit bulls. The 1970s also saw a change in American culture where people worried about being victims of crime. The solution was to get a guard dog, which led to a large number of guard dog selling businesses. This then led to many unsocialized, poorly trained dogs intermixing more with people. For example, in 1973 in New York City, over 38,300 dog bites were reported as contrasted with last year's estimated 5,000 bites. Then during the racial tensions of the 1980s, pit bulls became proxies for prejudice as they became associated with the urban poor. This hate led to movements to ban and eradicate pit bulls.

Times became even more bleak for pit bulls. As they entered shelters, they were often euthanized without a chance for adoption. Bias against pit bulls, overpopulation, and breed bans resulted in the death of many friendly, happy-go-lucky, innocent dogs. Some studies estimate that up to 1 million pit bulls are euthanized a year.

Lastly, public perception began to change again in 2007, but this time it was for the better. The exposure of Michael Vick's dogfighting operation caught national attention; and finally, in 2008, dogfighting was made illegal in all fifty states. Forty-nine dogs were rescued from the case with the majority eventually being adopted out to homes!

So, the myths about pit bulls? They are all wrong. Pit bulls pass temperament tests at higher rates than most dogs. Pit bulls do not have locking jaws nor are they more aggressive than other breeds - they are like all other dogs in that they need responsible owners and training. Pit bull type dogs make great pets if you are looking for a dog that is friendly, goofy, playful, and sweet.

How do we continue to move the narrative further and keep up the positive progress for those dogs labeled as pit bulls?

First, cast away prejudice about breeds in general. Each dog

is an individual. If you are looking to adopt, go with an open mind and get to know different dogs' personalities and behaviors. Find a dog that fits your lifestyle. Do not try to force a dog to fit your lifestyle. (For example, if you work 12 hours a day and live in a studio apartment then a high-energy dog is probably not the best fit for you.)

Secondly, let's celebrate the dog! October 24, 2020 will be the 13th celebration of National Pit Bull Awareness Day. The goal of this day is to bring about appreciation and education about pit bulls in the hopes of dispelling prejudice and stereotypes. It is a day to celebrate the dogs and their responsible owners.

Thirdly, fight against breed specific bans and legislation. Become an advocate for these dogs in your community every day. Teach a friend, family member, or a stranger about how awesome pit bulls are. Discuss with apartment complexes or housing communities about their misconceptions around the breed. Engage politicians to stand against breed specific legislation.

Next, spay and neuter dogs in general but especially pit bulls. There are not enough homes in the US for all of the pit bulls, and the best way to combat this is by reducing the population humanely through spay and neuter. At Halifax Humane Society (HHS), we know this is especially important. Therefore, we often request grant funding to subsidize pit bull sterilization surgery. Please consider donating to these charities that assist

with the targeted spay and neuter of these dogs.

Lastly, adopt a pit bull! Looking for the perfect partner, the one that will love to take walks with you or play fetch, hang out on the couch to snuggle, and only ask for the occasional belly rub? Then you may be looking for a pit bull to complete your family and home! Come visit us at the shelter to meet the great dogs (and cats and critters) we have for adoption.

To further educate on the bias against these amazing pups, HHS is a proud recipient of the Dolly's Dream grant. The Dolly's Dream Dog program encourages the adoption of bully breeds and works to counter the stereotypes and myths of these dogs. HHS features two dogs at a time in great depth, so prospective families can learn how amazing they are. The Dolly's Dream project covers the adoption fee of the dog, the sterilization surgery, the vaccines, the microchip, basic supplies (like harness, food/water bowls, ID tag, leash, toys, training crates, treats, food, grooming supplies), as well as services like training, grooming, and boarding with HHS Behavior Services and HHS's Culler Boarding, Grooming, and Travel Center).

So, let's make positive change for these dogs- by sterilizing, training, advocating, educating, adopting, fostering, volunteering, and donating. We can truly make a difference and stop the bullying of these amazing pups!

**WELLS
FARGO**

ADVISORS



Mike Leonard

"As a board member and five time adopter at HHS, I am proud of the work we do for our community's animals."



Letter From an Adopter:

Zibber- From Homeless to Agility Champion

I wanted to share with you the success story of Zibber, an HHS alumnus.

