

# Sandy PAWS

a halifax humane society publication

Happy Tails

Volunteer  
Spotlight

Meet the new COO  
Karen Spaulding

Working Whiskers  
Cat Program

Cover Contest  
Winner, Dalee  
(page 13)



Also available in a digital version at  
[www.sandypawsmagazine.org](http://www.sandypawsmagazine.org)



## Halifax Humane Society Programs & Services

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- Wildlife Triage & Rehabilitator Transfer

# Message from THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Future historical accounts of these unprecedented times may capture sorrow and strife, but our pet companions' recollections may differ slightly. I'd like to think that pets across America may have seen this time under an entirely different lens. They may recall a few more games of fetch than usual, perhaps more accessibility to their favorite lap and even a few more treats. Looking at national statistics, we also know that far fewer pets in America lost their homes than ever before. Not surprisingly, we also know that more pet adoptions happened during the pandemic than in any other year in recent history. Availability of potential foster homes also skyrocketed during this time. In those regards, these last few months will be analogous to any stressful time in our history; when we worry, our pets are always there for us.

As we start to see a glimmer of normality on our horizon, I think it's important to also counterbalance the emotional strain in these past few months by celebrating a few appropriate successes. This year HHS will be celebrating its second year achieving "no-kill" status. Though we shy away from any kind of divisive terminology as an organization, we rejoice in reaching this milestone while maintaining an open-door policy. You see, the easy way of achieving a high-live release rate is by simply reducing or handpicking the animals you serve. But at HHS, we believe that sort of practice leads to a disservice to the animals that need us most. Next time you hear someone ask why a good portion of our adoptable pets are predominantly a particular breed or why we have an abundance of recovering patients, let them know it's because that's where the real work of animal rescue is done.

In the ensuing pages, we hope to inspire a positive tone driven by humanity's finest examples. There is still a lot of work to do in the world of Animal Welfare, but here at HHS, we hope these stories will inspire you and generations to come. To all those that came to our call during closures and times of uncertainty, thank you. To those of you who are moved by our stories and continue to care for the 2 and 4 legged family members in your lives, we're with you. If you're new to Sandy Paws, or it has been a while since you visited HHS, we welcome you.



Miguel Abi-hassan  
CEO  
Halifax Humane Society



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## HALIFAX HUMANE SOCIETY

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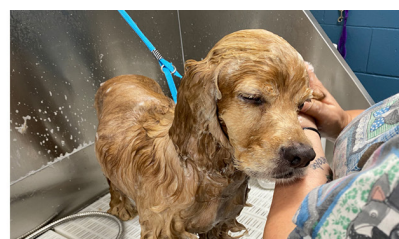
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*Halifax Humane Society exists to protect animals from cruel, neglectful and exploitative treatment. It is the belief of the Society that all living creatures possess an intrinsic value, which is manifested in its creation. Further, the Society believes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



# An Interview with Karen Spaulding, COO



Karen Spaulding is the new Chief Operating Officer at Halifax Humane Society. She was drawn to the organization because of the dedicated staff and the large variety of programs offered. Michelle Pari's retirement is a huge loss to the organization, but Michelle has worked closely with Karen to make as smooth a transition as possible.

Karen has devoted her life's work to improving the lives of people and animals. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Equine Science from Colorado State University. She began working at the local animal shelter, which led her on her career path to animal sheltering and law enforcement. She started as a kennel attendant and has worked her way up through shelter management. Along the way she also worked as an Animal Control Officer, Community Service Officer, Police Officer, and Legislative Aide.

She has purchased a house in Deland, where she has ample space for her two dogs, two cats, and three large birds. Of course, they are all rescue animals.

**HHS-** Your background is quite diverse. What led you from one career path to the other?

**KS-** Yes, when you read my resume at first glance, it appears that I have tried a variety of positions in my lifetime, however upon closer inspection, it becomes evident that animal welfare is the one consistent thread that links all of my experiences together.

When I attended Colorado State University, they did not offer an Animal Behavior degree, so I pursued the closest degree available, Equine Science. I have always had a great deal of love and respect for animals. I worked at and then owned a shelter that was a for-profit boarding facility, but I did offer free boarding to rescue groups. These rescue animals were fully vaccinated, which was necessary because my shelter was not set up to provide veterinary services. I would board the animals and help to find them forever homes. When I was a law enforcement officer, I was with the K-9 unit. When I worked in politics, my focus was on animal welfare bills such as breed-specific legislation to help protect animals. So, all my positions were animal welfare-based.

**HHS-** What was your position just before joining HHS?

**KS-** I was in leadership for an animal shelter in Atlanta. I worked in community outreach to develop programs that would better serve the community's animals.

**HHS-** What type of programs?

**KS-** Low-cost veterinary care, food pantries, and other programs that helped pet owners keep their pets instead of surrendering their animals. Many people would take their pet to a veterinarian and were told the pet needed surgery, and the cost would be \$6000.00. The pet owner could not afford to pay this amount, so instead, they surrendered the animal. My goal was to reduce the surrender rate by supporting the community with programs and services that would allow people to keep their pets, like food and basic veterinary services. I also combined two shelters into one, which was a better use of available resources and made the operation far more efficient.

**HHS-** Why did you decide to join HHS?

**KS-** I started to research HHS, and it had everything I ever wanted from a shelter organization. The programs and services available at HHS are outstanding and top-notch. As compared to other shelters that had the best intentions but lacked business acumen, HHS was on a different trajectory. The management style was focused on best practices which was important to me. There was a plan in place, and so far, the plan has been extremely effective. The fact that my predecessor, Michelle Pari, was here for 28 years speaks volumes. That kind of longevity is very unusual in the animal welfare sector, so I was very impressed. Then, I visited the organization and realized how stable it was. Other management and leadership roles had been working

*(Continued on Page 12)*



# Happy Tails!

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

Miss Hazel went from being on the streets of Daytona Beach, begging for food and in search of shelter, to coming to HHS and getting the food and shelter she desired, to finally being adopted into her forever home! Miss Hazel loves to go fishing with her dad who writes, "We were not ready for another dog but decided to drop in at the event at Subaru. Saw Hazel and we connected. Walked away and she just kept staring. Went back and the assistant gave me a leash. My wife and I walked her and she was very docile and you could tell someone had worked with her. No longer a puppy at 4 years old fit our requirements. She is great with our granddaughter. We take her boating and fishing and on trips to Lowe's."

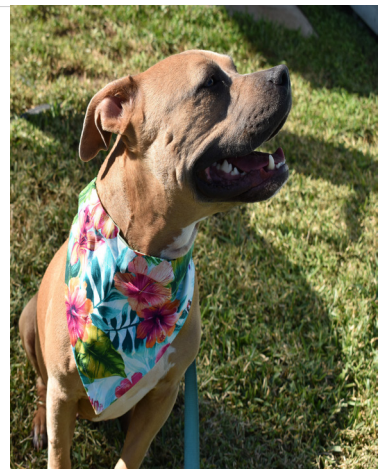


Hello!

Just wanted to send an update, we adopted Delilah (now Kesa) last May. She was incredibly shy and didn't have much confidence when we got her. She was fearful of people especially men and any noises.

