I have often said that within the heart of every shelter animal is the singular desire to be loved. When it comes to the incredible staff at the Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County, nothing has more meaning than caring for our animals. Each and every day, this dedicated team gives of their hearts and souls. To them it is not a mere job but a gift of compassion and a way of life. It is no wonder they have made the shelter the “Haven of Hope” it truly is, collectively they have dedicated more than 300 years to making a difference.

I have learned not to be surprised by the lengths they go to in caring for the animals that come through our doors – staying by the side of a sick animal through the night, nursing countless litters of puppies and kittens or helping a newborn foal take his first steps. Every time an animal goes to a “forever home,” the staff celebrates for they all know the meaning of these words by the famous naturalist John Muir, “Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way.”

Director’s Message

by Chalmers I. Morse

Volunteer Ellen Fraizer cares for a 10-day-old puppy at the shelter.
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New Year, New Look
The Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County and Vero Beach Magazine collaborate for the animals.

The Humane Times has a new look, you will see that the content remains unchanged. We will still publish several features per issue as well as favorite departments like “New Beginnings,” where this month friends like Cosmo and Mr. Poof invite you into their new “forever homes.”

In this issue, get serious about stopping greyhound racing, then relax at local public and private dog parks or visit All For Paws, the Humane Society’s volunteer-run thrift store. Speaking of volunteering, learn about different ways to donate your time or support the animals as a Tooth Fairy, Guardian Angel or Archangel.

Meet The Humane Society’s award recipients of 2014 and read about one special dog that granted a couple a new perspective on adopting older animals. Finally, you’ll hear from Billie the Bird, our featured columnist and valued insider at The Humane Society. This will be the first of four issues of a collaboration between the Humane Society and Vero Beach Magazine, making this a very exciting 2015!

It costs just $50 a year to be a member of the Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County, and we hope you’ll join. As a thank you, you’ll receive a subscription to the Humane Times, discounts at our stores and membership to our dog park. You’ll receive information and alerts to keep you up to date on the many ways you can help the animals.

On behalf of the Humane Society’s incredible volunteers and staff, as well as the staff of Vero Beach Magazine, thank you for your continued support of the Humane Times. Happy reading!

Open Door, Open Heart
Membership in the Humane Society is all about keeping promises!
By Russ Isaac

The Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County has accepted the responsibility of being our community’s only Open Admission Shelter. We rely on membership from our community to ensure that we can fulfill the following solemn promises that set us apart from other shelters and rescues:

• We accept any animal that comes to our door regardless of type, age, health or behavior.
• We provide appropriate and necessary medical care for all shelter animals, including spaying and neutering.
• We provide vital, low-cost veterinary services for those deserving help.
• We assess animal personalities to help find homes where each animal will be welcomed.
• We tirelessly work to remedy behavior problems that could render an animal unadoptable.
• We distribute pet food to families who have difficulty obtaining pet food.
• We protect animals from neglect and cruelty.
• We enlist the support of volunteers and donors to help keep our promises.
• We do everything we can to find a “forever home” for every animal.
• We encourage generosity from our community so we can keep these promises.
• We promise to provide this broad range of humane services to keep animals out of the shelter and in loving homes.

The following infographic shows the results of the efforts in 2014 of generous individual members who have donated $50 or more to help us care for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Vero Beach Magazine’s mascot, Abby, explores an island in the Indian River Lagoon on a rare day off.
Jo Ann M. Becker

The Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County was proud to nominate Jo Ann Becker as the Outstanding Individual Philanthropist for 2014. Jo Ann has been a loyal and generous supporter of the Humane Society since she moved to Vero Beach in 1989. She has been a board member since 2000 and is a constant inspiration to others through her generous and timely gifts. Where there is a need, she meets it quickly, quietly, effectively and selflessly. Her presence on the board will be missed, but her legacy will remain.

Dr. Gary & Deb Freed

Rarely do you find an individual – let alone a couple – as dedicated to a cause as Dr. Gary and Deb Freed. For more than 20 years, the Freeds have worked tirelessly as volunteers, fundraisers, editors and graphic designers for the Humane Times and members of the advisory committee and the board of directors. They do so with the delight in knowing that their efforts improve the lives of the animals and the people of Indian River County and they strive to make a difference each day through their generous time and talent.

Jo Ann Becker, board member and Individual Philanthropist of the Year with Tim Swift, foundation campaign director

Dr. Gary and Deb Freed, nominees for the Unsung Hero Award with Russ Isaac, director of development & marketing

2014 National Philanthropy Day Award Nominees

INDIVIDUAL PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR
Jo Ann M. Becker

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INDIAN RIVER’S UNSUNG HERO AWARD
Dr. Gary & Deb Freed

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2014 National Philanthropy Day Award Nominees

Jo Ann Becker, board member and Individual Philanthropist of the Year with Tim Swift, foundation campaign director

Dr. Gary and Deb Freed, nominees for the Unsung Hero Award with Russ Isaac, director of development & marketing

Lucky Dog

The Laughing Dog Gallery held a special Black Friday benefit for the Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County in 2014. Stella, the lucky dog, and her staff got the holiday spirit off to a festive start!