A little over 5 years ago, I adopted a then 3 year old Dalmation mix, Zibber, from HHS. At home, he has always been a very good boy, but when I first adopted him, he had two dangerous behaviors outside the house that needed to be corrected. Because he has a very high prey drive, he would chase everything that moved including cars, golf-carts, people on bikes or skateboards, and every squirrel, bird or gecko that he saw. He also would get very excited and bark at every dog that he saw. I started working with him on basic obedience training and socialization. He picked up the obedience training quickly but it took almost 3 years to get some control of his prey drive and to be calmer around other dogs.

When Zibber was about 6 years old and his instincts were pretty much under control, I decided to try agility with him. Even at that age he still had a lot of energy and was still very athletic. I enrolled him in agility classes at the Obedience Club of Daytona. He caught on very quickly. The instructors said that he was a natural for agility. A little over a year later, he got his first AKC agility title. Since that first title to now, a span of a little more than a year, he has earned two more agility titles. He now competes at the Excellent class level and we are working on his title in that class. When I don't make any mistakes, he usually does very well. In those cases, he usually doesn't just receive a qualifying score, but often gets 1st or 2nd place. And this is competing against many pure breeds such as Golden Retrievers, Border Collies and Australian Shepherds that are renowned for their agility abilities.

Zibber can run very fast. He has an AKC Coursing Allure title. The AKC holds trials where the dog's speed is measured as they chase a lure over a course. In Zibber's trials, his speed averaged over 25 mph.

Zibber also has his Canine Good Citizen title. He is a registered therapy dog with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, and has the AKC Advanced Therapy Dog title indicating that he has made over 100 documented

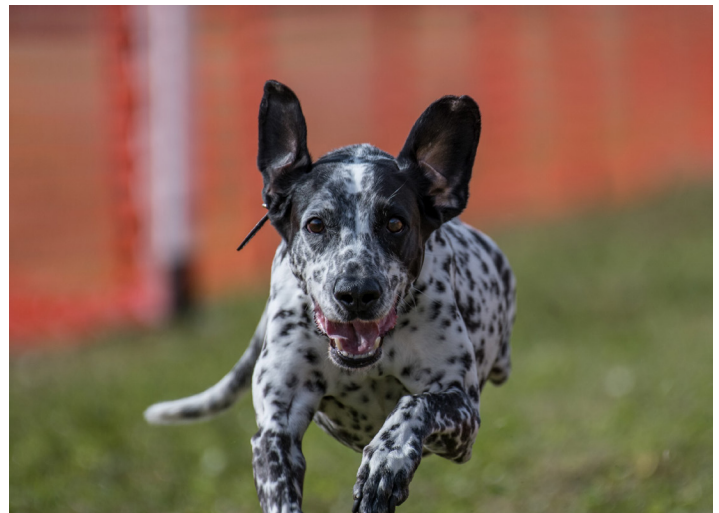
pet therapy visits. He has been visiting Indigo Palms nursing home in Daytona Beach twice a month for about 5 years now. This past September he started doing a reading program at Imagine School in Palm Coast. Until schools were recently closed because of the virus, I was taking him there every other week for about an hour. Students from one of the first grade classes would read to him to help build their reading confidence.

Below are two pictures of Zibber in action. One is a closeup of his face as he's running a coursing allure trial. The other is of him at a recent agility trial.

I just wanted to share these achievements with you and let you know that I am so glad I found Zibber at HHS.

Regards,

Frank Horvath





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Mark Hill, owner of Security Force has been an animal rights enthusiast for all his life. Without his support, HHS would be required to spend many thousands more for security alarms, camera systems, alarm monitoring, and our audio/video systems throughout the facility.

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“Tails” From the Retail Front

By Meg Evans, Merchandise Manager



For over 8 years Halifax Humane Society has carried a sole line of premium pet food made right here in the United States. Blackwood Premium Pet food was carefully chosen among

hundreds in the natural pet category—but there was one major difference—the quality. **There has never been a recall in the history of the brand.** They are industry renowned as one of the best in the natural pet food industry and have won several awards. The line has something for every life stage in both cat and dog and is made from natural ingredients with the strictest of quality measures in place. Recently, I had the distinct pleasure of interviewing Lee Higgins who is the National Sales Manager of the brand.

HHS: Thank you so much for taking the time to talk with me about Blackwood. We at Halifax Humane Society have exclusively sold the line for over 8 years, but would like for you to tell our clients what is so special about Blackwood? What sets it apart from the competition?