This goofy little weirdo has totally come out of her shell. She quickly picked up all her obedience skills and loves car rides. When she's not sunbathing she's in full play mode. She has definitely decided she's a people dog and can't get enough attention, which she will let you know with nose bumps if she hasn't had enough playtime. She is obsessed with her dad now. Initially, he couldn't even pet her without her getting scared and now she chases him around trying to make him wrestle her. We are so happy to have her!

Meet Delilah



*Delilah at HHS and renamed Kesa at new home.*







# We love happy tails!

(Continued from page 5)



This cat named Margo had an infected leg that was impacted with maggots (yuck!). Dr. Green and staff cleaned the infected leg and removed the invaders. After a few days, Margo was ready to go and was adopted.



The owner, Brittney lost her dog Ashley for over 2-weeks from Savannah, GA which is over 200 miles north of Daytona Beach. The pet sitter forgot to lock the door and the dog got out and ran away.

Brittney received a text from Hailey Lingo, an advocate for lost and found dogs who thought Ashley was a dog available for adoption at HHS named Kit. Thanks to Hailey, and Halifax Humane Society, Ashley was returned to her owners.



Ashley lost her dog Wendy in May of 2020. When Wendy was brought into Halifax Humane Society 10 months later, our admissions staff scanned her for a microchip and found one! Ashley was contacted and immediately came to claim her lost pup.



Wendy was very happy to see Ashley. It is believed by Ashley that Wendy was stolen from her yard, but tracking down the culprit was a daunting task. Luckily Wendy was microchipped and when she found her way to HHS, the reunion was possible.

We love reuniting people with their pets. Please microchip your pets today.

*(Ashley and Wendy get reacquainted after a 10 month separation.)*

Had Ashley been microchipped she would have been returned to Brittney much sooner. As it was, Ashley had two adoption holds on her when Brittney contacted HHS. Had Brittney waited just a few more hours, Ashley might have been gone to a new home.



*(Brittney and Ashley reunited after 2.5 weeks and over 200 miles in distance.)*

Only about 22 percent of lost dogs that entered animal shelters last year were reunited with their families. However, the return-to-owner rate for microchipped dogs was over 52 percent (a 238 percent increase). Less than 2 percent of lost cats that entered the animal shelters were reunited with their families. To date, the reunion video has received over 13 million views on Facebook.



# Volunteer Spotlight: Dog Walking Mentors



*Julie is one of our mentors and trainers.*

We started the mentoring program at HHS because we noticed that there were many new volunteers taking the dog walking course, but only come one time to walk dogs and never return. A number of them were called and the main reason they said they didn't return was because they were "intimidated".

I believe having a mentor to "show you the ropes" is important so the new volunteers know the safety rules including no dog to dog interaction, the importance in reading all of each dog's information, how to safely enter and exit a kennel, safely collar and leash a dog, the approved areas to walk the dogs, etc. Also, importantly, the mentors can suggest which level of dogs each new volunteer is safely capable of taking out.

At the same time we started the mentoring program, we began labeling each of the dogs by certain levels, which includes the ease of entering and exiting the kennels, the ease of leashing a dog, the excitability of each dog, their pulling strength, etc. We believe this system really helped in making the new volunteers feel more comfortable and confident in getting dogs out of kennels and walking them. It has also helped in maintaining the safety of the volunteers and the dogs including reducing the incidents of dog to dog interaction. It has also proven to make each dog walking volunteer feel more comfortable in returning and making dog walking a satisfying and enjoyable time.

The dog walking mentoring program was conceived, created, and implemented in 2017. The program has been very successful. We asked the mentors for their comments about the program, and here is what they had to say.



*(Top- Mentor John, Middle- mentor Karen, Bottom- Joann and mentor Casey who have both been walking dogs for years.)*

*(continued on page 22)*



# Letter from the Chief Financial & Development Officer Change

Dear Cherished Friends and Supporters,

**T**he only constant in life is change. We regularly face challenges needing solutions, and through resilience and community support we can achieve results, albeit often different than planned. COVID continues to impact every aspect of our work but despite that, together we have been able to continue our great work. Thanks to YOU and the amazing financial support that carried us through 2020 we were able to serve the needs of 26,133 animals! Check out the 2020 Review (on the back cover) for a breakdown of services provided. Impressive. Yet we must continue to drive forward and not lose momentum in our effort to reduce animal suffering and over-population, while saving every adoptable animal in our community! Vulnerable animals continue to need our support.



Charity Navigator, the leading charity evaluator in America, has once again awarded HHS the coveted 4-star rating for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and

transparency. This is the second consecutive 4-star rating earned, which indicates that we adhere to sector best practices and execute our mission in a financially efficient way. Only 33% of charities evaluated received this honor, verifying we outperform most other charities in America. Trust that when you give – you can do so with confidence!



I hope that you remain committed to our noble work by providing critical resources as you are able. Feel free to reach out to explore our funding needs and ways that you may be able to help.

Pam Clayton, CFDO  
386-202-6632



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**When you make a donation to the Halifax Humane Society in honor or in memory of a cherished friend, family member, or pet, an acknowledgement will be sent for your thoughtful gesture.**

**Make your donation today by visiting [www.HalifaxHumaneSociety.org/donate](http://www.HalifaxHumaneSociety.org/donate)**

See pages 21, 24, and 26 for current donation recognition.

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# 2021 UPCOMING EVENTS

(subject to change)

Dear friends and supporters,

Based on the current vaccine distribution and decline in COVID cases, HHS is planning on reinstating most of our fundraising events. The dates listed are tentative as we continue to monitor the local impact due to COVID. Pre-registration and masks may be required at events. Some events may require limited capacity to maintain the level of safety needed for our staff, volunteers, and participants. HHS will follow CDC guidelines at the time of each event. Thank you for your patience, and we look forward to sharing time with you in the near future.

**5/15 – Neighbors Helping Neighbors Golf Tournament**

**6/02 – Painting with a Purpose**

**8/11 – Yappy Hour at Lulu's Oceanside Bar & Grill**

**9/15 – Yappy Hour at RiverGrille on the Tomoka**

**10/14 – Biketoberfest Ruff Ride**

**10/27 – Yappy Hour at Bistro 424**

**11/13 – Putts Fore Mutts Golf Tournament**

**12/09 – Fur Ball Gala**

*Please contact our events team for more information at ext. 328.*

**Don't Forget to Register for Summer Camp!**



Summer Camp 2021 will begin on June 14th and run through August 21st, Monday - Friday, 9 am to 3 pm. The cost per week is \$125.00, and each week is the same.

Visit [www.HHSPawsCamp.org](http://www.HHSPawsCamp.org) for more information.



Please visit: [www.HalifaxHumaneSociety.org](http://www.HalifaxHumaneSociety.org) and click on the Events tab for more information and to pre-register for specific events.





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(continued from page 4)

here far beyond the industry average length of employment. The stability of the board was also very impressive with many twenty-year plus members. The fact that in less than 9 years, HHS transformed their live release rate from 40% in 2012 to 95.5% in 2021 is fantastic. To go from euthanizing 7000 animals in 2012 to just 424 animals in 2021, all of which were beyond saving due to illness or injury is truly amazing.

