

Sandy

PAWWS

a halifax humane society publication



**Music for the
DOGS**

**Renovation
UNDERWAY**

**Volunteer
SPOTLIGHT**

**Success
STORIES**

*Cover Photo:
River makes a special
appearance at
Mutt Strutt 2018.*

**Learn more
about River.
(Page 16)**



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Every proud owner of an adopted pet, at least once, will look at their pet and wonder what life before their new home was like. We wonder if they were treated right, if they have stories they could tell, and maybe even share where they developed the quirks that make them unique?

As the CEO of an Organization that has put nearly half a million adoptable pets in new homes, I find myself asking the same question of this facility. I assume that if the walls of Halifax Humane Society could talk they would tell you countless stories of life saving efforts that come with being one of the last open-admission shelters in the area. Stories of a 50 year old facility that has evolved to harbor some of the most progressive humane programs in the state, while still accepting every pet in need. Stories of aggressive pets being rehabilitated, wounds being mended after accidents and countless other pets who were abandoned and found a safe haven behind these very walls.

As we continue to renovate some of these well-loved and aged halls, we want to share some of these personal stories with you so their impact may never be lost. In these pages you will find a humble effort to commemorate the work of our passionate staff, volunteers and supporters who make HHS the safe haven that it is. These stories, these individuals, have paved the path to a new campus and as we continue to undergo construction we want to ensure you that the lessons learned and the stories gathered will continue to further our mission for decades to come.

During this transition period we will not disrupt operations nor will we close our doors for any additional days. The vision that has served this community since 1937 lives today, HHS's doors are always open for animals in need. Consequently, I am obliged to ask for your help during this transition period. This well-needed renovation is highly anticipated but many other pets like the ones in these pages still need our help. It is expected that the construction may decrease our workspace and during this time, more than ever, we need our community's support. Please help us by volunteering, donating or participating in our programs. Help us bid farewell to our old facility by doing what we do best, expanding humanity.

Grateful for your continued support,



Miguel Abi-hassan
CEO
Halifax Humane Society



- 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
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- Education & School Visits
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- GEM Membership
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- High-End Pet Retail Store
- Leadership & Career Development
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- Meet Your Match
- Memorial and Honorariums
- Multi-Level Community Humane
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- 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

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HALIFAX HUMANE SOCIETY

2364 LPGA Blvd

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The 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 second story elevation is in place as the construction moves right along on the east side of the main campus facility.



The front window frames are in place and ready for glass in the admissions area.

RENOVATION underway!

The last phase of the Reimagining the Future Capital Campaign is becoming a reality.

The renovation of the main campus building is underway and the excitement is building! The demolition began on the far east side of the building in the admissions area in March 2018. Continuing operations while construction is happening all around you can be very challenging, but our staff and volunteers have been up to the task.

One volunteer said, “The jackhammer breaking up concrete can be quite a challenge to deal with when on the phone, but we are making it work. Customers have been so supportive and understanding.”

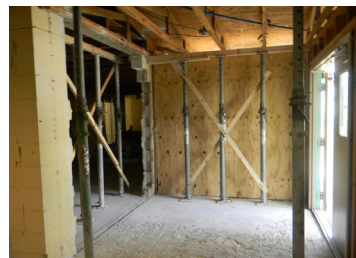
In addition to the renovation, in August our twenty-five year old phone system was struck by lightning and was rendered useless. We communicated with the outside world with cell phones and answered customers via Facebook messenger.

The renovation will continue as the construction crews expand their efforts to the adoption lobby area and begin demolition by November 1st. A trailer has been brought in to accommodate the adoption staff and some of the animals who will be displaced during the renovation.

The renovation projected completion date is April 30th barring no late season hurricanes or other acts of nature. We are tentatively planning a dedication for sometime in May 2019.

Once renovation is completed, the facility will have a very different look with two-story atriums, get acquainted rooms for dogs and cats, a new state of the art education center, and an enhanced adoption and retail area to better service our customers and our community's animals.

Follow us on Facebook and on our website for updates and addition images.



Happy Tails!



Of the 7,000 plus animals that enter our doors each year, many need medical attention. Here are just a few success stories that demonstrate how our veterinarian services save lives.

Some people have a misunderstanding regarding how Halifax Humane Society operates from day to day. Some people believe we receive animals and then euthanize them just a few days later. This is not the case. We only euthanize when an animal is terminally ill or considered a threat to society due to aggression or the spread of disease (rabies, distemper, cat-scratch fever, etc.).

We invest a large amount of resources, both financial and medical to save the lives of many of the animals that come to the shelter. Why would we remove a tumor or amputate a shattered leg of a cat or dog only to euthanize the animal a day later? We have had many animals stay with us for over a year. Every day we feed the animals, administer medications, and provide other forms of care and shelter. We bathe, cut nails, brush, and groom many of the animals during their stay with us. Our dog walkers walk the dogs at least once a day.



