FOSTERING SUCCESS
Summertime may be the most practical time for adoption.

FOSTERING COMPASSION
Shelter staff parent seven pups.

THE CAT’S MEOW
Thanks to a fee-waived adoption program, 160 cats have new homes.

THE STATE OF SHELTERING
Amid the no-kill revolution.

Food For Thought
Our pet food bank program helps pets remain at home.
PLEASE RELEASE ME (LET ME GO)

To waste my life would be a sin,
so release me and let me love again!

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On August 15, shelters nationwide held “Clear the Shelters Day.” At the Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County, we wanted to make the event last longer than one day, so we waived adoption fees for the summer. The results were amazing. In June and July alone, more than 350 animals found loving homes: 205 cats, 121 dogs and more than 30 birds, bunnies and hamsters.

To our many adopters, thank you for making a difference in an animal’s life. I am sure the experience will change your life too, as well as touch your heart. Thank you to our “Adoption Buddies” who made our “Clear the Shelter” summer such a success. The Adoption Buddies are volunteers and friends who can’t take home more animals, so they sponsor adoption fees for others, which helps cover an animal’s care at the shelter. For more information on becoming an Adoption Buddy and to help continue clearing the shelter, call the adoption desk at 772-388-3331.

Even with the success of our summer program, sadly more animals have filled the vacated spaces. Why? The lack of spaying and neutering pets brings us countless unwanted animals. In the past 12 months, the Humane Society’s Wellness Clinic has spayed and neutered more than 1,500 animals to help reduce the population of unwanted pets. We have a serious nationwide problem with unwanted animals and the solution is sterilization.

If you know someone with an unsterilized dog or cat, please explain the importance of having their pet spayed or neutered. Tell them to see their vet or contact the Humane Society. Our clinic is willing and able to spay or neuter dogs and cats for a low fee and in some cases financial assistance is available. At the same time, why not make sure your pet is current on all core vaccines and get a micro-chip to help ensure they return home. Give our clinic a call at 772-388-0801.

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Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.
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An animal’s eyes have the power to speak a great language.
– Martin Buber

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Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this.

– Anonymous

Don’t accept your dog’s admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.

– Ann Landers
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When people think about what to donate to an animal shelter, often pet food is the first item that comes to mind. What most people don’t know is that feeding a shelter animal a constantly changing diet of food can lead to lots of tummy upset and as a result, an unhappy animal – just like us if we eat something too rich or too spicy.

So what can we do? Here at the Humane Society we are fortunate to be partnered with Hills-Science Diet, which provides all the dry dog and cat food for our shelter animals. But that doesn’t answer the question of what to do with all the generous donations of other pet foods.

For many years we have donated food to people that need financial assistance so they can keep their pet at home where it belongs, rather than surrendering the animal to the shelter. When the economy took a downturn in 2008 we began seeing more and more people relinquish their beloved animals due to financial constraints. Many of these situations involved home foreclosures where people were faced with the often difficult task of finding rental housing that would accommodate their pets, or perhaps they were moving in with extended family that had pet allergies. Those that were able to keep their pets were also facing circumstances including unemployment, decreased wages and other issues leading to their inability to care for their animal’s basic needs. So our Pet Food Bank program was born.

The Humane Society’s Pet Food Bank program was developed with the individual pet owner in mind. As we had in the past we continued to give food to pet families that reached out for help when they had no place else to turn. Many of these pet lovers wanted to give back to the organization by volunteering, and we needed help with easy everyday chores such as laundry, interior window cleaning and other simple maintenance.

We developed an application that would help us track who was receiving assistance, how many pets they needed it for and what else they needed help with such as vaccinations, spay/neuter services and heartworm prevention. Then we offered our participants the opportunity to volunteer two hours of their time in exchange for a month’s supply of food for their animals. Pet owners were so pleased with the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our shelter’s animals that many started volunteering more than once a month.

As time went on others that help those in need reached out to us and we began supplying agencies such as The Source, Meals on Wheels and Harvest Food Bank with pet food to stock their shelves or to be delivered to those in need.

We watched our animal intake numbers begin to fall and we cheered – because that meant that reaching out and helping families made the difference between their animals staying at home or losing their family. So when you see sales or BOGO deals on pet food, please remember that buying an extra bag and dropping it off at the shelter or one of our thrift stores means another animal will get to stay home.
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The Cat’s Meow
Thanks to a fee-waived adoption program, 160 cats were adopted in five weeks.
By Phaedra Kohler

Over the summer we decided to try our hand with some new promotions. Shelters all over the country have had success running free or fee-waived campaigns for both cats and dogs, re-homing thousands of animals while keeping their time in the shelter very short. We can now count ourselves among those success stories.

Some of you might ask why we waited so long to try this method of increasing adoptions or whether the animals are going to good homes. You might wonder how we know if the animal will be cared for properly or how the adopter can afford to take care of the animal if they can’t afford the adoption fee. The reason we have waited so long to try this method is that we have been asking ourselves the very same questions. We ask the questions and then look at the research. Question, research, repeat … we have been doing that for a long time and each time there is more to learn and more success with fee-waived adoptions.

Here is a snippet of the results of a study done at the Edmonton Humane Society by Dr. Margaret Slater of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and published on the ASPCA’s website:

The study from November 2011 to February 2013 analyzed surveys of 344 adopters who participated in one of six fee-waived events held at the shelter during that time. What makes this research particularly powerful is that it directly compares 138 non fee-waived adopters to 206 fee-waived adopters at the same shelter during the same time period.

Edmonton’s fee-waived promotions were often seasonal, and long-term shelter residents and older cats were always included. “Based on our research, fee-waived adoptions are well worth considering as a way to increase live releases,” says Dr. Slater.

The latest research at the society bolsters that theory with exciting findings:
• Regardless of fee status, most adopters brought their cats for follow-up veterinary care.
• Fee-waived cats were just as likely to remain in their homes as non-fee waived cats.
• More than 80 percent of the people who participated in the fee-waived study said they "strongly agree" that EHS considers cats to be valuable and that they would adopt from EHS again. This is important information for shelters to have to alleviate fears that the public will get a false impression that fee-waived cats are not valued.

Our cat rooms were full to capacity. We had litters of kittens in foster homes that would soon be returning to us healthy and ready for adoption. We had several wonderful cats that had been overlooked by adopters for several months. We needed people to know that we had all of these wonderful cats and we needed those people to come to the shelter!