**HHS-** What would you like to happen at HHS in the future?

**KS-** Thanks to HHS leadership's efforts, the pet owner population is much better about spay/neutering their pets to reduce unwanted offspring. We receive fewer small dogs and fewer puppies as owner surrenders. Pet owners are keeping their pets longer than ever before. The trend in animal welfare is that shelters will become the place for more challenging animals. If we can do our best to support both the animal and human population, because ideally, there is a human attached to each animal, and if we can help both the animal and the human, and keep that bond connected, that would be the ideal situation for everybody.

Across the country, there are many conversations about community outreach, including animal-owner education, pet food pantries, low-cost veterinary services, affordable pet medical insurance, behavior training, and more. These are programs and services we can look at developing and expanding, but they are challenging to implement and manage efficiently.

Providing resources to all people so they can have a pet is very important. If insurance and care costs continue to increase, only the wealthy will be able to afford a pet, which isn't right. This is a disservice to the animals and the people. As a shelter, we need to make pet ownership available to those who want it. As long as the adopter can properly care for the animal and if HHS can help owners in need provide for the animal, we can continue to be a great asset to this community.

**HHS-** Any other comments?

**KS-** This is a really interesting dichotomy being here. We have some really amazing people doing outstanding work within this organization and the community who are extremely committed to helping the animals. We

as a community need to make welfare a priority, not just animal welfare, but the human element as well. We need to help educate people that humanity is essential for both animals and each other. I love to help the animals, but I also care about people, so let's all work together to be kind to animals and our fellow human beings.

*“As a shelter, we need to make pet ownership available to those who want it.”*

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# Dalee, cover contest winner!

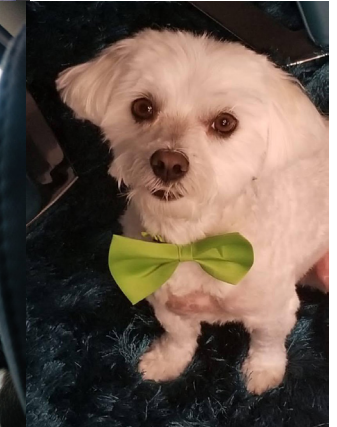
Dalee (named after Dale Earnhardt) was a very special dog. She was diagnosed with GME at the age of 2, which was treated with a chemo medicine for 12 years before she just recently passed at age 14. She had many health problems, but she never gave up and was the sweetest dog. One day, the sun came through our sliding glass doors and refracted a beautiful “rainbow” on her face. It is untouched, and we now call it her “Rainbow Bridge” picture and graces the cover of this publication. She represents unconditional love and the amazing will not to give up in the face of adversity!



## ALL ENTRIES!

Here are all of the entries from the Sandy Paws Cover Contest. Thanks to all who submitted their pets photo. You helped us raise \$2,050 for the shelter animals!

*(More images on page 33)*





# Outdoor Cats: It's Hip to be Tipped

By: Dr. Jennifer N. Green, DVM



Have you ever noticed cats outside with the end of their left ears removed and wondered what it means? Well, you have found a TNVR (trap-neuter-vaccinate-return) or RTF (return to field) cat. That ear tip means that the cat has been sterilized, vaccinated, and lives in that area. So why are we ear tipping these cats? As always, let's start at the beginning. Hopefully, at the end of this discussion, you too, will have a new understanding of free-roam-

ing (outdoor) cats and all of the opportunities we have in our community to improve their lives and our communities.

I personally have four cats, and they have their own bedroom and a million toys. I consider myself fortunate when one of them picks me for kitty snuggles. So, I guess you'd call me a cat person. I think cats are amazing, entertaining creatures, and I have a strong passion for our indoor pets and our outdoor friends. How did we come even to have cats start to join our families?

According to archeological findings, our modern cat may have begun to join our daily lives over 10,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent. As humans began to settle after the development of agriculture, wildcats were attracted to these population centers as snakes and mice could be found around trash and human food storage. These opportunities for consistent food sources are suspected to be the driving conditions for wildcats to eventually become domesticated by people.

Through their domestication process, which most likely focused on a people-friendly disposition, our present-day house cat still maintains a very strong independence streak, allowing them to survive without constant reliance on their human caretakers. Over the last three generations, cats have transitioned from their traditional mouser roles to full-time house cats that enjoy hanging out in the windowsill or on the couch or, like my house, on the kitchen countertops getting into trouble.

That history indicates outdoor cats are not an unnatural phenomenon. Still, with increased urban development and thus greater and richer food sources, we seem to be noticing outdoor cats more.

So, are all outdoor cats the same? The short answer is no; there are many types of cats you can find outside. If you see a cat outside, it could be: 1) an owned pet that some just let outside, 2) a free-roaming community cat that enjoys visiting

multiple peoples' homes throughout the week, or 3) a feral cat, which is essentially like a wild animal (think raccoon, squirrel, bird).

You can figure out what kind of cat by judging its reaction to you. An owned cat or free-roaming cat is more likely to approach people, whereas a feral cat is not socialized to people and will avoid almost all human contact out of fear of people (like any wild animal). This does not make feral cats bad; they are just part of the natural environment and find people scary. Many opponents to feral cat colonies cite the impact of other wildlife populations (birds) and disease potential (rabies, parasites). As already stated, cats have been a natural member of the outdoor population for their entire lives; and studies have demonstrated that feral cats are not a significant contributor to disease spread to humans. A fact about cats, though: they are prolific breeders. They can reproduce as early as four months of age and give birth in a little over two months. Cats are also induced ovulators, which almost guarantees they will become pregnant after mating. Females will mate with multiple males, which results in litters of four to six kittens. Female cats can also become pregnant while nursing a litter of kittens. That can quickly add up to a lot of kittens! Increased access to food sources and natural physiology set up a potential powder keg of feline overpopulation; add in Florida's temperate weather to make our area a perfect literal breeding ground for cats. With all of these new cats in the community, how can we make a productive impact on this population?

The traditional approach to the outdoor cat population has been to trap these cats and take them to animal control facilities or shelters. These cats do not thrive in confinement and are extremely fearful and unhappy indoors. With minimal options for adoption, these cats have been euthanized by the millions. The trap and kill method has not reduced the feral cat population. Years of research worldwide and including the University of Florida, have determined that the best approach to reducing the feral cat population is through intense TNVR or RTF programs. With these programs, cat colony caretakers and animal control agencies, respectively, humanely trap outside cats to bring them to spay/neuter clinics, partner veterinary clinics, or shelters with surgery services. There the cats are sterilized, receive vaccinations (including rabies), and receive an ear tip. Once fully recovered, these cats are returned to their locations. By doing this, future litters are prevented and stopped the vacuum effect (a phenomenon that occurs when cats are removed from an area and new cats migrate into the area due to lack of competition for resources).

Organizations are making progressive choices throughout the world to have a real, humane impact on outdoor cat populations. In 2018, HHS received a grant from Rachel Ray and



Save Them All to launch an ambitious project to sterilize 500 free-roaming/feral cats and have them returned to the field instead of impounded at the shelter. We partnered with the City of Daytona Beach Animal Control, who worked along with Concerned Citizens for Animal Welfare to trap cats needing surgery. From September 2018 through February 2021, over 1,200 cats have been brought in for the Daytona Beach RTF program! This program not only has provided a humane, sustainable solution for the cats involved but also saved the citizens of Daytona Beach over \$24,000 in the year 2020 alone!