(Lead Dog Walker Tom with a thankful dog)

When a stray animal is brought to us, we hold that animal for 72 hours so an owner has the opportunity to reclaim their pet. If after 72 hours the animal is not claimed, it will go through a series of medical and behavior assessments. Once given a clean bill of health and passing our SAFER assessment with flying colors, the animal is placed on the adoption floor in hopes of finding a new forever home.

ANIMAL SUCCESSES

Chloe was found by Animal Control Officers tied to a fence and in pretty bad shape. We are not sure what happened to her, but she was cut and bit in many places all over her body and face. We rehabilitated Chloe over several months. Her weight improved and her scars healed.



(Chloe before)

Shawna M. adopted her and gave her a loving home and she is now thriving.

Shawna recently came back to HHS to adopt another dog, Houston to be Chloe's brother.



(Chloe after)

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

We love happy tails!



Dr. Green, Maxwell, and his owner.



The dog pictured above, Maxwell, came in with a large tumor on his right back leg. Dr. Green and her staff removed the tumor and the dog has been adopted and is on it's way to a full recovery.



The cat above has inverted eyelids which makes it difficult to see. Dr. Green will be reversing the eyelid so it will function like normal. The kitty might have a look of surprise on her face a for a few days but after that, she'll be good to go.



Here is Maxwell fully recovered. He is getting his stitches and collar off today. Another success story of a dog finding his forever home.

This is a puppy that was abandoned with 2 of its' siblings. Vet Services and Fostering found foster parents for these pups until they are old enough for adoption.





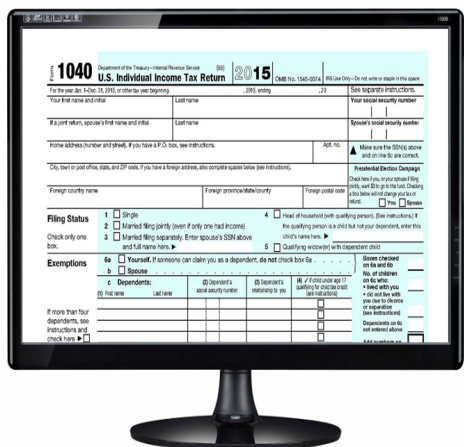
David Jimenez
Business Development Specialist

e- djimenez@launchfcu.com
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Letter from the Chief Financial & Development Officer For the Animals

Dear Cherished Friends and Supporters,

Today, is a time of hashtag social movements, when the mistreated band together, their voices are heard, stories gain momentum bringing about awareness, understanding, and change. But what about the innocent animals who do not have a voice? Halifax Humane Society has been the voice for the lost, abandoned, abused, and neglected animals in our community for 81 years.

While we are profoundly grateful to announce that we have completed our *Reimagining The Future Capital Campaign* (which has been our fundraising focus for the last three years) there is still much to do. We continue to feel the impact of Hurricane Irma two years later, as indicated by the blue tarps and blocks being strategically positioned all over our roofs in hopes of buying some time. Replacement of those roofs can wait no longer.

As is fairly typical we have seen construction delays due to weather and several unforeseen circumstances. To expedite renovation during the cooler time of year when fewer animals enter the shelter, it was decided to move our adoption staff and some adoptable animals to a construction trailer. This along with increasing material costs is challenging us to complete the project within budget and on time.

Rain is always a welcome blessing. However, this year for the first time the HHS campus struggled to deal with excessive water retention in the community dog park and our dog walking yards which greatly impacted operations. Effective remediation will require an engineering review of planned drainage.



community dog park and our dog walking yards which greatly impacted operations. Effective remediation will require an engineering review of planned drainage.

When you donate to Halifax Humane Society, whether for these individual projects or to our general fund, you give a voice to the helpless animals. I hope that you will commit your support to make a difference in their lives by helping us provide these animals with

the safe and healthy environment they need before they find the permanent home they deserve. WE are their voice but need YOU to be heard.

Forever grateful,



Pam Clayton

Pam Clayton
Chief Financial & Development
Officer

P.S. Be strategic for tax planning - consider a charitable gift, an IRA charitable rollover gift, a gift of appreciated stock, or make a future planned gift through your estate plans to help save more lives through Halifax Humane Society.

SAVE THE DATE!

UPCOMING EVENTS

9th Annual Fur Ball: December 13, 2018

Halifax Humane Society will proudly present the 9th Annual Fur Ball Gala and Silent Auction at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. The Fur Ball is Halifax Humane Society's premier fundraising event. Guests will enjoy dinner and drinks, live entertainment, fabulous live and silent auction items, and the famous chocolate lounge. In 2017, over 500 Fur Ball attendees and supporters contributed to raise over \$130,000 for HHS animals!