So we decided to try a fee-waived promotion. We posted on Facebook, we hung posters and handed out flyers, and we asked for radio advertisements. Special thanks to Treasure & Space Coast Radio – The Breeze, Jack FM, Hot Country, Ocean FM and WTTB News Radio – for their help in promoting cat adoptions. We tripled our normal adoption rate of cats within a couple weeks and have sent home hundreds this summer! Thank you to all those who adopted a cat from us and to all those who helped get them adopted.

Now it’s time to start the process again, only this time it’s the dogs’ turn. 🐾
A Class Act

This year the Humane Society offered a summer program with fifteen classes. Each class focused on a different aspect of animal care as well as being kind to animals. Designed for children ages eight to 11, the Humane Society’s classes included an introduction to veterinary medicine, dog care and training, cat care, Junior Humane Officer training and animal photography.

During the veterinary basics class, children explored the world of shelter medicine. Fundamental animal care concepts were addressed as children examined animals, viewed harmful parasites under a microscope and watched the shelter’s veterinarian perform spay/neuter surgeries in our Wellness Clinic. After learning about our community’s serious pet overpopulation program and the importance of spaying and neutering, the children worked in “surgical teams” to perform mock spay surgeries on stuffed animals.

Our dog care and training class gave students the chance to explore more advanced canine care concepts. With the help of volunteers Michelle Smith, Carol Mershon, Jean Siegel, Ellen Powers and Sherry Anderson, as well as their five therapy dogs, children carefully inspected each animal from top to bottom. During the training module, Sherry taught the children how to use positive reinforcement. Equipped with treats and clickers, the kids tried their hand at training the shelter dogs as well as her golden retriever Gabriel.

For feline fanatics, the Humane Society offered a class on cat care. Using disposable stethoscopes, kids spent their mornings examining kittens. “Was that a purr or a heartbeat?” asked one student as she listened intently to one kitten’s chest. Students also socialized and helped staff care for shelter cats, then wrapped up their day by making toys and distributing them throughout the cat adoption area.

A recent addition to our class roster is the Humane Society’s Junior Humane Officer training program. Children explored concepts of humane animal treatment and investigated staged scenarios. Using stuffed animals to illustrate real animal concerns, the students went on “animal welfare calls” involving a dog left inside a hot car, a chained dog left outside and two horses in need. The morning concluded with a ceremony where each child received a certificate of achievement and a special Junior Humane Officer dog tag.

Each week concluded with a class in animal photography. After getting a few tips on photo composition, the students photographed dogs, cats, farm animals, small animals and even the Humane Society’s mascot Mooshu, the famous Bearded Dragon.

The shelter offers half-day classes every summer for three weeks and periodically throughout the school year. For information about our 2016 classes call 772-571-6418 or visit www.hsvb.org.

Catching Fire

The Humane Society is located on 38 acres in central Indian River County. Twenty acres are dedicated to our adoption/administration building, admissions building, Off-Leash Dog Park for Humane Society members, outdoor pavilion, Benedict Dog Park for shelter animals, agility training field and livestock complex with surrounding pastures. The remaining 18 acres are preserved in support of our mission to protect all animals including native wildlife.

We would like to thank the Division of Forestry for assisting us in our land management and environmental stewardship efforts. After several months of waiting for just the right weather conditions, they were able to burn our back 18 acres in July. The plants and animals of the pinewoods – fox squirrels, gopher tortoises, scrub jays, red cockaded woodpeckers, wire grass and longleaf pines – are accustomed to frequent fires and depend on them to survive.
In the Same Boat

Karen and Roger Marcil, owners of Our Boat House, hosted a fundraiser on April 30 to celebrate the launch of their Boat House Coastal Comfort Collection from Mitchell Gold and Bob Williams. The evening featured a silent and live auction, cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and live music. Proceeds from the silent and live auction were donated to the Humane Society.

They’re Top Dogs

This year’s sellout 31st annual Cause For Paws gala was held on March 23 at the beautiful Oak Harbor Clubhouse. It was the most successful Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County fundraising event to date thanks to Co-Chairs Bonnie Spitzmiller and Mary Ryan, Director of Events Connie Cotherman, and the tireless volunteers and generous sponsors, underwriters, donors and supporters.

Upon arrival guests were greeted with licks and wags from seven of our adoptable shelter dogs and two cats, most of whom were adopted that evening. Attendees enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres while they mingled and viewed the wide range of silent auction items on display in the lobby that could also be viewed on their BidPal mobile bidding devices.

The decorating committee, chaired by Susan Jewett and including Marsha Freeman, Leslie Cameron, Jeff Case, Annette Miller, Kitty Mountain and Dale Olah, created a whimsical and festive atmosphere with their lighted birdhouse centerpieces and animal figurines along with brightly colored napkins.

During a delicious meal prepared by Vero’s Best – Chef Dean – bidders took part in the live auction that included several attractive trip packages, a Lemur Reserve Tour for Eight, local artist Ann Weibel’s impressionist painting, a Blue Dog Silkscreen print, and the popular Le Diner A Votre Maison Pour Dix hosted by Board President Fritz Spitzmiller, Cause For Paws Co-Chair and board member Mary Ryan, Executive Director Chalmers Morse and Director of Development and Marketing Russ Isaac. The evening concluded with dessert and a cappella entertainment by the MIT Chorallaries.

Manager Jennifer Downes and Dining Room Manager Erin Reyer, as well as the entire Oak Harbor staff graciously accommodated the needs of guests and helped to make the evening flow smoothly. “We are absolutely delighted with the results of the evening and the many compliments we have received from attendees,” said Isaac. “Thanks to each and every person who contributed to the success of this wonderful event!”

Save the date: Next year’s Cause For Paws will be held on March 21, 2016 at the Oak Harbor Clubhouse.

What a Blessing

150 people and their pets attended the annual Blessing of the Animals on May 9. Father Rodriguez and Father Murbarger of Trinity Episcopal Church blessed the animals. Music was performed by the Vero Beach High School Woodwinds Ensemble and a special plaque was presented to Dogs for Life for their commitment to animal welfare.
Save The Date, November 15, 2015, 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Rain date December 6, 2015

Cheers to all of the dogs and dog lovers in Vero Beach. This is an event that you and your dog don't want to miss.