Collaboration with Daytona Beach Animal Control and other partners has been a major contributing factor to Halifax Humane Society reaching No Kill's status in the year 2020. Ninety-two percent of the animals that entered the shelter in 2020 were successfully adopted or transferred out, which is amazing progress. In contrast, ten years ago, the majority of animals entering the shelter were euthanized. By working with local animal control agencies and providing access to spay and neuter services for the community, we have provided a real solution to pet and outdoor cat population concerns.

Realistically, there may be cats that cannot be returned to areas due to safety concerns for the cats, so what is the solution there? The answer lies in working cat programs. We discussed earlier that cats started out as mousers, so the goal of working cat programs is to relocate cats to areas that need cats to work.

Our pilot program, Working Whiskers, aims to relocate outdoor cats to barns, stables, auto garages, junk yards, shipyards, rail yards, wineries, vineyards, warehouses, etc., to work as organic pest control. I want to conclude by encouraging you to help continue this great work and progress. Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- Check with your local animal control agency if you have outdoor cats in your community to seek resources for RTF services.
- Adopt a Working Whiskers cat if you have a business that could use organic pest control (check out our social media pages or call the shelter for more information).
- Be active with your local government to encourage humane and lifesaving (and tax dollar saving) initiatives for controlling feral cat populations.
- Make sure your own pet cat is sterilized, microchipped, and kept indoors.

#### ***Further Reading:***

Driscoll, Carlos A.; Juliet Clutton-Brock; Andrew C. Kitchener; and Stephen J. O'Brien. 2009. "The Taming of the Cat." *Scientific American* 300, (6): 68-75.

**WELLS  
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**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."*

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# Working Whiskers Cat Program

*Our Working Whiskers program provides humane, life-saving, environmentally sound, safe alternatives for cats who don't fit the household pet lifestyle.*



Like their indoor counterparts, they need the basics, such as food, water, shelter, and veterinary care. However, these felines earn their room and board. Many provide rodent control for your farm, outbuildings, or businesses. The cats are of no cost to you and come altered, vaccinated, and microchipped.

## Transitioning Cats to a Working Home:

The adjustment period may take two-six weeks

They do better in pairs

Provide them food, water, and climate-controlled area, are safe and can't escape. Allow them to adjust at their own pace

## Possible Placements:

- Barns
- Stables
- Garage
- Outbuildings
- Warehouses
- Wineries
- Breweries
- Plant Nurseries

## Your Commitment:

You will provide the animal with food, water, shelter, and kind treatment.

You will have the animal vaccinated and examined by a veterinarian annually, if possible.

You will not allow the animal to be used for experimentation or vivisection.

You will not sell or abandon the animal. If you can no longer care for the animal.

You will not allow the animal to create a public nuisance and respect all local laws, ordinances, and HOA regulations.

Contact Karen Spaulding to learn more at extension 325.



*Select Growers in DeLeon Springs, FL has been adopting working cats for years. They say the cats help reduce damage to their plants, cut foliage, growing beds and facilities.*



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Security Force of America, Inc. is a major supporter of HHS. They have donated equipment and services to protect the shelter and our staff year after year. On more than one occasion, the security systems installed by Security Force has caught a thief in the act of stealing or inflicting damage to our facility.

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.

If you are in need of home automation, security alarms, camera systems, and more please contact Mark Hill at 386-275-1190 or visit their website at **[www.securityforceofamerica.com](http://www.securityforceofamerica.com)**.



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# MISSION-BASED RETAIL PRODUCTS

## West Paw



West Paw is a new line of dog toys that offers a “Love It Guarantee.” Simply, if your dog destroys a West Paw toy, they will either credit you or replace the toy one-time, no questions asked.

West Paw recycles returned toys to make new toys and thus remains environmentally friendly.



Kurgo offers a line of specialty items including treat pouches, pet hair removal tools, a pet first aid kit, a 6 in 1 leash, and many other unique and useful items for dogs that meet our mission-based guidelines.





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# More Kindness From Our Supporters!

We are so blessed to have the best supporters in the world! Our customers support our mission by giving of themselves over and over again. From donating treats and peanut butter needed for the dogs, to adopting a homeless animal, to making a monetary donation, we are so thankful for the kindness bestowed upon our organization and the animals in our care.

## WE ALWAYS NEED TREATS AND PEANUT BUTTER!

*Below: The annual donation from Patsy in honor of her mom volunteer Lonnie who passed several years ago. Patsy was unavailable to make the delivery so a few of her close friends stepped up and came to HHS with a truck and trailer load. Thank you all for your kindness. RIP Lonnie.*



*Above: Cindy Powell of RunningBoards Marketing donated space on her DAV (digital advertising vehicle) to HHS to help us promote Ruff Ride. Thanks Cindy!*



*We completed the 5th dog exercise area and needed tarp to cover two areas of the fence. We asked our Facebook supporters for help and in less than an hour, we had raised over \$700 to pay for the tarps in full!*

*Thank you social media supporters!*

halifax humane society  
**giving tuesday**  
**tuesday, december 1st**

help us raise \$6300 to purchase two new veterinary flat top surgery tables for our vet services suite



visit <https://www.halifaxhumane.org/events/index>



*Our Giving Tuesday goal was to raise \$6000 for two vet services surgical tables and thanks to our supporters, we met the goal and now have the tables!*



# MEMORIALS

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Gifts  
Received from September 16, 2020 – March 22, 2021