Dog Park on Ice January 23, 2019

Join the fun on January 23rd from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm for an evening of fun on the ice at the Hawaiian Luau themed Dog Park on Ice! Costume contests, pizza, and drinks make this fundraising event one of the most favorite for owners and their dogs.



Valentines Yappy Hour February 13, 2019

Yappy Hours are always special but the Valentines Day Yappy Hour is just downright filled with LOVE! Bring your own dog and have a fun filled evening. Light appetizers and drinks. Held at La's Bistro in Ormond Beach.

Bike Week Ruff Ride Poker Run March 14, 2019

The annual Bike Week Ruff Ride Poker Run for the Animals features 5 stops throughout Volusia County. The ride concludes at the Iron Horse Saloon with a BBQ dinner. Don't miss this exciting event.



Community Events:

Turkey Rod Run: 11/22 – 11/25 2018
Holly Hill Parade: 12/1/2018
Deland Parade: 12/1/2018
Port Orange Parade: 12/2/2018

Visit our website for up-to-date information about our fundraising and adoption events as well as our third party events with our local business partners.

An Interview with...

Alice Koscielniak Volunteer and Donor



Alice Koscielniak is a volunteer with the Halifax Humane Society. She is also a GEM (Giving Every Month) member who donates to the society to help our community's homeless animals. We had an opportunity to sit down with Alice for an informal interview at the end of September.

HHS- Tell our readers a little bit about yourself Alice. When do you volunteer, why do you volunteer, etc.

Alice- I volunteer at the society on Wednesdays and I help out at the front desk in the adoption lobby. I love to paint, so I devote two days a week to my art, and I have two dogs of my own, so they keep me pretty busy.

HHS- What are your dogs' names?

Alice- Bella and Molly. I adopted Bella from HHS just after the first of the year because my Doberman had passed away and my other dog, Molly was very lonely. I wasn't sure if Molly would welcome another dog, but now she follows Bella everywhere. Molly isn't doing very well though. She has a difficult time walking and it seems to be getting worse.

HHS- How old is Molly?

Alice- We think she is 14 or 15. We aren't sure. Bella is good for Molly, so we are happy that Molly has a friend to spend time with.

HHS- It was very nice of you to adopt Bella to make Molly more comfortable. You also mentioned, you love to paint; tell us more about that.

Alice- I've always dabbled in art. Never had any lessons but I have always belonged to an art group of some kind so I could get out of the house to paint, because I can't paint at home. I started as a small child with crayons and pencils. Then I got my first set of paints and I've been painting ever since.

HHS- You mentioned that you can't paint at home; why is that?

Alice- I just can't. Too many distractions I guess. When I am painting with a group, people are talking but I can let that go in one ear and out the other. It doesn't bother me. But at home, if one of the dogs comes up and wants to be petted or needs to go out, or my husband asks me a question, I just can't concentrate. I'm much happier painting in a group. The closest I came to painting at home was in the backyard and at the ocean. I have painted several paintings at the ocean.

HHS- What is your favorite subject to paint?

Alice- I love to paint animals, flowers, and children. I don't like to paint adults. They don't like it when you make them look older. Children don't care. They actually like when you make them look older.

HHS- So do you have children pose for a portrait?

Alice- No, I paint from a photograph. Children won't sit still that long.

(Continued on page 23)

\$10.00

2019 Best Friends Calendar



Purchase your **2019 Best Friends Calendar** at the adoption lobby, the Culler Boarding, Grooming, and Travel Center, or online! Makes a great stocking stuffer!

All proceeds benefit our community's animals.
www.HalifaxHumaneSociety.org



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Shelby's Gift

The large dogs in A-kennel will be much calmer thanks to the generous donation of a music sound system in honor of a very special young lady.



Halifax Humane Society recently received a donation of a sound system for our large dog kennel area from Alisha and Rob Bolwerk. We are very appreciative of this generous donation, but how it came about is an important story to tell.

In August 2017, 22-year old Shelby Skinner, Alisha's daughter and Rob's step-daughter, decided to visit a high school friend in Colorado. Along with two other friends, they flew to Denver to meet Shelby's friend. Over the next several days they had a great time hiking, camping, and water rafting. Shelby, full of life and always smiling phoned her mom and said she was having a wonderful time. On August 11th, while on the way to the Denver airport to return to Florida, they were in a horrific traffic accident. Shelby was in the backseat and was the only one to not survive.



Shelby loved animals, especially dogs so her family wanted to do something special in her honor. I recently met with Alisha and Rob to talk about Shelby's life and her commitment to animals.