Free admission, beer samples, food vendors, lure course, Santa photo booth, live music, weiner dog race, dog talent show, and many other dog themed events. The park is located at 3449 Indian River Dr East, Vero Beach, FL 32963 on the northeast side of the Barber Bridge.

Visit our website for more information about the BowWow Brewfest
Visit www.verobeachdogpark.org

As much for people as it is for dogs
Heroes of the Humane Society

By Milissa Ferrer and Phaedra Kohler

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers are special people. Each one brings unique talents, insights and strengths to our organization. To celebrate these individuals, we choose one volunteer from each of our locations to recognize every month. Please join us in congratulating and thanking these outstanding volunteers for their service to the Humane Society and our mission.

Shelter

JULY: ANNE CAHILL
Anne works with our dogs through our Train-To-Adopt program. She is always willing to donate spare time to socialize and train our dogs, even on holidays. Anne has also helped during our many events throughout the year. She is a natural leader and is always willing to help other volunteers get started.

AUGUST: JUDY KOEHLER
Judy works tirelessly to make sure all of our cats go up for adoption in our Meet Your Match program. She also helps adopters who are having behavioral issues with their cats. Judy is always learning and coming up with ways that we can socialize our cats at the shelter. She also takes time to train volunteers who would like to counsel potential adopters.

SEPTEMBER: JANET HENZLER
Janet comes in numerous days each week to help socialize our cats. She also helps at our Vero Beach thrift store. Janet is always willing to help out any way she can to ensure our cats are happy. She has helped with many events and has gone above and beyond her cat socializing duties.

Vero Thrift Store

JULY: MAUREEN MCNALLY
Maureen has been volunteering on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the thrift shops for over four years. She is our “greeting card lady” and one of the best salespeople you will ever meet. She will have you buying cards you didn’t know you needed! She is so helpful in all areas of the store.

AUGUST: RICK BIBEAU
Rick has been volunteering at the thrift shops on Thursdays for over four years. His wife convinced him to join her as a volunteer. He helps out on other days when we are short-staffed. Rick is experienced with appliances and electronics and he is a great asset to our team.

SEPTEMBER: NEIL SHOFNER
Neil has been volunteering at the thrift shops for over seven years. He was also recruited by his wife. Neil helps with the jewelry department and specializes in testing watches and replacing batteries. He is a very resourceful repairman and helps with special projects when needed.

Sebastian Thrift Store

APRIL: ELAINE MCBRIDE
Elaine is an amazing volunteer, working the clothing floor and making it look beautiful.

MAY: SHERI FITZGERALD
Sheri prices our clothes and takes care of our children’s books. She has been with us many years and is a great example.

JUNE: GINI ALLEN
Gini always has a smile on her face and is willing to go that extra mile. She prices clothes and takes material home, measuring and bundling it to get it ready to sell.

JULY: MARGE SCHAUB
Marge handles our flower arrangements and helps behind the counter. She is a happy volunteer who is always smiling.

AUGUST: PAT MARTYKA
Pat is one of our merchandise pricing ladies and does a wonderful job tagging the merchandise. She has a fantastic sense of humor and is a joy to work with.

SEPTEMBER: JANET HIGDON
Janet is a lovely lady who prices our clothes every Thursday afternoon. We call her the “cookie lady” because she brings fresh-baked cookies to work.

Spare Time

Volunteering can make a lasting difference in a homeless animal’s life.

Q: What can you do with just three hours of spare time a week?
A) Walk, train and comfort six homeless dogs.
B) Cuddle, exercise and groom eight cats.
C) Sort and hang 500 pieces of clothing.
D) All of the above.

Q: What can you or your children do to help from home?
A) Set up a collection for food, toys, collars and leashes.
B) Make dog and cat toys.
C) Make critter cuddles, hidey-hole houses and fleece forests.
D) All of the above.

Q: What can you do at the shelter with a spare hour of time?
A) Read to a dog, read to a cat, or read to both.
B) Train dogs to get themselves adopted.
C) Cuddle a bunny, guinea pig, hamster, gerbil, mouse, rat or ferret.
D) All of the above.

The Humane Society always needs volunteers! For more information call Admissions and Adoptions Manager, Maria Valencia at 772-571-6400.
Out of the Shelter and Into a New Family

RUFFLES HASKETT

It was at a Humane Times writers’ meeting that Cynthia Haskett spotted the white English bulldog roaming around the meeting table, scouring the ground for a dropped morsel. Staff from the Humane Society introduced the writers to Ruffles, who was looking for a loving home. Cynthia was immediately interested as it had been just over a year since the Hasketts had lost their beloved “bully,” Tina. Ruffles would be a wonderful friend for her husband.

Ruffles joined all the adopted dogs that make up the Haskett family and adjusted quickly to her new home. Ruffles has her own mind and routine. While the others rise at 6:30 a.m. and go for a short walk, she chooses to snooze and joins them downstairs for breakfast when they return. She loves treats, belly rubs and basking in the sun. She is a source of great pleasure for the Hasketts and their furry family.

PHOEBE AND CHIP STEWART

Phoebe went to live with a yellow Lab named Griffin on New Year’s Eve in 2005. Phoebe was a beautiful Springer spaniel, rescued from a puppy mill where she had spent two years confined to a cage. Her crate was her safe space and she rarely left it. Food and water had to be placed inside. She was terrified of everyone, including her new family. But she wasn’t afraid of Griffin. Over the years, she watched Griffin closely. If he thought things were safe, she might follow. Griffin became her guide and her friend. Phoebe became a happy, playful girl who adored her big brother. When they lost this wonderful 14-year-old at the end of November, Phoebe went into mourning. So much of the progress she made seemed to be lost. Most of her time was once again spent in her crate. Her family was mourning and felt helpless. Friends were kind enough to bring their dogs over or to invite them to spend time at their house with their dogs, but nothing helped.

They didn’t feel ready to adopt another dog, but felt it might be the only way to save Phoebe. They went to the shelter several times but never seemed to find the right dog for them. Many staff members encouraged them to look at Chip, a German shepherd mix who had been there for about six weeks. They tried but seemed to have no chemistry. A staff member was kind enough to bring Chip to their house since it would have been difficult to take Phoebe to the shelter. There was almost an immediate connection! Unfortunately, Chip had to undergo heartworm treatment so they had to wait a while for him to come home, but when he did he immediately settled in. Phoebe underwent an amazing transformation. She adored him and watched his every move.