## In Memory Of – By

**Brie Adams** – Jen Adams 🐾 **Alfie** – Dorothy Watson 🐾 **Gene Allen** – Charlene Bubb 🐾 **Lillian Allen** – Robert Allen 🐾 **Genevieve Altieri** – Julie Cornillie 🐾 **Elijah Anthony** – Amy Anthony 🐾 **Courtney Marie Antrum** – Clarissa Lynn Leon 🐾 **Dr. Rick Arnold** – Margaret Ferguson & Gerald Granville 🐾 **Meri Arsenault** – Donna Arsenault 🐾 **Robert Astrella** – Kathleen Astrella 🐾 **Elizabeth “Tish” Alden Willson Auerbacher** – Laura Hardin 🐾 **Albert Baldassarri** – Joyce Baldassarri 🐾 **William Joseph Barr** – Jennifer Young 🐾 **Colleen Becks** – Jennifer Becks 🐾 **Robert Beering** – Eileen Beering 🐾 **George Robert Cornell Bergin** – Clara Bergin 🐾 **Louis W “Bill” Bray** – Kelly Bray Bodiford; Wanda Jarrett 🐾 **Barbara & George Brimmer** – MaryBeth, Pie, & Petey 🐾 **Anita Broderick** – Betsy Chmielewski 🐾 **Bryan “BB” Brokaw** – Jannett Brokaw 🐾 **Brody Brooks** – Jennifer Brooks 🐾 **Dolores Brown** – Betsy Chmielewski 🐾 **Ed Buro** – Mildred Buro 🐾 **William Charles “Bill” Cannons** – Susan Knapp; Claudia Smallbein 🐾 **Micca Carduner** – Nancy & Joe Saufl 🐾 **Maurice Caro** – M.J. Caro 🐾 **Billy & Mataline Carroll** – Mary Carroll 🐾 **Melissa & David Cervený** – Deborah Lanning 🐾 **Claudia Horning Clark** – Connie Diamond 🐾 **Joyce E. Coffman** – Robert Leete 🐾 **Dr. Dorothy E Corbin** – CarolAnn Corbin; Ruth Haeseker; Vera D Leforce; Teresa Marshall 🐾 **Olga Marie Cornett** – Denise Werk 🐾 **Charlie Craig** – Betsy Craig 🐾 **Patricia Culler** – Dr & Mrs Dennis Acquaro; Carol & Will Akers; Bobbie Ashford; Jennifer Becks; Mark & Jerri Blanford; Hyatt & Cici Brown; Richard & Anne Brown; Locke & Ann Burt; Miriam & Merritt Collier; Sheryl Cook; Tom & Sherry Dargan; Sally Dock; Sam & Cheryl Dunn; Margaret Ferguson & Gerald Granville; Kathleen Hanson; Adam & Melissa Kearney; David & Teresa Kendall; Donna Lemnoui; Nancy & Lowell Lohman; Anne & George Martin; Wes & Dianne Martin; Margaret & Howard Mayo; Aline & Robert McDaniel; Carol Owens; Barbara & David Perryman; Bert & Julie Reames; Sandra Rossmeyer; John Richard Ryals; Karl Saenger; Wendy & Paul Scott; Steven & Irene Shaw; Mandy & Stan Stockhammer; Michelle & Roger Strcula; Bob & MaryAnne Trumbull; Christine, Ryan & Adam Utter; Tom & Minnabeth Wilkinson; Bolerjack, Halsema, Bowling & White PA; Cobb Cole; Cunningham AC, Oil & Heat; Keyes, Stange & Wooten; SR Perrott 🐾 **Mary Lou Dalzell** – Gene Dalzell 🐾 **Geri Davidson** – Silver Crossman 🐾 **John Dieffenderfer** – Elizabeth Dieffenderfer 🐾 **Winston Donahue** – Judi Donahue 🐾 **Brenda Dunn** – Kari Moore 🐾 **Dottie Dunnebie** – Donna Davis 🐾 **John Eichler** – Suzanne Eichler 🐾 **Marie Eikenberry** – Stacy McDaniel 🐾 **Ken Ekland** – Nancy & Joseph Saufl 🐾 **Marna Etner** – Morrell Etner 🐾 **Marty Evans** – Nancy Hersey 🐾 **Anthony Ferree** – The Langs 🐾 **Tim Fryar** – Narda Fryar 🐾 **Marion Fulk** – Bill & Donna Kisbany 🐾 **Mary Calvin Goetz** – Lisa & Roberto Di Nicolo 🐾 **Irene R. Gordon** – Adrienne Norman 🐾

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(continued on page 24)





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**Steve & Jen O'Dwyer, along with their rescues, Rosie & Nugget, proudly sponsor the Halifax Humane Society.**

# MELVIN D. STACK

## Attorney at Law

## HHS Board President

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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 more information about HHS programs and funding needs, please contact HHS Development Manager Michelle Hebb at **(386) 274-4703 ext. 318**.

**444 Seabreeze Boulevard, Suite 1003 • Daytona Beach, FL 32118**



# MEMORIALS

(continued from page 24)

**Justin Richburg** – Karen Mitchell; Jan & John Meinardi  
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# HONORARIUMS

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Gifts  
Received September 16, 2020 – March 22, 2021

## In Honor Of – By

**72 Rescued Pussycats** – Debbie Young-Groves **Fay & Mike Abate** – Lou Abate; Ashleigh Augustine; Renee Capriola; Raegan Cury; Christina Louizes; Jock Young **AC** – Sue Johnson **All 5 of our cats** – Harrison & Jane Slaughter **All animals** – Mary Lane & Royce Hood **All animals who live** – Royce & Mary Lane Hood **All God's Creatures** – Peggy Hauck **All my fur babies** – Cathy Measel **All my fur babies** – Iris Musa **Animals in need** – Amy Krill **Any homeless or abused animal** – Wendy & Gary Caples **Babe Pollitz-Babcock** –





LOWELL & NANCY  
LOHMAN



*"Snowball is very happy to announce that Halifax Humane Society  
has attained a no-kill shelter status since January 2020."*

*Lowell and Nancy Lohman*



YTD 2021

95.51%

Live Release Rate =  
NO KILL STATUS

CONGRATULATIONS!



# HONORARIUMS

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# PET MEMORIALS

**Abby** – Jean Carter 🐾 **Abigail (Abby)** – Rick, Sharon, & Kari Hinton 🐾 **Alfie** – Joie Alexander 🐾 **Alfie** – Patricia Ozmeral 🐾 **Alfie Maloney** – Dorothy Watson 🐾 **All animals** – Frances McConnell 🐾 **All animals who died** – Royce & Mary Lane Hood 🐾 **All the animals that didn't get a forever home** – Amie Davis 🐾 **All the dogs who filled our lives and passed over the rainbow bridge** – Karen Galles 🐾 **Angel** – Cynthia Gruis 🐾 **Ayasha** – Elizabeth Kernf & Y-K Bya 🐾 **Babi, Little Boy, and Annie** – George Rizzuto 🐾 **Bailey, Cooper, & Lucky** – Kathy T Stigers 🐾 **Barkley** – Lizz & Matt Focazio 🐾 **Baxter** – Jerry McCoy 🐾 **Bear** – Maritza & Roger Patterson 🐾 **Bear** – Marla & Mark Veenstra 🐾 **Beau** – Jody Barbacci 🐾 **Ben** – Lida, Bob, Louisa & Nat Krause 🐾 **Bert the Bear** – Stacy Roberts 🐾 **Biggie** – Christine LaVoie 🐾 **Bo / Chico Josie** – Cathy Measel 🐾 **Bogie** – Sharon & Robert Weinberg 🐾 **Boots & Nipper** – Toni Cahill 🐾 **Brandy** – Gary & Maureen Finley 🐾 **Bristol the Goat** – Geraldine Petersmark 🐾 **Brody Brooks** – Jennifer Brooks 🐾 **Bryan** – Scott & Paula Wehr 🐾 **Buddy** – Antonio Haseman 🐾 **Buddy** – Jane Conners 🐾 **Buddy** – Janet & Eddie Boggs 🐾 **Buster** – Eneida Likes 🐾 **Buzz** – Bertha Tyson 🐾 **Caddy** – Hildy Fosse Sanderson 🐾 **Callie** – Kristen Davis 🐾 **Casey** – Rebecca Worley 🐾 **Cassie & Bama** – Paulette & Tom West 🐾 **Chalky** – Kay Penning 🐾 **Charlie & Smokey** – Juidth Kerr 🐾 **Cheebe** – Steve Ching 🐾 **Chewbacca** – James Matthew 🐾 **Chico** – Erin McDervitt 🐾 **Chloe & Molly** – Mary Nilsson 🐾 **Coco Baci** – Charlene Genova 🐾 **Coda** – Sally Sprague 🐾 **Cody & Smokey** – Mark Campbell 🐾 **Cookie & Moose** – Tamara & Terry Rains 🐾 **Corky** – Dr. Kathryn Nass 🐾 **Cramer** – Maritza Patterson 🐾 **Cuda & KoKo** – Vicki Yose 🐾 **Daisy** – Cherry Reed 🐾 **Darik** – Tatiana Kaledin 🐾 **Davinci, Chloe, Mookie, and "BK"** – Ellen Lometti 🐾 **Dillon** – Charlotte Hall 🐾 **Dixie** – Diane Marsh 🐾 **Elizabeth Hovorka** – Susan Couper 🐾 **Ellie - beloved dog** – Judith Anderson 🐾 **Emmy, Duke & Bingo** – Christopher Crescenzo 🐾 **Finley** – Alexis Wojcik 🐾



(Continued from Page 26.)