LEE: Blackwood is special because we do two things exceptionally well. Small Batches and Slow Cooking. Small batches to ensure quality and the slow cooking to ensure nutrients and minerals stay in the food, along with cooking out the starch, which is bad for the dog's digestion. It also makes the food more palatable.

HHS: How long has this line been around? Some of my customers say that they have never heard of it.

LEE: We started making Blackwood in 1994 for a customer then we purchased it in 2010 as our house brand. It started as a regional food in South Carolina, then progressed from there. We are now all over the USA and in multiple countries.

HHS: My pet has allergies, is there a product line for them?

LEE: Blackwood has 2 lines for allergies. Our grain free diets for the fur babies with grain allergies and we also have a full line of sensitive skin and sensitive stomach lines. These are extremely popular and have been around for years and shown to be proven reliable for dogs with these issues.

HHS: Has the product had any recalls? Where is it made? What standards for quality does it adhere to?

LEE: We are going on 42 years of manufacturing with no recall. We are based in Lisbon, Ohio and we have an in-house lab. All products are sent out for 3rd party testing as well. We also test ALL raw ingredients and test multiple points of the cooking process. Both of our plants are EU certified for quality and safety.

HHS: That is amazing and will put pet parents like myself at ease with the knowledge that by purchasing Blackwood, you are getting one of the best and safest foods on the market! I find that with such a high-quality food such as this, I am feeding less as there are no fillers and junk—my pet stays full longer and has less waste. I really appreciate your time, Lee and thank you for chatting with me today!

LEE: No problem, Meg. Happy to help and we are glad to partner with the Halifax Humane Society! Let folks know to follow us on Facebook.

One thing that I found to be outstanding about Blackwood, aside from the quality, is that Lee personally came out and trained our staff about the product. I think it is important for our customers to know that they can shop with confidence with us for their pets. We aren't salespeople; we are pet product consultants and want the very best for your pet, as if it were our own. This is the first in a series of vendor and product spotlights. Our goal is to highlight the extreme consideration and care that goes into every line that we sell to ensure that you are living your best and most enriched life with your pet!

Blackwood Premium Pet food is sold at the main campus on LPGA and at our thrift store at 333 West Granada Blvd, Ormond Beach. You can also learn more by visiting their website or Facebook page at:

<http://www.blackwoodpetfood.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/BlackwoodPetFood>

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Below: A very nice donation of dog food, treats, and peanut butter. Thank you for your kindness!



Above: CEO Miguel Abi-hassan and board member Nancy Lohman accept a check presentation from Ann Pintiliano, Public Relations Mgr. and Larry Kelly, General Manager of Subaru of Daytona.



The third annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors golf outing was a great success, raising over \$20,000 for our community's animals.



The last Yappy Hour of 2020 was at Lulu's Oceanside Grill and was a great success, raising over \$700 for the animals. Thanks to Lulu's for hosting!

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Photo by Tony Giese

(con't from page 24)

PET MEMORIALS

Nickey, Annie, Oakley, & Barney – Jane Conners 🐾 **Our beloved cats and dogs** – Maureen & Roger Henry 🐾 **Peanut** – Matias Cabeza 🐾 **Pedro, Elvis, & Little Man** – Joyce & John Lavin 🐾 **Penelope** – Susan Bolin 🐾 **PooPoo** – Ida Day-Matra 🐾 **Princie** – Brenda Kahn 🐾 **Putter** – Nancy & Joe Saufl 🐾 **Raven** – Terry L. Moore 🐾 **Rebecca** – Rollie Dudik 🐾 **Riley** – Kevin Cregar 🐾 **Riley** – Patricia Hadley 🐾 **Riley, Pepper, Lilah, and Beanie** – Erin McDevitt 🐾 **Rosie** – Toby Linn 🐾 **Ruka** – Nancy & Joe Saufl; Susan & Bill Voges; Heather & Ryan Welch 🐾 **Sage Crouch, Beloved Dog** – Gene & Sammy 🐾 **Sammatha** – Nancy Doyle 🐾 **Sara & Suki** – John & Margaret Stumberger 🐾 **Scooby, Rusty, & Max** – David Morgan 🐾 **Shadow** – Danielle Abbott 🐾 **Shandy** – Barbara Tabasky 🐾 **Shasta** – Kelly Smith 🐾 **Shayna & Rosie** – Tina Solomon 🐾 **Sid** – Lisa & Ed Petroski 🐾 **Sienna** – David Rich 🐾 **Simon** – Cecilia Abbott 🐾 **Sister & Stella** – Fred Crouse 🐾 **Skipper** – Louise Segner 🐾 **Louise Segner** 🐾 **Sladky** – David Delgado 🐾 **Smarty** – Karen Wise 🐾 **Snuggles** – Bob Barry 🐾 **Sophie** – Nancy Reidel 🐾 **Strudel** – Linda Kramer 🐾 **Sue Ling** – Mildred Buro 🐾 **Sundance Cassidy & Nicky Morano** – Johanna Cobb 🐾 **Tate** – Irma Stofsky 🐾 **Thumper** – Elizabeth Jackson 🐾 **Ti** – Marjory Ackley 🐾 **Tiger** – Linda Warner 🐾 **Timmy** – Mary Jane Cook 🐾 **Tralee** – Susan Dugas 🐾 **Trix** – Emily Dawber 🐾 **Trouble** – Sally Lueck 🐾 **Trouble & Corky** – Phyllis Bond 🐾 **Twiggy** – Felicia Palermo 🐾 **Felicia Palermo** 🐾 **Valentino** – Sherrill & Sydney Morgan 🐾 **Winston** – Charles Thrower 🐾 **Wolfie** – Judy Schroder 🐾 **Zachary** – Scott Studner 🐾 **Zeus & Magic** – Leah & Gary Jones