Today her progress continues. Phoebe spends most of her time out of her crate. They all hang out together and are very happy. They saved him and he saved Phoebe.
Lilith, an 18-month-old black and white female cat with a strong personality and physique, had spent half her life at the Humane Society when her hero adopted her. Ray Couteau’s requirements were minimal. He wanted a loving pet who was having difficulty finding a forever home. Lilith had two needs: that she be the only pet in the household and that her owner understood she did not want to be picked up. The two connected immediately. In fact, Lilith introduced herself by jumping up on Ray’s lap.

Lilith is now called “Tank” because Ray says she is a rough and tough cat. There is nothing feminine about her. Her favorite toy is a crumpled up piece of paper that she loves to chase at top speeds until she dives head first into the vertical blinds. Tank loves everyone and welcomes all visitors.

**GRAYSON WEIR**

Cats have a special way of communicating that long-time Humane Society volunteer Bill Weir understands. Grayson, a three-year-old female cat who had been at the shelter for about five months, had started acting differently. She no longer greeted volunteers at the door, played or sought attention. Bill felt she was discouraged so even though he already had several cats he decided to make her part of his home. She acclimated beautifully and he says she is a joy.

Grayson is sensitive to the household’s rhythms and it is not unusual for her to follow Bill to the door when he goes out and wait until he returns. She gets along well with all the cats but is partial to the smallest, and the two of them often play together. Grayson enjoys being brushed and does not mind being picked up. She has found her perfect home.

**MAY YOUNT**

Susan Yount enjoys watching her hamster May. May’s cage is her castle, outfitted with her favorite things: bedding, an exercise wheel, water bottles and toys. May is busiest at dawn and dusk. She likes to spend her waking hours tunneling through and rearranging her bedding, running on the exercise wheel, and sniffing or running around her habitat. May also stuffs her cheeks and chews constantly because hamsters’ teeth grow continuously and need to be sized. May’s diet includes dry food, seeds, greens and a special treat of watermelon and carrots.

May loves when Susan holds her and rubs her tummy to reinforce their connection.

**LILITH (AKA “TANK”) COUTEAU**

May Yount enjoys watching her hamster May. May’s cage is her castle, outfitted with her favorite things: bedding, an exercise wheel, water bottles and toys. May is busiest at dawn and dusk. She likes to spend her waking hours tunneling through and rearranging her bedding, running on the exercise wheel, and sniffing or running around her habitat. May also stuffs her cheeks and chews constantly because hamsters’ teeth grow continuously and need to be sized. May’s diet includes dry food, seeds, greens and a special treat of watermelon and carrots.

May loves when Susan holds her and rubs her tummy to reinforce their connection.
Some studies show that dogs that attend training classes are three times more likely to be retained for life by their owners. After months of planning, I am happy to introduce the Sit. Stay. Love. dog training program at the Humane Society. Sit. Stay. Love. allows you to create a dog training curriculum to fit your schedule.

What makes this program unique is the variety of ways you can purchase and attend classes. Adopters get two classes for free to jump-start their new relationship. We offer single classes for $20 or an unlimited training pass for 30 days for $75. There is also a 90-day unlimited pass for $150. If you purchase a 90-day pass and attend classes once a week, the price per class is only $11.50. You can attend any class offered at any scheduled time. This reduces waiting for a class to begin and accommodates changing and challenging schedules. And we have an assortment of classes to meet your interests and needs.

We offer AKC Canine Good Citizen classes, AKC Community Canine classes, K9 Sniffer Games, Rally Obedience and many more classes. Some classes meet weekly for four or five consecutive weeks, while some are single sessions designed to address an individual problem like coming when called or nail care. Our goal is to give you a selection so you can explore some of the fun and excitement that comes with training your dog. If you have any questions, please contact Cissy Sumner, pet behavior manager at 772-571-6409 or email csumner@hsvb.org.
Rabies is a Latin word derived from the Sanskrit term rabhas meaning “to do violence.” The profound neurologic signs and aggressive behavior rabid animals – primarily dogs – exhibit as well as the associated disease and death is well-documented in many early civilizations. With rare exceptions rabies is still fatal in infected humans and animals.

In the United States animals are typically exposed to rabies from infected wild carnivores like raccoons, skunks, coyotes, foxes and bats. In Florida most human and pet rabies exposures have been associated with the raccoon strain of rabies but more recent data from the Florida Department of Health suggests the Brazilian free-tailed bat is the most likely source.

The public health threat from rabies-infected pets leading to human rabies disease resulted in state laws mandating the immunization of companion animals. Widespread rabies vaccinations of our pets has greatly reduced the exposure of humans to rabid pets in the United States over the last 60 years. Florida statutes and Indian River County ordinances require all dogs, cats and ferrets to be immunized for rabies at four months of age or older and receive a booster immunization 12 months later by a veterinarian. Thereafter rabies booster vaccine is given at one or three-year intervals. Exceptions may be made due to age, illness or other medical conditions that would endanger the animal’s health at the time of the required vaccination.

Human or animal bite wounds originating from dogs, cats or ferrets require quarantine and observation of the biting animal for ten days under the direction of the county health department. For animals that are current with rabies vaccinations the county health director may allow quarantine at home or another acceptable location.

Humans suffering bite wounds from wild animals or pet animals need immediate medical attention. In addition to proper wound care people may require rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to actively fight a potential infection and foster immunity. Though effective in preventing rabies, PEP must be administered before the clinical signs of rabies in humans. There is no PEP treatment for unvaccinated pets who are exposed to rabies. Their only treatment is prevention.

Please keep our animal family members current for their rabies vaccinations and see to their other medical needs on at least an annual basis with your veterinarian.
If you really want to make a difference in the life of a shelter animal, consider becoming a foster parent. Fostering can be very rewarding. Knowing you have helped an animal’s personality blossom and increased his or her ability to find a home feels truly fabulous.

Animals require foster care for many reasons, and the length of stay in foster care often depends on the animal’s age and needs. At the Humane Society, we are always seeking volunteers to help with adult animals as well as newborn puppies and kittens who may need four to eight weeks of foster care.

Dedicated foster volunteers often take motherless pups into their homes. The infants are bottle-fed, handled, stroked and cleaned in a home environment until they are old enough to come back to the shelter and be put up for adoption. This is a crucial developmental time. Being able to raise the puppies in the environment in which they will ultimately live increases their ability to fit seamlessly into their forever homes.