HHS- First and foremost, please accept our condolences for your loss. Tell me a little about Shelby and why you decided to make such a generous donation to the humane society.

Alisha- Shelby absolutely loved dogs. She had a passion for them. She visited your facility and dog park frequently. We adopted our dog Sadie from you and Shelby adopted her dog as well. We just wanted to do something in her memory because of her love of animals.



She was originally going to college for physical therapy but right before the accident she had decided to pursue a vet tech degree.

Rob- She touched a lot of people with her heart and her smile. She was the kind of person this world needs more of. Her service was at Lohman Funeral Home and they said the attendance for Shelby's service was much greater than other services they have had in the past. It was standing room only and there was a

(Continued on Page 25)

Special Thanks to These Grantors

We would like to extend our many thanks to the following philanthropic organizations who are currently funding grant programs.



Partnering with

Best Friends has been a great partner to HHS. We are currently working to complete a grant for TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return)

that enables us to work with the Daytona Beach Police Department in an effort to spay/neuter 500 feral cats in the Daytona Beach area. TNR is a proven solution to overpopulation and far more effective than euthanizing feral cats. TNR programs have greatly reduced the feral cat population coming into HHS from 6126 in 2012 to 2891 in 2017, a 47% reduction. Thanks to grants from partners like Best Friends and the Rachael Ray Foundation, we can continue to reduce the feral cat population.



The Dolly's Dream dog grant allows us to feature 2 bully breed dogs a month that are in need of a home.

Thanks to this grant, the dog's adoption fee is waived and items like a crate, a bed, 30 lbs. of food, toys, treats, training and boarding certificates, etc., valued at over \$450 are included. 13 dogs found their

forever home thanks in part to the Dolly's Dream grant. We hope to offer this program again in the near future to help bully breed dogs find owners who will welcome them with open arms.



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“Tails” From the Retail Front

By Meg Evans, Merchandise Manager



So as many of you have noticed, the Humane Society is going under a bit of a facelift. We are without a doubt, reimagining the future for our community's animals. One of the many exciting features of this undertaking will be our new 780 square foot retail space. Our aim with this endeavor is to not only be a mission-based focus, but an authority on proper care for your pet.

Over the last several months, I have attended trade shows, webinars and read more pet supply periodicals than I can count. One thing that I learned is that there are a lot of cool pet products out there. One very IMPORTANT thing I learned is that a lot of products don't necessarily live up to the claims that they make. It is important to all of us at the Halifax Humane Society to only provide the best and safest products on the market, so a lot of thought and care went in to each product line that was selected.

Another thing that I have learned in my 25 years in retail is to really listen to what your customers want. I made that a priority when curating the depth and breadth of our merchandise mix for this project. Due to your input, we will be expanding our dog and cat enrichment lines and adding pet care, health and wellness items, like dental, parasite preventative and grooming supplies. We will also be increasing our pet toy lines and expanding our offerings for our feline and small animal friends.

With our soft opening of the new retail space slated in the Spring of 2019, stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates. For those like me, that just can't wait—be sure to check out our thrift store at 333 West Granada Blvd., #250 in Ormond Beach in the Gold's Gym/ACE Hardware Plaza (behind ACE) to see a sampling of the new products that we have in store!

We proudly support the Halifax Humane Society.

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FUR BALL Gala

A magical evening Under-the-Sea to benefit the homeless animals of Halifax Humane Society
Join us for a very special evening of fun, great food & drink, an auction, music and the Chocolate Lounge!

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In the News

River, the frozen puppy and the part HHS played in her survival



River, the pit bull puppy rescued by Daytona Beach Police Department's Animal Control Officers on January 19, 2018 from the frigid waters of the Halifax River, is now 1-year old.

Daytona Beach Officer Kera Cantrell went to visit River while she was nursed back to health at the Halifax Humane Society. She loved visiting the puppy so much that she decided to adopt her. "Officer Cantrell is now River's new mom and these are two happy girls!"



the DBPD Facebook post read.

Dr. Green of Halifax Humane Society dropped everything when the officers brought river to HHS.

"The puppy was still shivering when the officers arrived. Her body temperature was so low it would not register on the thermometer. We placed her in warm blankets and brought her body temperature up slowly so as not to shock her system. Once she was stable and alert, I took River home with me to observe her overnight. River stayed with us for several weeks and was under constant supervision until she was old enough and well enough to go to her new home."



Above- Dr. Green with River who comes back to HHS for visits.



River feeling much better.