Bark In The Park

The 3rd Annual Bark in the Park and Funfest was held January 17 at Riverside Park. The Disc-Connected K9s – the world famous Frisbee dogs – and the Indian River Sheriff’s Office Canine Unit entertained the crowd.
**Guess What? A contest teaches the value of seeing animals as individuals.**

By Janet Winikoff

When a lovable stray dog with a wild striped coat entered our shelter, we couldn’t figure out his breed. What could he possibly be – a hound mix, a shepherd mix or perhaps part tiger? We named him Bengal and for fun decided to DNA test him and hold a contest. Staff, volunteers and the public could see his photos, watch a video of him playing, and submit their best guess about his breed.

Out of approximately 200 contest entries, no one guessed Bengal’s three predominant breeds – Chow, Rottweiler and Samoyed – and only five people correctly guessed two out of three.

The contest was a great way for us to show that it’s not that easy to determine a dog’s breed or personality based solely on looks. Just like people, animals are individuals. And the best part of the story? Bengal was adopted the day after our contest ended.

Way to go, Bengal!
Volunteer Of The Month

JOANNA SALINA has been volunteering with us for almost 13 years. She loves socializing our dogs at least twice each week. Joanna also helps with special events, fundraisers and other needs. We can call on her for almost anything. This year Joanna is the captain of our volunteer team, FURever Friends, for Bark in the Park. These dedicated volunteers have raised over $7,000 to date. Thanks, Joanna!

People volunteer at the Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County for many reasons:

• They love animals and want to give back.
• They need hours for school. Sometimes they need them for Bright Futures scholarships, required volunteer hours or even for some International Baccalaureate programs.
• They want to become a behavior specialist or trainer. Most of these types of volunteers work with our dogs but some also work with our cats. It’s hard to pick just one furry friend here!
• They want to become a veterinarian. We have a beautiful clinic where volunteers can get a true sense of what it would be like in veterinary school.
• They want to help but would rather work with the public or on projects that do not involve animals. For these volunteers we have jobs such as adoption assistants, greeters, special events, thrift shop volunteers, maintenance, landscaping, administrative work and laundry.
• They adore animals but are allergic to dogs or cats. These volunteers are especially drawn to our critter alley and care for our bunnies, ferrets, guinea pigs, hamsters and birds.
• They may have the desire to work with horses, goats, pigs or any other barnyard animal housed in our livestock barn.
• They want to make it a family affair! Children ages 10 and up can volunteer with an adult.

We could not accomplish what we do without our dedicated volunteers. Volunteers have been there when we were faced with hoarding situations and needed help caring for hundreds of abused and neglected animals. Volunteers were there when we received horses so emaciated we were not sure they would make it through the night. Our volunteers have helped thousands of dogs, cats, small animals and equines learn what it feels like to be loved and cared for – and to finally find their “forever homes.”

Volunteers see the animals that they have worked with go home to a new family. They provide love and compassion for that animal through times of despair and loneliness. Most importantly, they make sure no animal feels alone. No matter what the reason for volunteering, we welcome anyone who has compassion for our furry friends.
Out of the Shelter and Into a New Family

It’s not easy being an adult cat at a shelter. No matter how impressive you are, there are always younger cats and kittens taking the spotlight and finding homes first. So when shelter volunteer Paula learned that Mary Schenkel was seeking a companion for her 9-year-old cat Clementine, she knew Drako, who had been at the shelter six long months, would be the “purr-fect” guy.

Paula was absolutely right. Mary renamed the handsome boy Beauregard and his true personality blossomed at his new home. Within a few days he had found every comfortable spot in the house and was fully accepted by Clementine. He apparently never made a peep at the shelter, but “he’s the most vocal cat I’ve ever had,” says Mary. “He chirps whenever you look at him, has an expressive vocabulary of meows and makes wonderful groans. It’s not easy being an adult cat at a shelter. No matter how impressive you are, there are always younger cats and kittens taking the spotlight and finding homes first. So when shelter volunteer Paula learned that Mary Schenkel was seeking a companion for her 9-year-old cat Clementine, she knew Drako, who had been at the shelter six long months, would be the “purr-fect” guy.

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Paula's cat Gigi was depressed after the death of one of the family's older felines. Her attempts to befriending Pinky, the Vaters' 14-year-old cat, were always rebuffed. Paula felt the need to step in and find a new buddy for Gigi, so off she went to the shelter. Mr. Poof had just been turned in and at two years old was certainly “big-boned.” More than 18 pounds, blue-eyed and part Siamese, he cuts a dashing figure! When Paula saw him, she knew he was the one. He would be the only male in a home with two female kitties. As you might guess, he's an enthusiastic eater, though he's not interested in treats. There's still a bit of separation anxiety so when he gets too wound up, Paula puts him in his room where he can have his bed, his fluffy blanket and his window over the world. After a brief cat nap, he's calm again. Paula says that friendship among the three cats is evolving, but the bond between her and Mr. Poof is already strong. When she's home, he follows her all around the house. According to her, she's his favorite toy!