Feline foster volunteers typically care for kittens who have come in with their mother. If the mommy cat is available, a foster volunteer’s task is really just holding and loving the kittens. Kittens who are touched by human hands by three weeks of age will almost always remain social with humans throughout their lifespan. When it comes to socializing cats we are faced with a very short window: successful socialization must occur when they are between three and eight weeks of age. After eight weeks of age most feline behavior is genetically “hard wired.”

Adult animals can also benefit from fostering. Dogs and cats can find themselves at the Humane Society for many reasons and a shelter environment can sometimes be stressful. Providing a foster home that allows an animal to transition to his or her new life can make all the difference for the long-term success of that animal.

Foster homes can also benefit extremely timid adult cats, usually between the ages of six months and one year, who are somewhat social but very frightened. It is best not to have resident cats if you are working with the very timid.

It is more challenging to find foster homes for older animals who may be fearful, in poor health or needing a course of behavior modification to help introduce them to a home and family. It might be hard to imagine, but some dogs and cats have never lived indoors, felt safe or known kindness. For these animals, a foster home can be a lifeline. With the help of our staff, we can provide training plans and resources to help foster parents and foster dogs and cats alike.

The kennel environment can be particularly anxiety-producing for fearful dogs. The constant attention and scrutiny by strangers creates anxiety from which the frightened dog cannot escape. A foster home can provide relief. It can also give the dog an opportunity to learn some coping skills to help him live in the shelter until a forever home can be found. Additionally, dogs can be adopted directly from the foster home and avoid returning to the shelter completely.

Dogs in poor health benefit from having a quiet place to heal. Recovery times are shorter and living in a foster home makes it easier for the dog to transition to a permanent home once he is well.

For dogs with behavior issues, a foster home can make the difference between life and death. Some problems are very difficult to treat in a kennel situation. However, in a less chaotic situation, success can be achieved. In a home where the stressors can be controlled, we can help the dog gain the skills to become a desirable companion.

The only downside to fostering is the likelihood that you could become a “foster failure” or someone who chooses to keep their foster pet. That’s exactly what happened to me. I took a shy tricolor hound named Sally home to foster. After a few weeks, she integrated herself into our home. It seems to me that she is really a “foster success.” Sally was removed from the shelter to help her overcome her fears and find her forever home. And she did, right here with my family.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact Maria Valencia at 772-571-6400.

Thanks to a close-knit team of dedicated staff and volunteers, animals in need receive around-the-clock care in Homes and at the Shelter. Tonya Martinez, Bonnie Spitzmiller, Emily Hartin and Ilka Daniel.

Fostering Success
Short-term parents give animals lifelong hope.

By Cissy Sumner
Fostering Compassion
Shelter staff parents seven pups.
By Janet Winikoff

Summertime makes most people think about the beach, sun and vacations. For the Humane Society, summer brings to mind something entirely different: a dramatic increase in the number of puppies and kittens coming through our doors. Since many of these babies come to us without a mother, shelter staff and volunteers must step up to the plate and provide round-the-clock care.

That’s exactly what happened when a litter of seven adorable terrier mix puppies came to the shelter in June. The tragic death of their mother from a serious heartworm infection meant that staff needed to take over as their surrogate moms. Every three to four hours, these pups needed to be fed and socialized. And since puppies cannot go to the bathroom on their own, regular warm towel massages to help stimulate their digestive tract were included in the regimen.

Each day, staff took turns caring for this charming canine crew. Morgan, Madison, Murphy, Margeaux, Brody, Lexington and Parker needed a solid eight weeks of everybody’s undivided attention. “With babies, everybody chips in to help out,” Animal Care Supervisor Ellen Fraizer explained. She was one of nearly ten staffers who helped care for these tiny guys and gals. “There’s a pretty long list of people who had this group of pups over for slumber parties,” she added cheerfully.

Sleep? Alisha Zaleuke, one of the shelter’s animal receiving counselors, chuckled when the subject came up. “You’re definitely short on sleep … but it’s only for a few weeks,” she quipped. “You can always catch up later!”

But Alisha reminds us that when it comes to fostering, the rewards are well worth losing a few winks. “When you foster you see that the animals are eating, they’re playing, they’re responding,” she says. “It’s amazing.” Volunteer coordinator Milissa Ferrer agrees, recalling the incredible experience she had when fostering this litter. “My own dog Kira felt really maternal with them,” she said. “The puppies would often curl up next to her.”

Fostering is challenging but gratifying. Make sure to read Cissy Sumner’s article about fostering on 18 page to learn what fostering entails. The Humane Society provides training to individuals interested in becoming foster volunteers. For more information, call Maria Valencia at 772-571-6400.
By Gail Bennison, 
The Fort Worth Animal Shelter

Who wouldn’t support a proposal that no animals are ever put to death because they are unloved or unwanted? The answer may surprise you. It is the people who spend their lives trying to save those very animals. Proposals for no-kill statutes are sweeping across the nation, prompted in part by Nathan Winograd and his No-Kill Nation organization. And politicians and just ordinary folk are leaping on board. Who wants to be labeled a killer?

The premise of Winograd’s philosophy appears to offer something for everyone. Everyone wants to save as many animals as possible. His plan is stop euthanizing healthy and adoptable animals and the world will be a happy place. What his plan fails to address is needless suffering. What happens to the animals left outside the doors of a full shelter? They have nowhere to go but back to the streets. What happens when dogs or cats are forced to live in a kennel for months, sometimes years? What happens to the shelter staff that has to watch these pets suffer?

The problem of stray and abandoned animals is so great that no-kill sometimes means dog-warehouse, in abject and crowded conditions where the eventual result is also death but not a quick one.

Animal shelters face the most daunting of tasks. How to save animal lives through adoptions, how to rescue animals from the most horrific of environments, how to educate the community on ways to prevent the cycle of neglect from continuing, and how to explain to a busy and distracted community why they do what they do when the numbers of euthanized animals sometimes outnumber the smiling furry faces in newfound homes. It is a job that offers a path to self-destruction for the weak at heart, and it is also a job that offers a reason for stronger souls to return every day.

Sandy Grambort worked in animal welfare and sheltering for more than 25 years, including both main shelters in Fort Worth. In 2013 she left the manager’s position at Irving Animal Services in part because of what she viewed as unrealistic expectations and pressure from that community’s volunteer corps, what she defined as “unrestrained volunteer advocates who advocate for animals but have forgotten that people – good people – drive this industry and have done so for years.”