MEMORIALS

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Gifts
Received from June 1, 2018 - September 30, 2018
In Memory Of – By

Jeff Allen by M.J. Caro, Jim Geary and the Brown Family
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PET MEMORIALS

Bo by Elise Kearse 🐾 **Buddy Bear Warren** by the Warren Family 🐾 **Cash** by Teresa Franklin 🐾 **Chase** by David Kelly 🐾 **Chewy** by Marylou Weiner 🐾 **Cooper** by Neal & Carly Krajewski 🐾 **Corky** by Nunzio & Jo-Ann Agosta and Kathy & Bill Nass 🐾 **Dulche Schow** by Virginia Schow 🐾 **Ginger** by Becky Spraker 🐾 **Jack & Raven Mason** by the Mason Family 🐾 **Jasper** by John Aiken 🐾 **Kasha** by Michelle Bilach 🐾 **Liza** by Susan & David Moore 🐾 **Lucky** by Nancy Riedel 🐾 **Maizy** by Heather Bennett 🐾 **Max** by David Kelly 🐾 **Meri** by Donna Arsenault 🐾 **Mikey** by Marcia Varga 🐾 **Oreo, Shadow & Sugar** by Lillie Armstrong 🐾 **Otis** by Patricia Benko 🐾 **Rosie** by Joan & Dick Kwiatkowski 🐾 **Ruby & Her Pups** by Janet Jablonski 🐾 **Ruger** by Russ Muller 🐾 **Sandy** by Lynn Wright 🐾 **Sebastian Kulp-McNulty** by Marilyn & Bill Long 🐾 **Snow** by Terry Moore 🐾 **Sonny, Manny & Tilly** by Jane Altman 🐾 **Spencer** by William Bzdek 🐾 **Spot Weiss** by Roxy & Marian Marrese 🐾 **Tater Tot Ogle Weikel** by Elizabeth Burns 🐾 **Teddy** by Marjory Ackley 🐾 **Toby** by Jean & Edward Jos 🐾 **Trixie** by Anita Emery 🐾 **Zachary** by Rita Capizzi

A.J. 🐾 Alley 🐾 Ataneq 🐾 Audrey 🐾 Baby 🐾 Bella 🐾 Belle 🐾 BooBoo 🐾 Bonzo 🐾 Bosco 🐾 Brody 🐾 Charlie 🐾 Charme 🐾 Chloe 🐾 Cinnamon 🐾 Daisy 🐾 Diesel 🐾 Elton 🐾 Elvis 🐾 Emily 🐾 Felix 🐾 Herman 🐾 Isabis 🐾 Jack 🐾 Jay 🐾 Leno 🐾 Jenni 🐾 Jobie 🐾 Joe 🐾 Johnny 🐾 July 🐾 Kailey 🐾 Kaiser 🐾 Katie 🐾 Kaya 🐾 Keebler 🐾 Kitty Cat 🐾 Klowie 🐾 Lady 🐾 Layla 🐾 Lilly 🐾 Luna 🐾 Macy 🐾 Marley 🐾 Max 🐾 Mickey 🐾 Mikki 🐾 Bryan 🐾 Lolo 🐾 Milo 🐾 Mimi 🐾 Molly 🐾 Monte 🐾 Morgan 🐾 Mr. Magoo 🐾 Ono 🐾 Ozzie 🐾 Panda 🐾 Peekapoo 🐾 Piper 🐾 Pirate 🐾 Raven 🐾 Rocky 🐾 Rommel 🐾 Roxy 🐾

(Continued on Page 20)

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PET MEMORIALS

(Continued from page 17)

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& Maria Jackson 🐾 David & Marian Green by James Green
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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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Tips for Feeding Your Pet

By Dr. Jennifer Green, Veterinarian Services Director

The pet food industry is an over \$70 billion industry in the United States with new products entering the market almost daily. So how is a pet owner to know which products will provide the best for their pets? In order to help you make that decision, I have put together my list of: My Best Tips for Feeding Your Pet. Hopefully, this will help guide you on your pet feeding choices.

1. Feed Your Pet a Pet Specific Diet

It can be really tempting to feed your pet table scraps or people food with those cute faces begging for a treat. However, avoiding the feeding of table scraps and people food will keep your pet healthy and may prevent poor behaviors (ex. begging, interrupting meal times). Most of the food people consume is high in fats and sugars, which is detrimental in pet diets. Many of the foods we enjoy (like chocolate, grapes, certain chewing gums, garlic, nuts, etc.) can be toxic and dangerous to our pets. So the safe side is to stick with products made for your pet. One of my favorite (dog safe) treats to give to my dogs are unsalted canned green beans and raw carrots. Dogs can also have plain, boiled chicken breast without skin and bones along with plain, boiled white rice as a special treat. But always consult your pet's veterinarian before feeding. Those of you with exotic pets need to ensure those pets are on the proper diet for both species and development; nutritional needs of exotics are very specific and lack of proper diet can lead to serious illness.