HONORARIUMS

Agnethe – Laura King 🐾 **Alfie** – John & Patricia Norton 🐾 **All the HHS animals** – Susan & Butch Bolin 🐾 **All those who help the animals** – Sally Lueck 🐾 **All my animal friends** – Brian Williams 🐾 **All dogs and cats, everywhere** – Cecilia Friedle 🐾 **All the precious “wittle” animals** – Janae McCoy 🐾 **Aries & Miss LuLu** – The Beauton Family 🐾 **Ashley** – Annmary Roberts 🐾 **Mr & Mrs Howard D Atkins** – Denise Atkins 🐾 **Baxter** – Regina Kirschner 🐾 **Cathy Bell** – Amy M Bell 🐾 **Bella** – Lisa Cook 🐾 **Redfield & Lily Belle** – Connie Fagan 🐾 **Shaina Belsky** – Jessica Belsky 🐾 **Ben Roberts** – Stacy Roberts 🐾 **Dee Borbely** – Catherine & Gary Von Glinow 🐾 **Audrey Butler** – Scout, Phoebe, & Jaz 🐾 **Bob Campbell** – Jo Campbell 🐾 **Chip** – Judith Anderson 🐾 **Pam Clayton** – Elizabeth Jackson 🐾 **Mary Jane Cook** – Timothy Cook 🐾 **Cooper** – Sue Ann Oravec 🐾 **Cooper & Cali** – John McCrory 🐾 **Dawn Godwin** – Ed & Marsha Porterfield 🐾 **Delilah** – Vickie Pleus 🐾 **Draco** – Sady Garcia 🐾 **Justin Dryden** – Marcia Brazona 🐾 **Chyna Dunn** – Susanne & Gary Dunn 🐾 **Ella** – Michelle Waldow 🐾 – 🐾 **Flossie** – Tina Solomon 🐾 **Frankie** – Amanda Johnson 🐾 **Dawn Godwin** – Marsha & Ed Porterfield 🐾 **Guastavino Family** – Melanie Laffer 🐾 **Hammy** – Eric Gick 🐾 **Henrietta** – Nancy Litton 🐾 **HHS Volunteers** – David Hogan 🐾 **HHS Thrift Employees** – Kelley Orourke 🐾 **Hootie & Sammy** – Helen & Robert Balsamo 🐾