The Mansfield resident was honored for her accomplishments in animal welfare as one of Fort Worth, Texas magazine’s Top People for 2010.

“We cannot save every life,” Grambort said then. “We can make every life better, even if the length of that life does not meet our preference. To those who profess the no-kill perspective, I say, ‘Go live in a cage or kennel for three minutes, three days, three months, three years. Deny yourself the comfort of soft, the peace of quiet, the calming feel of touch, the gentleness and immensity of singular love. Then ask yourself again, ‘Is it worth it? Is life for life itself a kindness to the animals we profess to want to help?’”

We hope to give our readers some insight into the challenges our Fort Worth animal shelters face on a daily basis, particularly with added pressure from special interest groups. We also will learn from people who have experienced first-hand the implications of the no-kill movement, including the emotional toll it takes on shelter staff, the growing problem of hoarding by nonprofit rescue groups, shelter overcrowding and the impact of long-term sheltering and boarding of pets.

Is Fort Worth ready to become a “no-kill” city? Fort Worth businessman Bill Boecker says no. Boecker is on the boards of both: Fort Worth shelters—the Humane Society of North Texas and the Fort Worth Animal Shelter. He also is on the board of the Saving Hope Foundation, which reached more than 7,000 animals last year through the Hope Mobile and within area community centers in the high-risk areas of Fort Worth. The Hope Mobile is a mobile animal surgical hospital. This year the foundation hopes to reach over 17,000 animals, both through a partnership with the Spay Neuter Network and also through a new partnership with Texas Coalition for Animal Protection. These animals are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, chipped and registered with the city.

Boecker was instrumental in developing a public-private partnership to open two PetSmart Charities Adoption Centers in Fort Worth.

“My understanding of no-kill as we sit here today, as noble a mission as it is, it’s not practical, as much as we all want it to be,” Boecker says. “The only way we’ll even start to move in that direction is if we do a tremendously different approach to our spay and neuter programs. Otherwise, as much as adoptions are tremendously important, you’re putting your finger in the dike. We just can’t get there without a different approach. And maybe we can’t get there with it, but we can sure make headway. Unless this happens, we’re all on a treadmill, and I don’t think we’re keeping up with the treadmill. I think we’re falling back every day that we don’t do something effective,” he says.

“I believe that at some point in our lives we will be able to save every animal that needs to be saved,” says Bonnie Hill, Spay Neuter Network board member and retired director. “We’re so far now from that point that really all these no-kill groups do is take money away from organizations and groups that are trying to do the right thing. And then they get people to believe a myth that’s not possible at this moment. That’s a scary thing,” Hill continues. “People
The first step towards saving animals in the future is spaying and neutering now.

start talking bad about the city shelters and shelter staff, when they don’t even understand what the goals of the city shelters are. It’s really confusing when you bring in groups like this who say it’s possible, but they don’t have a solution or the ability to do it.”

The Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) in Fort Worth is a nonprofit animal shelter and the only “open door” shelter in North Texas. That means they must take in all animals, even chickens and goats, regardless of the shelter’s capacity or resources. On the best of days, this is no easy task. As of July 10, HSNT was at capacity. That’s 300 animals in the main shelter and a total of 200 in the additional adoption centers in Keller and Benbrook. The rehabilitation center operates to treat sick dogs and cats. It also is full.

Whitney Hanson has served as the shelter’s director of development and communications since Feb. 2014. Previously, she worked for the Austin Humane Society.

HSNT gets its share of differing public opinions, including those from the no-kill advocates, Hanson says.

“In Austin, which is a ‘no-kill’ city, we got a lot of criticism for not being able to house more animals and make a bigger impact,” Hanson says. “The reality is problems exist even in Austin, where they are lucky enough to have well-established, low-cost spay and neuter services and medical facilities. Their intake is lower, but the capacity still outweighs the rescue group capabilities.”

In fact, Austin has had numerous problems since the city council established the strict “90 percent live outcome” goal in 2010, which is a successor to the city’s previous no-kill policy. According to a recent 13-page city auditor’s report, this isn’t working well. Animal Services did not have “sufficient facilities and resources allocated to meet the city’s live outcome goal and remain in line with state requirements and industry best practices.”

With the Austin Animal Center exceeding capacity by 32 to 96 dogs a month from October 2013 through August 2014, the auditor’s report found animals being housed in temporary cages over long periods of time. They were not receiving at least 15 minutes of care time per day for feeding and cleaning, which is the minimum time recommended by the National Animal Control Association.

The overcrowding, the report notes, is due to the no-kill policy. A new shelter in Austin opened in 2011. Two years later, the shelter was so overcrowded that it began turning away owners who wanted to surrender pets. This restriction eventually was lifted.

In addition to chronic overcrowding, public safety became a concern. Animal Services failed to respond to 29 percent of citizen calls about aggressive, injured or stray animals until 12 or more hours after the call was made, according to the report. The auditor attributes the delay to officers being “encouraged to spend significant time driving around trying to locate the owners of stray animals,” instead of taking them to an already full shelter.

“Unfortunately, it seems like the no-kill movement has evolved from noble into the no-kill people on one side and the shelters on the other,” says Stacy Smith, vice president of Animal Advocacy, Humane Society of Flower Mound. “It’s a shame considering one was created to help the other. No-kill was out there before Nathan Winograd grabbed onto it, but what no-kill meant was you save the ones you could save. There was a whole plan laid out as to what was considered adoptable. There was logic and reasoning to it, and it was manageable and doable for any shelter to get started on it. I hate what it has become,” Smith continues. “Now it’s accusatory toward the shelters. These are the people who are putting in 60 to 70 hours a week. A lot of times they’re the only ones working in some of these rural shelters. It breaks their heart when they have to euthanize an animal. Then, you’re going to come along with the no-kill movement and accuse them of being
Karen Deeds is a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants. She and her husband, Bob, own Canine Connection in Fort Worth, where they've trained dogs collectively for more than 50 years. About 70 percent of her clients are rescued dogs.