2. Feed Your Pet a Diet Backed by Science

In today's highly competitive pet food industry, we are flooded with commercials by all pet companies claiming their food is superior to others. So which one is best? The way to pick a commercial pet food should be based on science not on hype. The best things to look for in a pet food company include: 1) diets formulated by veterinary nutritionists; 2) years of trialing their food for safety and nutrition; 3) self-imposed safety checks; 4) ownership of their manufacturing plants; and 5) reliable open communication with their consumers and veterinarians. An internet search should easily bring up a pet food company, along with their background and operating processes. The companies I trust are the ones that provide as much information to their consumers as possible and have their research available

for veterinarians. As I said before, follow the science not the hype. "Grain free" diets have flooded the pet food market and are now one of the latest medical concerns for our dogs due to the possible association with heart issues. There is a substantial amount of evidence showing an increase in dogs getting DCM (abnormal enlargement of the heart leading to weakening and decreased efficiency) after eating diets containing peas, lentils (or other legumes), or potatoes as the main ingredients. The dogs developing DCM are not dogs that are genetically predisposed to DCM. Typically, veterinarians seeing these patients have reported that the dogs

have been on "grain free" diets for months to years. Often times, the owners were trying to provide a quality diet to their pet and utilized a product that may have capitalized on marketing. I have often spoken with owners who report their pet is "allergic to gluten or grain." Unfortunately, it seems owners are misinformed or make assumptions based upon trends in human medicine. The most common food allergy

in dogs is actually protein (usually beef or chicken); and food allergies are the third most common allergy appreciated by veterinarians after flea and atopy (environment). Placing a pet on a "designer" diet is often unnecessary and, as we have been learning recently, it can be dangerous to a pet's health. Follow the science to make researched and sound decisions in regards to your pet's nutrition.

3. Know Your Labels

The restrictions on labeling pet food is probably not as strict as you would expect. The FDA does not require products to become preapproved before being sold; however, the ingredients must be safe and have an appropriate function in the food. The FDA requires specific information to be on pet food labels like: identification, quantity, manufacturer/business information, and ingredients. Labels will also have the AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials) analysis, which indicates the feed is complete and balanced as well as further instructions if applicable (like: use under a veterinarian's supervision, life stage of use, or if the product is to be used for a short time period or not). Some terms like "holistic", "natural", and "ideal" seen on pet food do not have an official definition; they can mean whatever the manufacturer wants them to mean. However, "organic" is a defined term and will have a "USDA Organic" label on products that meet the full requirements. Several ingredients have also been a point of hot debate in regards to pet food. One of the best examples of this is meat versus meat meal; where most people have come to believe that meat meal is substandard to meat. Meat meal is equal to whole meat when both come from a good quality source.

An Interview with...

Alice Koscielniak

(Continued from page 10.)

HHS- Over and above volunteering, and we thank you for your support, you are also a donor. Tell us a little about that.

Alice- I've been donating for many years on and off when I've had extra money. I donate to several other organizations as well. When Pam (*Pam Clayton, CFDO of HHS*) told me about the GEM program I thought that would make it easier for me to donate every month without forgetting to do so. I could make a small donation that I could afford and at the end of the year it would add up to a pretty nice amount. If I was to make a one-time donation of the same amount that would hurt me financially, but over a 12-month period it makes it much easier.

HHS- That's fantastic. We have many people who use the GEM program for the same reason. The program also helps HHS because we can plan better knowing a certain amount of donations will be coming in.

Alice- Yes, and when I am on vacation or out of state, I don't miss making my donation. It's automatic and that's what I like about it.

HHS- What type of volunteering do you like to participate in for HHS?

Alice- I love dealing with people so I prefer to work the front desk in the adoption lobby. I was a nurse for 35 years and I helped people all the time, so I find this role the most comfortable. I also taught exercise at a senior center for 6 years, so again I had a good amount of interaction with people.

HHS- Why did you decide to volunteer at HHS?

Alice- I love animals. At one time I had 4 dogs and they were all about the same age, which is why I am losing them all at around the same time. Volunteering at HHS allows me to see the dogs available at least once a week, which is how I found my Bella.

HHS- Visiting the shelter on a regular basis is what we typically advise people to do who are looking to adopt.

Alice- That is what I tell them as well. We get new animals in all the time; sometimes it seems like every hour. People need to understand it's all about being in the right place at the right time. I was there once and 5 new puppies were brought out. You can't predict when something like that is going to happen.

HHS- How long have you been involved with Halifax Humane Society?

Volunteer DONOR

Alice- Pam came out to visit with me about donation options and we talked about volunteering. That's when I decided to start. As far as being in favor of and supporting the humane society, I have always loved animals my entire life and I believe there has to be organizations like HHS that look out for the orphaned animals that need shelter and care. I have donated to the society for several years.

HHS- What would you tell other people who are considering volunteering or donating?