Joey – Linda & Ronald Warner 🐾 **Barry KuKes' HHS Articles** – Regina Beauton 🐾 **Ashley Lee** – Courtney Chambers 🐾 **Diana Lee** – Judith Thomas 🐾 **Louis** – Avery Holland 🐾 **Major & Sgt** – Lorraine Burchfield 🐾 **Mason** – Rebecca Watson 🐾 **Diane Mason** – Cheryl Youngman 🐾 **John D Matthews** – Regina White 🐾 **Katie McCraney** – Terry L. Moore 🐾 **Sherry McDowell** – Larry McDowell 🐾 **Tracy McRae** – Irma Stofsky 🐾 **Midnight** – Karen Wise 🐾 **Molly Girl** – Ashley Pirtle 🐾 **Moos** – Kelly Cross 🐾 **Mr. Peep** – Michelle Waldow 🐾 **Munchkin** – Jessie James 🐾 **My HHS Kitten** – Rachel Krueger 🐾 **Natalie Tenney** – Elizabeth White 🐾 **Niko** – Maria Mendes 🐾 **Oscar & his sisters** – John Santy 🐾 **Pedro, Monkey's Adopter** – Randee Laskewitz 🐾 **Rhonda Peters** – Jacqueline Yantis-Conner 🐾 **Pippa** – Connie Lee Newport 🐾 **Babe Pollitz-Babcock** – Lynda Lasseter 🐾 **Pussums & Dillon** – George W Macchlerie, Jr. 🐾 **Rambo** – Patricia Willson 🐾 **Ben Roberts** – Stacy Roberts 🐾 **Rocky, Star, & Chipper** – Deborah DeVolder 🐾 **Scenic Root** – Vrinda Graham 🐾 **Roscoe** – Polly Liebold 🐾 **Rosie** – Jerry Hoehn 🐾 **Roxy** – Michele & David Wallens 🐾 **Russell & Randy** – Robert Dietz 🐾 **William Ryan** – Donald Mills 🐾 **Dr. Mark Salzburg & staff at Salzburg Animal Hospital** – Missy Ascik 🐾 **Shasta** – Kelly Smith 🐾 **Judy Smith** – Melanie Laffer 🐾 **Snowball** – Tim & Arlene Meadows 🐾 **Cheryl Solt** – Walter Craig; Peggy Harper 🐾 **Sophie & Effie** – Mandy Posnett 🐾 **Spritley Grace** – Dr. Hope Murray 🐾 **Mel Stack** – Anne-Marie Aguirre; Inga Castronova; Lisa & Brian Castronova; Michelle & Mark Pari 🐾 **Stella, Reagan, Wren, & Mialki** – Carol & Geno Guiditta 🐾 **Tina & Domincik** – James Robinson 🐾 **Jerry & Carole Valcik** – Amy Valcik; Carole Valcik 🐾 **Vinny** – Kim Dione 🐾 **Walker** – Bonnie & Iain Coburn 🐾 **Kim Wilson** – Cathy Badovick

ORMOND BEACH VETERINARY CLINIC-

DR. BURKE

We Gratefully Acknowledge Dr. Burke for the gifts received from April 1, 2020 to - September 15, 2020 for the following pets.

Abby 🐾 **Angel** 🐾 **Bella** 🐾 **Bella** 🐾 **Bentley** 🐾 **Black** 🐾 **Boo Boo** 🐾 **Bootsy** 🐾 **Brady** 🐾 **Buddy** 🐾 **Buster** 🐾 **Cagney** 🐾 **Cha Cha** 🐾 **Chance** 🐾 **Chance** 🐾 **Chester** 🐾 **Chrissy** 🐾 **Comet Simons** 🐾 **Cooper** 🐾 **Crumb** 🐾 **Cub** 🐾 **Daisy** 🐾 **Danielle** 🐾 **Diaisy** 🐾 **Diva** 🐾 **Emma** 🐾 **Figi** 🐾 **Foxy** 🐾 **Harley** 🐾 **Harley** 🐾 **Hootie Crawford** 🐾 **Hope** 🐾 **Jack** 🐾 **Jaida & Reese** 🐾 **Jake** 🐾 **Joey** 🐾 **Joey Jackson** 🐾 **Jolie** 🐾 **Kallie** 🐾 **Lindy** 🐾 **Lola Hearn** 🐾 **Louie** 🐾 **Lucy** 🐾 **Lucy** 🐾 **Lumpy** 🐾 **Mae** 🐾 **Maggie** 🐾 **Maggie** 🐾 **Max** 🐾 **Max** 🐾 **Max** 🐾 **Maze** 🐾 **Mickey** 🐾 **Miley** 🐾 **Milo** 🐾 **Mimi** 🐾 **Mis sPriss** 🐾 **Mitzi Olive** 🐾 **Mixie** 🐾 **Mko** 🐾

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 Tony 🐾 Trouble 🐾 Vern Gleydura
 Wolfie 🐾 Zora

Thank you Dr. Burke.