“In an overcrowded no-kill situation in a shelter, when you’re feeding five dogs in one kennel, there will be fights,” Deeds says. “The ones that survive the fights are so mentally damaged that it will be difficult to get them adopted and live a normal life. And if somebody can guarantee me that they can fix behavior problems, then they can fix the prison system so that we don’t ever need prisons again. There are some sad decisions, and people have to make decisions for the dogs, because it’s the dogs that suffer,” she continues. “When people outside of the shelter and rescue community start putting pressure on those communities to do the right thing, the right thing is what’s best for the dog, not for their little bleeding hearts, not for their ‘Oh, we can save them all’ mentality. A dog that’s been in kennel and has chewed his own toenails off is not a happy dog. Maybe you can find a happy dog to fill that dog’s place and let that one go.”

At HSNT, overpopulation is a continual problem. HSNT does not compute live outcome numbers.

“There are so many factors involved in those numbers, and people don’t calculate it in the same way,” Hanson explains. “There are organizations where, if a kitten fails to thrive and dies overnight in a foster home, that’s counted against live release rate. In other organizations, it’s not. In a lot of ways, it’s a subjective term.”

Hanson says that people want to talk about numbers because it makes it easier for them “to wrap their minds around it. From an operational standpoint, numbers don’t really tell us what we need to know.” Hanson says that putting together the buzz word “no-kill” was an ingenious move because it spread like wildfire. “No one wants to kill animals. And that’s never a shelter goal. We’re all striving to euthanize less often. Our goal is to save as many lives as possible and to do so in a way that we’re comfortable with the care we’re providing each animal while they are in the shelter and after they leave the shelter.”

There is a new movement in some communities that’s separate from the no-kill movement.

“Instead of that magical 90 percent live-release number, they are calculating an effective no-kill-type number for each community,” Hanson says. “So instead of trying to strive to reach no-kill, they are trying to calculate what percentage they can reach to get animals into quality homes instead of hoarding situations. We’ll see if the trend continues and if it comes to Texas.”
The Fort Worth Animal Shelter is a municipal shelter. Code Compliance Director, Brandon Bennett, explains the two sides of the shelter’s purpose: “There’s the public safety side where we go out and respond to bites and dangerous dogs. We pick up stray animals and deal with cruelty issues. Those dogs are taken to the shelter and held for 72 hours,” Bennett explains. “We try to get them adopted as quickly as we can, but if they’re not adopted and there’s no space in the shelter, then we have to look at euthanasia. That’s all funded by taxpayer dollars.”

The shelter also runs its own rescue side. They reach out and seek volunteers for private donations. “We started doing this in 2010,” Bennett says. “Prior to that, our live release rate was 30 percent or less. Since doing that, live release is up to around 74 percent. We’ve come such a long way.”

As to the no-kill philosophy, Bennett says Fort Worth does not subscribe to “any one theory on how to save animals. We’re not Fort Worth ASPCA or Fort Worth Humane Society of the United States or Fort Worth No-Kill. We simply work with all of the different groups.”

Dr. Tim Morton, assistant director of code compliance and animal welfare, says the shelter gets the same kind of pressures from anti-no-kill groups as they do from no-kill groups. “Anti-no-kill groups say that unless an animal is outside and never contained in a kennel, it’s somehow abused and would be better off euthanized,” Morton says. “We’re being called murderers on one side and abusers on the other.”

The pressure is even tougher on the staff, Morton adds. “We value their mental health. Everyone who works at the shelter can understand and accept that euthanasia is sometimes necessary. They are less comfortable and it causes more stress if they’re told that we’re mistreating animals when we know we’re working very hard every day to try to give every animal a chance.”

Rescue hoarding is becoming common among rescue groups and volunteers trying to save animals from being euthanized. Much of this is a direct result of the no-kill movement. The ASPCA estimates that there are up to 6,000 new cases of animal hoarding every year, affecting 250,000 animals. An estimated 25 percent of those hoarders are nonprofit rescue groups or shelter operators who are crossing the line and not doing due diligence when they release animals.

Dr. Randall Lockwood, ASPCA senior vice president, forensic sciences and anti-cruelty projects, says on the organization’s website: “Being kept by a hoarder is a slow kind of death for the animal. Actually, it can be a fate worse than death.”

Monica Alley, president of a Fort Worth-based nonprofit Animal Investigation & Response, agrees.
These rescue groups that become hoarders are being enabled by the pressure put on the shelters to become no-kill,” Ailey says. “The shelter animals they rescue and can’t take care of end up being warehoused where they suffer a miserable existence.”

Ailey’s photos tell their own horror story: Filthy rusty kennels stacked one on top of the other, terrified and diseased dogs trapped in cages that have fought and killed each other, feces on the floor that’s three inches thick, and garbage piled everywhere.

In many cases, dogs are not let out of the cages to relieve themselves, so they have urine burns on their paws and bellies. Their waste runs through to the kennels and dogs below. Emaciation, flea and tick infestation and mange are common.

“I watched four dogs dying in front of me due to anemia caused by the blood being sucked out of them by an insane number of fleas,” Ailey says. “They were just lying there, unable to move, only able to blink their eyes. I’ve seen dogs eating the remains of deceased dogs they once shared a pen with because they were only fed a couple of times a week at best, dogs that have frozen to death because there was not enough space for them to get out of the elements, and a four-month-old puppy eating a dead rat because it had nothing else to eat.”

Ailey has witnessed dogs that have died in their dog houses and no one ever noticed, and cats that have died in a dark corner or under a piece of furniture. The only thing left of them was a blob of fur, she says.

“In all of the cases, these nonprofit rescue groups have failed to provide any medical attention, which has resulted in the suffering and/or death of many animals in their care,” Ailey says.

Paige Anderson lives in the Dallas area and is involved with the Dallas Animal Services. She has worked with Animal Rescue of Texas for nine years and has served as the organization’s president for the last two years.

Facebook has dramatically changed the way rescue works, Anderson says. “The animals are getting more exposure, but people are going to the shelter and taking animals that may have bitten someone or are very fearful. They have no experience with this, and now they have dogs that they can’t get adopted out with kids or other animals. You have to run your rescue like a business, not by emotion,” Anderson continues. “I’ve been in hoarding situations with dogs that no one has ever touched. They’re scared; they’re terrified. They’ve only known this one life of living in a run with 15 other dogs or a trailer with 25 other dogs. It’s not a life. That’s existing. I would much rather see an animal euthanized. If you get into a mindset that you can save them all, then that’s when you’ve failed.”

Putting a dog into a boarding facility is not a quality life, especially for a family dog, Anderson says. “That’s
warehousing. If you can’t get them out quickly and adopted quickly, you shouldn’t do it.”