**Flagler** – Elizabeth Lanzo 🐾 **Fluffy & Lucky** – Don Hietala 🐾  
**Fritz** – Lisa Ford 🐾 **Ginger** – Lynn Sylvester 🐾 **Ginger & Spunky**  
– Barbara Crittenden 🐾 **Gingersnap** – Denise Anderson 🐾 **Given-**  
**chy** – Soutsaychay Souvannasone 🐾 **Gizmo, Corky, Sulu, Wolf,**  
**and Peanut** – Dorothy & Jim Fogg 🐾 **Gracie** – Brenda Prevost 🐾  
**Gypsy** – Rita Borovac 🐾 **Haley** – Marianne Panes 🐾 **Hansi** – Laura  
King 🐾 **Harpo Pender** – Lynda Wilson 🐾 **Harrison** – Lois Man-  
dell 🐾 **Harley** – Robert Jessie 🐾 **Henry** – Tom & Cindy Fowler 🐾  
**Hilda** – Charles Hall 🐾 **Hooch & Buddy** – Karin & Michael Watson  
🐾 **HotRod** – Kim Pruitt 🐾 **Jackie, JoJo 1, JoJo 2, Dand, Missie,**  
**and Flossie** – Marian Pipes 🐾 **Jacy Tucker** – Katherine & Donald  
Tucker 🐾 **Joel Moses** – Sandra Zimbley 🐾 **Joey** – Helen Mueller  
🐾 **Jordan, Penny, Toby, Duke & Wally** – Lucille Griswold 🐾 **K9**  
**Poker, retired Military dog** – Fred Pope 🐾 **Karen & Pepper** –  
Judith Anderson 🐾 **Kaylee** – George Colby 🐾 **Kia** – Joan Clements  
🐾 **Kitty** – Paula Richards 🐾 **Lady Lucille** – Gina Triboletti 🐾 **Lexi**  
**& Lena** – Carol Calache 🐾 **Lilli** – Jacquelyn & Raphael Friedl 🐾  
**Lilly** – Bill & Susan Voges 🐾 **Lilly & Lucy** – Terri Hopkins 🐾 **Little**  
**Buddy** – Matthew Forester 🐾 **Liza** – Susan & David Moore 🐾 **Lo-**  
**retta** – Stephanie & Christopher Hill 🐾 **Lucky and Maxi** – Kathleen  
Yeager 🐾 **Lucy** – Beth & Dave Dragovich 🐾 **Lucy aka LuLu** – Kelly  
Thompson 🐾 **Maggie** – Ann Dagianis 🐾 **Maggie** – Linda & Edwin  
White 🐾 **Magic & Zeus** – Leah & Gary Jones 🐾 **Mandy** – Nancy &  
Lowell Lohman 🐾 **Mandy** – Pat Rice & Joni Hunt 🐾 **Mariah** – Jamie  
Lee Hawes 🐾 **Mario Cat** – Jane Glover 🐾 **Max & Barry** – Danuta  
Olechowski 🐾 **Max & Rusty** – Dave Morgan 🐾 **Maximus** – Carolyn  
Brewer 🐾 **Maya Pretty** – Meegan Wilmot 🐾 **Meri** – Donna Arse-  
nault 🐾 **Micca Carduner** – Nancy & Joseph Saufl 🐾 **Milo & Twila**  
– Parker & Kay Smith 🐾 **Ming Toi** – Susan Smith 🐾 **Miss B** – Leslie  
Young 🐾 **Miss Kitty** – Delores & George Metzger 🐾 **Miss Kitty** –  
Jean Miller Burkett 🐾 **Missy, Brandi, Scarlett, Remington, Seed,**  
**Calli, Max, & Midnight** – Julian Bergman 🐾 **Molly** – Margaret Little  
🐾 **Molly & Chloe** – Mary Nilsson 🐾 **Mr. Peep** – Michelle Waldow  
🐾 **Muffin** – Janice Griffith 🐾 **Muffin** – Mary Malewicz 🐾 **Muffin** –  
Patra & Michael Petrea 🐾 **Muffin & Katie** – Patricia Thigpen 🐾  
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**Noah** – Gary & Maureen Finley 🐾 **Ollie & Ruby** – Sheila Sullivan  
🐾 **Oreo** – Ralph Driscoll 🐾 **Patches** – Sheila & Randy Griffith 🐾  
**Penny** – Dot Davis 🐾 **Pepe** – Janie DeNoon 🐾 **Pepper** – Joyce  
Sherburne 🐾 **Pets of the past** – Joe Phillips 🐾 **Pookie** – Steve Ch-  
ing 🐾 **Prince Will Racin** – Mary & David Norris 🐾 **Prissy & Tigger**  
– Betty Miller 🐾 **Puck & Gizmo** – Maria & John Larsh 🐾 **Pumpkin** –  
Nancy Talbott 🐾 **Reese** – Shirley James 🐾 **Rosie** – Nancy Red-  
mond 🐾 **Ruger** – Margaret Ferguson & Gerald Granville 🐾 **Russell**  
– Robert Dietz 🐾 **Rusty** – Lynn Brown 🐾 **Sam** – Timothy Talbot 🐾  
**Samantha** – Nancy Doyle 🐾 **Samantha & Webster** – Ronald Heide  
🐾 **Sammy** – Scott & Christine Tuell 🐾 **Sandy** – John & Margaret  
Stumberger 🐾 **Scout** – Charlotte Stiller 🐾 **Seamus** – Joyce Ander-  
son 🐾 **Seamus** – Laura & Richard Nobles 🐾 **Sheba** – Jeannette  
Gwaldis 🐾 **Sid** – Lisa & Ed Petroski 🐾 **Simba** – Debra Hibdon 🐾  
**Snowball** – Elaine Pendleton 🐾 **Snuggles** – Bob Barry 🐾 **Solo,**  
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**and Duke** – Helen Arkenberg 🐾 **Taz, Duke, & Buster** – Terri Gray-  
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**Westy** – Blanche Nelson 🐾 **Willy & Cochise Feagle** – Carla Feagle  
🐾 **Wolfie** – Judith Schroder 🐾 **Woogie** – Ruben Torres 🐾 **Wrig-**  
**ley** – Ginette Tascarella 🐾 **Zeus** – Cathy & Bob Manning 🐾 **Zeus &**  
**Magic** – Leah & Gary Jones 🐾 **Zoe** – Frances Horn