Melvin D. Stack

Attorney at Law HHS Board President

Every & Stack

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Fax: (386) 255-9118

email: melstack@bellsouth.net

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Leave a Legacy to the Animals

When people think about leaving assets to a non-profit organization through one's will, many assume it is a tool only available to wealthy individuals. That is not the case, however. There are many ways to support Halifax Humane Society through our Planned Giving Program, and those gifts often cost nothing during your lifetime. Thanks to the generosity of HHS Board President Mel Stack, if you name HHS in your will, Mel will prepare it free of charge.

By remembering HHS in your will, you will guarantee that your love for animals will be expressed forever. Many of the programs in place at HHS today are funded from bequests left to us by generous donors. For instance, our low-cost spay/neuter program, our cat adoption cages, and our puppy/small dog room are all results of someone's gift to HHS and our animals.

For additional information about HHS programs and funding needs, please contact the HHS CFDO at (386) 274-4703 ext. 322

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Desiree

5-13-04 - 10-5-18

I'm pleased to sponsor Halifax Humane Society:.

In memory of our beloved Desiree, who will forever be in our family's heart.

In honor of our son, Mac, an HHS foster failure.

In honor of our newly adopted daughter, Delilah.

In honor of our newly adopted son, Samson, an HHS foster failure.

In hope that all our foster babies find a safe and forever home.

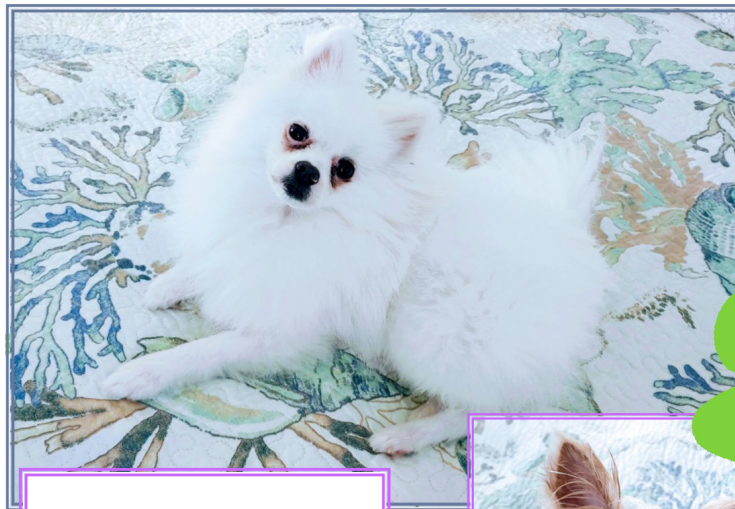
In admiration of all HHS volunteers and donors who give so generously.

Nanette McKeel Petrella

2019 Volunteer of the Year, Foster Mom, Annual Sponsor



Samson



Delilah



Mac





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Helping HHS From Home

Throughout the unexpected coronavirus pandemic that has swept the nation, more and more people have become interested in volunteering. With extra time on their hands and a desire to spend less time holed up in their homes, we at HHS have seen a significant uptick in the amount of volunteer applications we receive each day. However, with coronavirus restrictions of our own, it becomes difficult to safely allow so many extra volunteers at our facility each day. So, how can these prospective volunteers help without physically being at HHS? Well, there are plenty of ways!

One of our biggest needs at the shelter is helping to make enrichment for our animals. While our cats and dogs sit in their kennels waiting for their forever home, we want to make their time with us as comfortable and engaging as possible. The shelter can also be a difficult and stressful place for many animals. The sights, sounds, and smells of the kennels can be unlike anything these animals have ever experienced, and they can easily become fearful and shy without proper care and attention.

With the use of enrichment, however, we can work to help even the shyest cat or dog comfortable and ready for adoption. While much of this enrichment is distributed to the animals at the shelter, there is still so much volunteers can do from home.

From baking homemade dog and cat treats, making pupsicles out of bone broth and dog food, and even putting together upcycled treat puzzles and toys for the animals, the possibilities are nearly endless. If you're a star-crafter, consider helping to sew blankets, felt cat toys, and even bandanas for the animals or masks for our staff and volunteers.

If you have less time on your hands, but still want to help, consider collecting supplies! Many of these are items we often throw away, but can be used to enrich the lives of our animals. The items we need most include toilet paper & paper towel rolls, plastic bottle caps, and cardboard boxes.