Animal hoarding is a difficult problem to overcome. Some are arrested, get out of jail and start all over again under a new rescue group name. The recidivism rate for hoarding is estimated at 100 percent.

So, what is the shelter protocol for screening rescue groups? “One of the struggles we have from time to time is somebody will say, ‘Hey, I know this lady has too many animals,’ Morton says. “We need to take a look at this, and we want people who know this information to call us right away. We really rely on folks to be our eyes and ears to report this.”

HSNT has a strict rescue protocol.

“All of our rescue groups fill out an application,” Hanson says. “Then, they go through the rescue coordinator for an interview with the rescue group, which typically includes an on-site evaluation of their facilities. At that point, they provide references. If they are approved, our coordinator works with them on a one-on-one basis letting them know when there is a need, when the shelter is full or there is a disaster. They only take as many animals as they can safely handle in their organization,” Hanson emphasizes.

“It’s always our goal that our animals are given proper care and treated in a humane way. That includes humane euthanasia if it comes down to it. We want to make sure if the animal is truly suffering, they are put out of their suffering. No one should fear euthanasia.”

As to how many animals one group can pull at any given time, Morton says: “What we do is with groups that pull a higher number of animals, is watch those with greater scrutiny. There’s no statistically significant way to predict whether an animal is going to end up in a hoarding or cruelty situation or the best home known to all mankind based on the number of animals being pulled. What we find as we follow up with the rescue groups is some are pulling animals that they worked together. One group may pull an animal, but it’s for a short period of time and then the animal goes to another group. It’s difficult to make an assessment on that.”

Some groups argue that every animal in the shelter is healthy and adoptable, Bennett says. “They say that the only reason they’re aggressive is they’re stir crazy being in the shelter in a caged environment. The animals come to us this way,” he says. “We’re not the top of the pyramid. The top of the pyramid is irresponsible pet owners. The villain is not your public animal shelter. The villains are people who are not taking responsibility for their pets. The harder we work at getting people to be more responsible, the fewer strays we’ll be bringing into the shelter environment, and the more positive outcome will be for those we do pick up.”

Working in sheltering affects staff morale because they see the worst in people, Hanson says.

“There are so many animals that have been treated in the worst ways imaginable—deplorable conditions, heinous cruelty and extreme neglect. But they also see our volunteers, fosters, adopters and donors that have so much love, generosity and support.”

Without that encouragement, it would not be possible for anyone to do the job, Hanson says.
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**Get your tickets for Cause For Paws.**

Mark your calendars! The Humane Society’s annual Cause For Paws will take place on Monday, March 21, 2016 at Oak Harbor. This will be the 32nd edition of our signature fundraising event and promises to be better than ever. Be sure to get your tickets early!

Please help the animals with your sponsorship and attendance at this year’s Cause For Paws. The Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County relies primarily on private donations to provide a wide range of vital services to over 7,000 animals and their human families each year.

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**October 2015**  
Adopt a Shelter Dog Month

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td>GALLERY STROLL with animals available for adoption 1 2 3 WINE WOMEN &amp; SHOES 5:30</td>
<td>8 a.m. Agility Training 1 p.m. How to Live With Your Adopted Dog 2 p.m. Family Dog Manners</td>
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<td>10 a.m. Family Dog Manners 5:30 p.m. Leash Manners 6:30 p.m. Family Dog Manners</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. Agility Training</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Canine Good Citizen Preparation and Evaluation</td>
<td>8 a.m. Agility Training 10 a.m. Family Dog Manners 11 a.m. Shy Dogs</td>
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<td>5:30 p.m. Family Dog Manners 6:30 p.m. Family Dog Manners</td>
<td>8 a.m. Agility Training 1 p.m. How to Live With Your Adopted Dog 2 p.m. Family Dog Manners</td>
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<td>3:30 p.m. Agility Training 5:30 p.m. Tricks 6:30 p.m. Canine Good Citizen Preparation and Evaluation</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Tricks 6:30 p.m. Canine Good Citizen Preparation and Evaluation</td>
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**November 2015  Adopt a Senior Pet Month**

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- **December 2015  Hold a Fundraising Sale for your Shelter**

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It’s a Team Effort
By Russ Isaac

The Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County relies primarily on private donations to help provide a wide range of vital services to over 7,000 animals and their human families each year. These services include adoption, veterinary care, education, disaster preparedness and community outreach. This holistic approach keeps animals out of the shelter and in loving homes.

In many cases, the services are provided free or heavily discounted to those who are unable to afford them. They include our Wellness Clinic at the shelter as well as frequent targeted spay/neuter and rabies vaccination clinics in economically challenged communities.

The Humane Society is deeply thankful for the generous annual contributions of our Community Partners, who provide a predictable and substantial source of financial support that enables us to sustain and grow these programs. We are pleased to provide our Community Partners with sponsorship recognition at each of our events, as well as on signage and our website and through social media and other communication.


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The Humane Society was abuzz when I sat in on a meeting in the boss’ office. Okay, I was eavesdropping from my cage in the hall. Anyway, there were architects, engineers and staff members present, so I knew the meeting was a big deal. From what I heard, they were planning an addition to the Wellness Clinic!

A few days after the meeting I was out for my morning flyover when I noticed a couple of men with strange looking equipment by the clinic. I learned they were surveying the site for the new addition, which should hopefully be completed within the next six months. With the additional space, the clinic will be able to spay and neuter more animals, reducing the overpopulation of unwanted pets in Indian River County.

I heard the boss say that with the expansion of the clinic, we are going to need a lot of new equipment and supplies. So when I got my annual check-up, I asked my doc to help me create a “Wellness Clinic Wish List.”

By donating toward the purchase of these items, you help defray the costs of caring for many homeless animals in need of food, shelter, supplies and services.

In addition, my colleagues are frequently walking long distances and carrying heavy items around the grounds and at various events. Flying has its perks! If anyone has a used golf cart they would like to donate, they would greatly appreciate it.

If you are interested in contributing toward any of these Wish List items, please contact my colleague Connie Cotherman at 772-388-3826 or ccotherman@hsvb.org.

WELLNESS CLINIC WISH LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WISH</th>
<th>NEEDED</th>
<th>COST EACH</th>
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<tr>
<td>Platform Scales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Table Top Scales</td>
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<td>Clipper Sets</td>
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<td>Floor Mats</td>
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