Alice- When I was a nurse, I would tell older people who lost their spouse and were now alone to go to the humane society and get a cat or a dog to keep them company. Yes, they can be a lot of work, but they keep you moving and keep your mind active. Many people would ask what happens if I die and the dog is alone? I would reply that you would have given that dog the best time of their life and even if it was only for a few years, it would be better than staying at the humane society.

As to donating to HHS, I would strongly recommend that people consider helping the animals. Most people are not aware that HHS doesn't receive any funding from federal, state, or local government agencies, nor do they receive funding from the national animal organizations like Humane Society of the United States, or ASPCA.

HHS- Yes, that's true. The funds donated to the national organizations are used for lobbyist efforts for regulatory statutes to protect animals from cruelty, which is still a great use for the donations received but those donations do not directly help the animals at HHS here in Daytona Beach. Any closing remarks Alice?

Alice- Thank you for letting me be part of your organization. I enjoy helping the animals and I encourage others to do the same.





“Lowell and I have dearly loved our four legged, furry family members from Halifax Humane Society. They are rescues that have made our house a home, so for us it is now extremely gratifying to help renovate and expand our Halifax Humane Society facility.”

Please make your gift donation today and you too, will forever be part of this transformation.

Visit halifaxhumanesociety.org to make your donation.



Nancy & Lowell Lohman

(Continued from Page 12.)



terrible thunderstorm at the time, but people still came soaking wet because of Shelby.

HHS- Sounds like Shelby was a very loved young lady. So, why a sound system as the dedication?

Alisha- We met with Pam (Clayton) and told her our idea of wanting to do something for the dogs in Shelby's honor and she

offered two available options. One was to provide an additional play/exercise area for the dogs, and the other option was to provide a sound system that would stream music to the large dog kennel.

We felt the sound system would be spreading Shelby's energy throughout the kennels to all the dogs at once and Shelby would have liked that.

Rob- We always leave music on for our dogs when they are home alone. It helps calm them down and distracts them from street noise. Shelby's music will now help calm the dogs down at the shelter.

Alisha- The sound system installer Dennis Lyke from Southern Security and Fire that Rob knows through work, offered to donate his labor for the project.

Rob- He said, "You pay for the materials and I'll install the system for free."

Alisha- Shelby would love that we did this for the dogs. She was at the shelter all the time. Her boyfriend would have to drag her away or she would have adopted them all. That's just how much she cared.

Rob- Her boyfriend races dirt bikes and has her birth-

day, 524 as his number in her honor. Like all of us, her loss hit him hard. It was just so sudden and unexpected.

HHS- Anything else you would like to share?

Alisha- We hope the dogs enjoy the sound system. A calmer dog is a more adoptable dog, so we hope this donation helps increase adoptions and finds more dogs their forever home. I want people to know how much Shelby impacted so many lives in her short time here and how dogs impacted her life, which is why we want to spread her love. Shelby was one of the best human beings I ever knew and she taught me how much I could love someone.

HHS- Thanks so much for your time and your very generous donation in honor of Shelby. I believe that all dogs go to heaven, so I'm sure Shelby is surrounded by many dogs who are feeling her love.

Alisha- We believe that as well.



Alisha with daughter Shelby.

The sound system is in the process of being installed. The speakers are in and we are waiting on a piece of equipment that connects the system to the Internet to stream the music.

If you would like to honor a loved one, please contact Pam Clayton at pamc@halifaxhumanesociety.org or call her at (386) 274-4703 ext. 322.



Ask the Animal Behaviorist

By: Marcia Helm



*Dear Marcia,
"My cat scratches on my furniture. My family tells me he's just kneading but he's doing some damage. Is there anything I can do to stop this?"*

Scratch Cat Crazy in Ormond

Dear Scratch Cat Crazy,
Yes! There are ways to help your cat stop scratching on the wrong items and get them to start scratching on the right ones. Be sure you have some appropriate scratching items available. Adding a small amount of catnip onto the posts or feeding treats near them can help the cat associate scratching with these items.

If there are places your cat prefers to scratch, like furniture, you can get double sided tape that is sticky on both sides and place that on the favorite scratching places. The tape will make it uncomfortable to continue trying to scratch there.

Look into treat balls and food puzzles for your cat. Giving them something to push, roll or knock over can help distract them and give them something more entertaining to do with their time and their paws.

If these don't help, we offer Soft Paws nail covers in a variety of colors and sizes you can use to prevent damage and keep your home and your cat happy.