Consider collecting these items at work or school to help benefit the animals! For all instructions and details on how you can help create enrichment from the com-

fort of your own home, or questions on supply donations, please email volunteermanager@halifaxhumanesociety.org. You can also visit our website at <https://www.halifaxhumanesociety.org/program-volunteer-program/index> to watch several demonstrations and volunteer training videos.



Homemade cat toys using recycled TP and paper towel rolls. Even an egg carton can be interesting!



At-home pupsicles to help our dogs cool off. Make pupsicles using bone broth, dog food and dog treats!



Summer Camp Success!

On the first day of camp we had no idea that we would run 11 weeks, but due to the delayed start of Volusia schools beginning their 2020-2021 school year, that's what happened.

The campers were pretty good about wearing masks indoors and had their temperature taken each day. We are glad to report that there were no cases of COVID, and all campers, presenters, and counselors remained healthy throughout the camp.

Below the kids play with Bentley, one of our ambassador dogs that attended camp each week.



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Debbie Darino

Animal Cruelty Law Advocate

Debbie Darino is a dedicated animal advocate and the driving force of Ponce's Law, also known as SB-1576. The law was signed by Governor Rick Scott on March 23, 2018.

Debbie is now asking for language from the Misdemeanor section of this statute be moved to the Felony section thus increasing the penalties for acts of animal cruelty. The proposed changes are as follows in this draft. This is not the final proposal.

828.12 Cruelty to animals

(1) A person who unnecessarily overloads, overdrives, torments, or unnecessarily kills any animal, or causes the same to be done, or carries in or upon any vehicle, or otherwise, any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, commits animal cruelty, a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.

(2) A person who unnecessarily and intentionally commits an act to any animal, or a person who owns or has the custody or control of any animal and fails to act, which results in the death, mutilation, torture, or excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering, or causes the same to be done, commits aggravated animal cruelty, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

These changes will increase the penalties for the acts of animal cruelty that are currently considered a Misdemeanor, and elevate the acts to be a Felony with

stiffer punishments. These changes will help prosecutors determine if a person commits a misdemeanor or felony so that a person is not improperly charged under the wrong section of the statute.

Excerpts from a recent conversation with Debbie:

Debbie- I want to make it clear that people who intentionally kill an animal are charged with a felony, but people who kill an animal due to an accident such as unintentionally hitting a dog or cat with their vehicle, would not be charged with a felony which is F.S. 828.12.

HHS- What is the definition part of "shelter" in the proposed update?

Debbie- There is no definition of what adequate shelter is for an animal in the current law which is F.S. 828.13. I want to define shelter more accurately here is the draft of the definition of adequate shelter.

828.13 Confinement of animals without sufficient food, water, or exercise, and adequate shelter; abandonment of animals. —

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Abandon" means to forsake an animal entirely or to neglect or refuse to provide or perform the legal obligations for care and support of an animal by its owner.

(b) "Owner" includes any owner, custodian, or other person in charge of an animal.

"Adequate shelter" means provision of and access to a secure weather resistant shelter that is suitable for the species, age, condition, height, size, breed and type of each animal; provides adequate air ventilation, adequate space for each animal to stand up and turn around; is safe and protects each animal from injury, rain, hail, direct sunlight, the adverse effects of heat or cold, physical suffering, and impairment of health; is properly lighted; is properly cleaned; enables each animal to be clean and dry, except when detrimental to the species; during hot weather, is properly shaded with a covering and does not readily conduct heat; during cold weather, has a windbreak at its entrance and provides a quantity of bedding material consisting of straw, cedar shavings, or the equivalent that is sufficient to protect the animal from cold and promote the retention of body heat; and, for dogs and cats, provides

a solid surface, resting platform, pad, floormat, or similar device that is large enough for the animal to lie on in a normal manner and can be maintained in a sanitary manner. Under this chapter, shelters whose wire, grid, or slat floors: (i) permit the animals' feet to pass through the openings; (ii) sag under the animals' weight; or (iii) otherwise do not protect the animals' feet or toes from injury are not adequate shelter."

(2) Whoever:

(a) Impounds or confines any animal in any place and fails to supply the animal during such confinement with a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food and water,

(b) Keeps any animals in any enclosure without wholesome exercise and change of air, or

(c) Abandons to die any animal that is maimed, sick, infirm, or diseased,

(d) Provides sufficient and adequate shelter

is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both imprisonment and a fine.