## ORMOND BEACH VETERINARY CLINIC- DR. BURKE

**Abby** 🐾 **Bandit** 🐾 **Blu** 🐾 **Bristol** 🐾 **Brownie** 🐾 **Buddy** 🐾  
**Buddy** 🐾 **Buddy** 🐾 **Charlie** 🐾 **Charlie** 🐾 **Chewy** 🐾 **Coal-**  
**B** 🐾 **Cocoa** 🐾 **Curly** 🐾 **Dani** 🐾 **Dimitri** 🐾 **Foxy** 🐾 **Giz** 🐾  
**Gracie** 🐾 **Harley** 🐾 **Honey** 🐾 **Hurley** 🐾 **Issac** 🐾 **Jack** 🐾  
**Jake** 🐾 **Jeter** 🐾 **Julie Bean** 🐾 **Junior** 🐾 **Lilly** 🐾 **Liy** 🐾 **LuLu**  
🐾 **Luvy Dovey** 🐾 **Maggie** 🐾 **Maggie** 🐾 **MaiTai** 🐾 **Mako** 🐾  
**Manny** 🐾 **Marley** 🐾 **Mav Mav** 🐾 **Misty** 🐾 **Molly** 🐾 **Pearl**  
🐾 **Phamae** 🐾 **Ping** 🐾 **Poe** 🐾 **Prince OB** 🐾 **Puppy Pafford**  
🐾 **Remmie** 🐾 **Riley** 🐾 **Roger** 🐾 **Rosie** 🐾 **Roxy** 🐾 **Sabrina**  
🐾 **Sammy** 🐾 **Seamus** 🐾 **Sheba** 🐾 **Sherman** 🐾 **Smokey** 🐾  
**Star** 🐾 **Taylor** 🐾 **Tessa** 🐾 **Tilue** 🐾 **Tinkerbelle** 🐾 **Toula** 🐾  
**Tsuki** 🐾 **Tweedy** 🐾 **Wrigley** 🐾 **Xena**

Thank you Dr. Burke!







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.

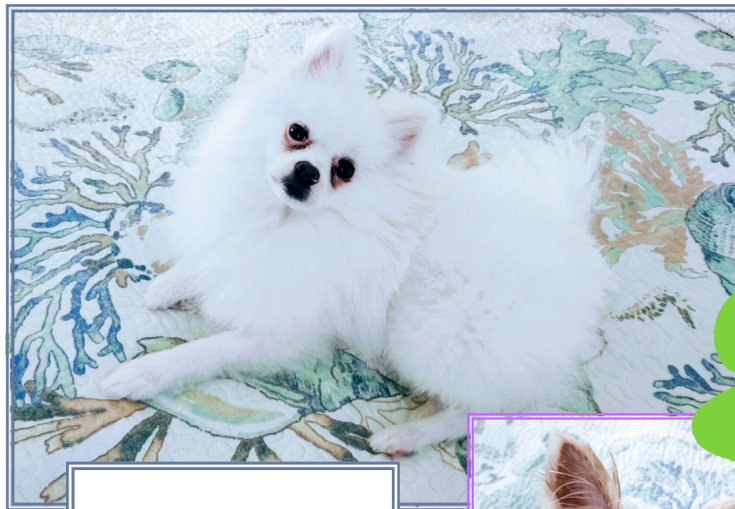
In admiration of all HHS volunteers and donors who give so generously.

*Nanette McKeel Petrella*

2019 Volunteer of the Year, Foster Mom, Annual Sponsor



Samson



Mac



Delilah







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## Animal Transports & Off-Site Locations



By Zoe Beriss

An essential but often overlooked part of animal welfare involves a simple concept: transport. Between staff and volunteer assistance, ensuring that we have efficient transport helps our shelter care for animals in need, send animals to their

forever home, and much more. Not only do we frequently bring in animals from outside shelters and

cats is only eight days, which means most find their forever home roughly a week after arriving!

In addition to transport help, we utilize volunteers to care for many of these off-site cats. At both PetSmart locations, cats are thoroughly cared for by a hardworking group of dedicated volunteers. These folks care for the cats at least twice a day to feed them, clean their litter, and of course, give them plenty of love and socialization! Our volunteers are instrumental in both keeping these cats well-cared for and helping them get ready for their new homes.

While less frequent, our longer transports are just as important. We regularly arrange to have volunteers and HHS staff transport dogs from outside shelters to our facility to help with overcrowding and other issues.

We have transported animals from shelters as far as Gainesville and the Jacksonville area, including some dogs that came to our shelter specifically for life-saving treatment.

We could not do this work without the dedication of our staff, transport



rescues that need assistance, but we also partner with local pet stores and other organizations to help promote our animals into their perfect forever homes. The transports involve both staff and volunteers alike, so keep reading to find out how you might be able to help!

Our most frequent transport involves shelter cats that we send to our off-site locations, namely our local PetSmart and Pet Supermarket stores. At least twice a week, cats are placed at each of the locations to showcase them and help get them to their new home as quickly as possible. We have a total of 22 kennels at these off-site pet stores, which means we can open up more space at the shelter and take in other cats in need. We've found that the average length of stay for these

volunteers, and foster volunteers that help give these animals the care they need until they are ready for adoption.

If you're interested in helping with transports, animal care volunteering, or simply want to learn how else you can help, please contact our Volunteer Manager at [VolunteerManager@HalifaxHumaneSociety.org](mailto:VolunteerManager@HalifaxHumaneSociety.org), or (386) 274-4703 ext. 319.





## Michelle Pari Named Humanitarian of the Year

Michelle Pari, COO of Halifax Humane Society officially retired January 29, 2021 after 28 years of dedication and commitment to our community's animals. On February 11, 2021 the Board of Directors and leadership staff paid tribute to Michelle by celebrating her retirement and awarding her the Lee C. and Patricia Culler Humanitarian Award of the Year for 2020.

A video was presented recapping Michelle's career and accomplishments. Mel Stack, board President, presented Michelle with the Humanitarian Award. Michelle's husband, Mark joined Michelle in front of the Employee and Volunteer Break Room, dedicated to the Pari's for both of their contributions to Halifax Humane Society.



(Above left - Mel Stack and Michelle Pari receiving the Humanitarian of the Year Award. Right - Michelle and Mark Pari in front of the newly dedicated break room. Below - Board members and executive staff with Michelle.)



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# “Tails” From the Retail Front

By Meg Evans, Thrift Store Manager



Adopting and fostering animals is a huge commitment and let's face it...sometimes life just gets in the way. I know so many people who love animals but for any number of reasons, they just cannot adopt or foster. Luckily, there are ways they can still help the animals here in our community...and they do!

Here at the HHS Thrift Store we have three ways you can help: Volunteer, Donate, & Shop!

**Volunteer:** We are always looking for volunteers! Even just a few hours a month can make a huge difference. Never worked in retail? We can show you! From receiving and sorting donations to helping customers and organizing displays within the store, there are many rewarding ways to help us make a difference! For details on how you can become a volunteer, contact our Volunteer Manager at (386) 274-4703 ext. 319.