*Dear Ms. Marcia,
"Help! My new dog Max, jumps on everyone. It's embarrassing when company comes over or when people want to pet her on a walk. What can I do?"*
Jumpin Jack Max is Not a Blast in Daytona

Dear Jumpin Jack,
You can teach your dog to sit. It is impossible for a dog to sit and jump up on people at the same time. Then you can teach your dog to auto sit. Have a friend approach with a treat. When they get to the dog they hold the treat at chest level but where the dog can see it and the person will count to 5. If the dog

sits before 5, the person can feed the dog a treat and pet it. If the dog does not sit, the person walks away then re-approaches and tries again. Dogs tend to pick up this behavior pretty quickly once they realize treats and attention only happen when they sit. You can sign up for basic obedience classes where you can work on both of the previous behaviors and learn other fun and useful things to teach your dog.

*Dear Marcia,
"I'm having company come over for the holidays. What's the best way to deal with my dog when we do this?"*

Over Protective Pup in Port Orange

Dear Over Protective,
Here are a few simple tips to make the holiday merry for all, including your pup.

Safety First- Be sure to secure your pet when you have a gathering so that they aren't let outside or left outside by accident. (Be sure to have a microchip and tag on the collar just in case).

Too much activity or too many people can be overwhelming for pets. Be sure to have a safe & quiet place for them to relax if they begin to show signs of anxiety (yawning, avoiding people, hiding under furniture).

Giving added training or play time earlier in the day can also be helpful in lowering your pet's energy level which can help them be more welcomed by your guests.

The Halifax Humane Society's Behavior Department offers group training classes in Fundamental & Advanced Obedience, and an Enrichment class which offers fun ways of teaching impulse control. We also offer in-home behavioral consultations for dogs and cats as well as private training sessions in your home or at the shelter for dogs to meet the unique needs of challenging pets and busy owners.

Classes are held at multiple times a week at HHS. The training classes are \$45 for a 4 week session; dogs adopted from HHS are eligible for a \$10 discount. To sign up for a group class, private training, or behavior consultation please call (386) 274-4703 and press "8" for our behavior manager.

If you have a question for Marcia, you can email her at behavior@halifaxhumanesociety.org

5 Reasons Why You Should Volunteer at Halifax Humane Society

By: Rianna Rosenkranse

When deciding where you want to volunteer your time, you have many things to consider: your interests and talents, what you want to do, where your time will be most beneficial, and much more.

Volunteering at an animal shelter may be the best fit for you if your interests include loving animals and if you want to know you are making a difference every day. Whether you want to walk dogs, cuddle cats, help with the desk, or any other volunteer tasks, your volunteer time will be beneficial to our animals here at Halifax Humane Society (HHS).

Here are a few reasons why volunteering at HHS may be a good fit for you!

1. **It is scientifically proven that spending time with animals helps lower your stress levels and blood pressure.** Playing with animals elevates your levels of serotonin and dopamine which helps to deal with depression, anxiety and stress, therefore being an animal shelter volunteer is good for your emotional, physical and mental health. Also, if you're interested in dog walking, it is a great workout so even more beneficial for your physical health!
2. **Volunteering at HHS will give you the "feel good" feeling you are looking for.** Our mission is to protect animals from cruel, neglectful and exploitative treatment. We are an open door animal shelter that services over 25,000 animals annually and house approximately 350 animals per day. Being an open door animal shelter means that we turn no animal away no matter their breed, species, or health and do everything in our power to give every animal a fighting chance at a better life. This means, by volunteering at HHS, you can help better the lives of thousands of animals by giving them a happy and meaningful life. You will also get hooked on the feeling you get when you see an animal who you love, get adopted and strut out with their new forever family.
3. **When volunteering at HHS, you will know your time and effort is needed and is being utilized.** Volunteers are crucial in helping our organization run successfully. With the vast number of animals

we house a day and having constant intake of new animals, having volunteers to love and care for these animals is vital. With your help, dogs and cats receive daily enrichment and all of the animals can be loved 365 days a year. Our dedicated volunteers enable our animals to be able to have toys to play with, treats to munch on, and provide comfort to our animals while they are here. As a volunteer, your work helps save animals' lives through helping them find loving, forever homes.

4. **Through volunteering with HHS, you will make new friends who have similar interests as you!** Volunteering at an animal shelter ensures that you're surrounded by likeminded people who are all working towards a common goal. You'll be able to bond through your common interest of helping animals and sharing funny stories of our shelter animals.
5. **As you volunteer at HHS, you will gain professional and life experiences through trying new things.** Each day you will learn something new, whether that is about HHS, animals, or about yourself. Through volunteering, you are able to explore a new area of interest through one of our many volunteer opportunities. You are able to develop new skills and knowledge and also build upon your own strengths.

There are so many benefits to volunteering at HHS. Not only are you helping HHS and all of our animals, but volunteering with us has many ways to help you. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at HHS, please contact our volunteer manager at volunteermanager@halifaxhumanesociety.org or call at (386) 274-4703 ext. 319.



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