(3) Any person who is the owner or possessor, or has charge or custody, of any animal who abandons such animal to suffer injury or malnutrition or abandons any animal in a street, road, or public place without providing for the care, sustenance, protection, and shelter of such animal is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both imprisonment and a fine.

HHS- Are there any specific instances of animal cruelty that you feel should have been charged at the felony level?

Debbie- There was a case in Columbia County on a dog named Zena. She was a smaller, 1-year old dog that would chase the neighbors' chickens. To my knowledge, Zena never caught or hurt a chicken. One day, Zena was chasing the chickens and then returned home. Neither property was fenced. The neighbor with the chickens went into his home, got his gun and proceeded into Zena's yard. He shot Zena in the butt as she was crawling under her house. He then shot her again in the head killing her. I argued with the prosecutor that he should be charged with the felony since he demonstrated intent

to kill or harm once he went and retrieved his gun. He also trespassed into Zena's yard and chased after the dog until he could corner her and kill her. His intent was to kill, not to scare off. The prosecutor disagreed and charged the man with a misdemeanor and his punishment was 50 hours of community service.

HHS- Do these types of cases happen often?

Debbie- Unfortunately, yes, they do. I get involved in quite a few of these cases but I can't cover the entire state alone, so I'm sure there are many more that I never hear about.

The amendment will be submitted to the state by September. Debbie will continue to be an advocate to deter and eliminate animal cruelty.



Police Chief Frank Fabrizio, Governor at the time Rick Scott, and Debbie at the bill signing ceremony for Ponce's Law.



Ask the Animal Behaviorist

My new dog jumps on me and ends up scratching up my arms and legs. He knows better so why is he still doing it?

Jumping in Jacksonville

Dear Jumping,

The first thing to remember when working with pets is that they do things that work for them. With that in mind he must be getting some reward out of jumping on you. Dogs don't tend to "know better" because they haven't been trained yet to give a different response. Stop and think. Are you petting your dog even some of the time when he jumps? Do you push at him to get down and he comes up again almost like it's a game? Your attention can be what's leading him to jump on you. Luckily that's easy to change. If you don't pet, yell at, or pay attention to your dog when he jumps that's a good start. By also teaching him sit you can also encourage a different behavior. If you pet him when he sits, then stop as soon as he stands or jumps, then pet again when he sits you can start teaching him that the way to get your attention is to be polite.



My new kitten is adorable, but she's driving me crazy. She likes to bite and scratch at me which just hurts. Should I bring her back?

Biting Kitty in Bunnell

Dear Biting Kitty,

Babies of any species can be tiring. What you are experiencing is a normal process of a baby cat trying to practice adult cat behaviors like stalking, grabbing prey, playing with or fighting with other cats. Sadly they don't understand yet that our skin is much softer than another animal so we have to teach them how to play with us appropriately. You can start by trying to have extra toys close to where you sit and sleep. Trying to get an excited kitten interested in pouncing on something other than you can be fun. Will they pounce on a toy that's tossed across the room? Will they play with a toy on a string so your hands are out of reach? Would a toy that dispenses treats be interesting? How about a laser toy? These types of interaction allow you to play with the kitten and wear

her out without risk of the bites and scratches. While you are at it, show the kids how much fun it can be to play from a distance. Most cats settle down as they get a little older so I would recommend keeping your cat and teaching her how YOU like to be played with. You'll both benefit in the end.



Our dog loves kids and other people, but he is not good with other dogs. How can I get him to be more friendly?

Dog Aggressive in DeLand

Dear Dog Aggressive,

Socialize your dog with other dogs while he is leashed so you can pull him back if needed. It is best that the other dog is leashed as well. Many dogs feel threatened by other dogs especially if they are smaller. If you have a friend or relative who has a dog that is friendly make a play date and introduce your dog slowly. Be patient. Your dog will warm up to some dogs but not others.



Quick Suggestion:

If you have a pet that has too much energy, a quick way to help them release some of that can be to offer a food puzzle. You can make your own by cutting a few holes in a water or juice bottle. You can buy a treat dispenser. You can sprinkle their food in the yard and let them play "find it" to work for their meal. You can do some training and have them earn treats for things like shake, high five, and sit pretty. That's for both cats and dogs, as either can learn these behaviors. If you try one or all of these suggestions you might find that your pet is calmer and easier to live with.

If you have a question you can email, behavior@halifaxhumanesociety.org





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