**Donate:** Have you recently done some spring (or quarantine) cleaning leaving you with “stuff” you no longer want or need? We accept gently used items including appliances, books, clothing and accessories, electronics, furniture, household items, linens, pet supplies, and more! And who knows...an item you no longer need may be exactly what someone else is looking for! Items that would have otherwise ended up in a landfill are resold in the store to raise much-needed funds to support our animal welfare programs.

Donations are welcome daily until 3pm, or until we have reached capacity. We offer free donation pick up on Tuesdays and Saturdays for large items. For more information about items we accept or to schedule a pick up, contact our store at (386) 322-7717.

*“Saving animals with every purchase!”*

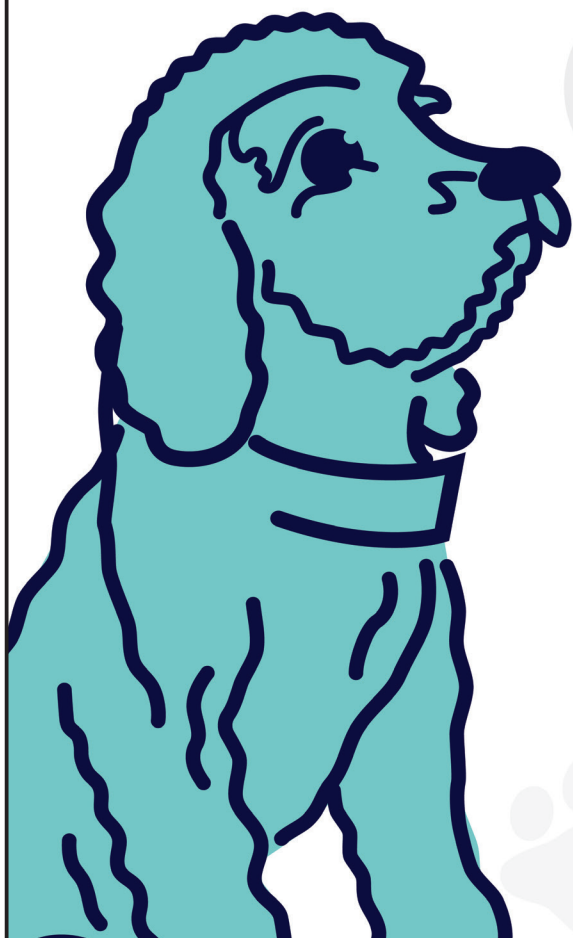
**Shop:** Yes, you read that right! You can save animals with every purchase! Our store is 5,000 square feet of new and gently used merchandise, all at amazing prices. With new items arriving daily, there is always something new to discover! Well-behaved, leashed pets are welcome to visit with you!

Additionally, we have an eBay store where you can shop 24/7! You can find everything from collectibles and jewelry to designer clothing, purses, and shoes. With new items for sale at any given time, you never know what treasures you may find!

We are located at 333 W. Granada Blvd., in Ormond Beach, on the west side of the building, behind ACE Hardware. Open 7 days a week, our store hours are Sunday and Wednesday from 12-5pm and the rest of the week from 10am-5pm. Follow us on Facebook at HHS Thrift Store or on eBay at: [www.ebay.com/usr/hhsthiftstore](http://www.ebay.com/usr/hhsthiftstore). *Hope to see you soon!*







## We are proud to support the Halifax Humane Society!

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# Ask the Animal Trainer

By: Marie Hughes

*I love the bonding time I get with my dog during our walks, I just wish he didn't pull so much on his leash. I know he's excited to be out for the walk, but my shoulder (and nerves!) can't take much more...what can I do? Pulling in Port Orange*

Dear Pulling,

Leash walking can be exhausting, and not just because of the cardio if your dog is dragging you along. Dogs often find great reward in pulling at the end of their leash, because we are often accidentally encouraging it; when your dog begins to pull, do you tend to move more quickly as well to keep up the pace? A great way to work with a pulling dog is to simply stop walking if they pull, and continue along once there is slack in the leash again. By only allowing the walk to continue when the dog is keeping slack in the leash, you are letting them know that there is no reward in pulling ahead, without offering a harsh correction out of frustration - nothing bad will happen if you pull... because nothing will happen at all!

*Our dog begs at the table while we are eating dinner-she's even stolen food from our plates! We love having her included in everything we do as a family, but this may be where we have to draw the line. How can we set boundaries while keeping her included? Begging in Brooksville*

Dear Begging,

I'm not surprised your pup has made a habit of begging, as it sounds like she has found it to be rewarding thus far. The times when she has successfully snacked off your plate have reinforced the notion that begging will, if even only occasionally, come with a great treat! I also understand wanting your furry family member to be included during family time. A nice compromise may be setting up a space in the dining area where your dog can remain until meal time is over. Teaching a cue like "Go to Place" or "Go to Mat" while encouraging her to sit or lay on a dog bed or blanket may help your dog to feel rewarded during family meal time, without risking her eating something she shouldn't. Encourage your dog to go to her "Place" by tossing some of her treats onto the mat and allowing her to move onto the mat herself to eat the treats. Continue to reinforce the mat as a positive and rewarding space by giving your dog treats when she is demonstrating appropriate

behavior, such as sitting or lying down, on the mat. This way, your dog can still be present during family gatherings, without begging at your side.

*We adopted a new dog from the animal shelter a couple days ago and it seems like he is still a little nervous in our home. We really like him and we want this to work, but we are worried we may have to return him. What should we do to help him adjust to his new life with us? Welcome Home in West Volusia*

Dear Welcome Home,

We know moving can be stressful, and your new pet feels the same way! Going into a new home from a shelter or kennel environment can be overwhelming for any pet. It's important to give your new pet time to get used to his new family and home, before introducing him to strangers. We know how exciting it is to bring a new pet into your home and it's equally exciting to introduce him to everyone close to you; however, you should give your new pet time to get used to the people (and animals) living in his new home before having him meet new people (or animals). For the first few days, remain calm and quiet around your pet, limiting too much excitement (such as the dog park, neighborhood gatherings, or parties). Not only will this allow your pet to settle in easier, it will give you more one-on-one time to get to know him and his likes/dislikes. You don't know the exact history of your new pet and what training and socializing he has experienced in the past so take your time and be patient. And finally, as a family, design a daily schedule or routine that you would like to establish; consistency can be the key to helping an unsure pet adjust to their new life with you!



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## HALIFAX HUMANE SOCIETY

Spring 2021

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# 2020 REVIEW



**ADOPTIONS**  
3604



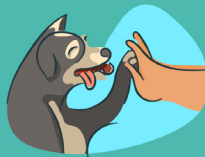
**FOSTERS**  
794



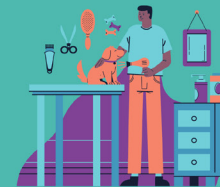
**RETURN TO  
OWNER**  
511



**OWNER  
SURRENDER**  
1610



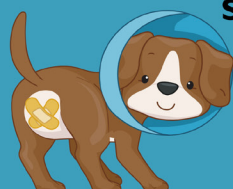
**LIVE RELEASE  
RATE**  
92.91%



**BOARDING/  
GROOMING**  
1175



**ANIMAL  
ENRICHMENT**  
3400



**SPAY/NEUTER**  
9793



**TOTAL  
ANIMALS  
SERVICED**  
26,133