Mr. Poof Vater

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Mr. Poof Vater
Park It Here!
Public and private dog parks allow dogs and owners to exercise and socialize.
By Ilka Daniel

Does your dog crave running and playing with other fun-loving dogs? Are you interested in meeting friends with the same interests you have? Well look no further. Indian River County is blessed to have a choice of four beautiful, safe, dog parks for owners to share friendship, give their dogs much-needed exercise and social interaction, and just wind down and relax.

Thanks to a team of dedicated individuals, both Vero Beach and Sebastian now have a public dog park. Both parks are free to the public and are open daily from dusk to dawn. Our county is also fortunate to have two nonprofit organizations whose goal is to promote the human-animal bond, in part through the use of private dog parks.

The Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County offers an off-leash dog park membership included in its annual membership package. The park is also offered free of charge for one year to all who have adopted a dog from us within the past two months. Dogs for Life Inc. offers a members-only dog park with mature trees and walking paths. Both private parks require a membership application along with proof of vaccination, and dogs must be spayed or neutered. Following is more detailed information on each park:

**HUMANE SOCIETY OF VERO BEACH & INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

6230 77th St. 772-388-3331
www.hsvb.org
It costs just $50 a year to be a member of the Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County. Anyone with an annual membership or who has adopted from us within the past 2 months enjoys the privileges of using our 2 acre Bow-Wow Off-Leash Dog Park for one year. For eligibility dogs must be sterilized, have proof of current vaccinations and be doggie social.

The park has many great features, like separate small and large dog exercise areas, a sandbox, tunnels, ring ball, shade trees and benches for canine fun and comfort.

**VERO BEACH DOG PARK**

3449 Indian River Dr. East 772-234-2824
www.verodogpark.org
On November 8, 2014 Vero Beach celebrated the grand opening of The Vero Beach Dog Park. It is a free public dog park open to the community. The park provides a clean, safe environment for dogs of all sizes to freely roam a 5-acre green space along the Indian River Lagoon.

The park provides separate areas for large and small dogs. Owners are required to mind their dogs at all times. Current vaccinations are required. Visitors are welcome with or without their dogs.

**SEBASTIAN BARK PARK**

245 Keen Ter., Sebastian 772-228-7054
www.sebastianbarkpark.com
The park opened August 6, 2009. Free to the public, the park features off-leash play areas and separate small and large dog areas.

The seven-and-one-half-acre park features handicapped parking, a drinking fountain, a pond, benches, doggy bag stations, covered picnic tables and a walking trail around the lake.

Dogs must be healthy, sociable, current on all vaccinations, licensed with tags on their collars and under their owner’s control at all times. Owners must clean up after their pets and keep them leashed when not in designated off-leash areas.

**DOGS FOR LIFE INC.**

1230 16th Ave.
772-567-8969
www.dogsforlifevb.org
Memberships are available to all dogs that inoculated, neutered and social. Membership costs $100 and scholarships may be available to those that qualify. Orientation appointments can be scheduled for small or large dogs.

In 2015, we are proud to donate a portion of every sale to the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County.
Angels and Tooth Fairies

You’re An Angel.

A Guardian Angel is someone who wants to hover above general membership. He or she has a heart overflowing with love for the shelter animals and wants to give wings to that love by sponsoring the annual care of dogs or cats. For $250 a guardian angel sponsor assists with the needs of dogs and cats who reside in a certain cat room or dog kennel. Since we hope all the animals find new homes, guardian angels help a number of pets in residence during their year of sponsorship.

To honor a guardian angel’s status, a recognition card is placed in the sponsored dog or cat area for one year, recognizing them as that resident pet’s guardian angel. They also receive a personalized guardian angel certificate and small commemorative gift. Furthermore, their contribution is posted on our Website for the next year. Thousands of visitors will see how much the sponsor cares. This is also a wonderful way to honor or remember a beloved person or pet.

Guardian angels can even visit the pets they sponsor as the animals await their new home. Better yet, becoming a volunteer will help facilitate their new way of life. But like a guardian angel, whether they see you or not they will know you are there.

There are a special few in the hierarchy of angels known as Archangels. These sponsors support an entire cat or dog room, such as our foster cat room, the visitation room and the multi-pet room.

Do You Have A Sweet Tooth?

Many of our dogs and cats available for adoption come to us with varying degrees of dental problems: plaque, tooth decay, gingivitis or periodontal disease. It is imperative that the afflicted pets be treated before these problems infect the bloodstream, and then the heart, liver and kidneys. Thanks to the generosity of two donors, all necessary dental equipment has been purchased for our Wellness Clinic. However, substantial costs do remain for contracting with in-shelter vets, providing anesthesia and administering antibiotics.

A Tooth Fairy is that special person whose sponsorship of $250 per year helps fund dental procedures for adoptable dogs and cats over the course of one year. Tooth fairies receive a certificate and token gift for their donation. Their contribution is also posted on our Website for the next year. Thousands of visitors will see how much the sponsor cares. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember a beloved person or pet.

Sheltered pets who require dental cleaning or surgery are often passed over by potential adopters. Tooth fairies give each adoptable pet a fair chance for a second chance.

GUARDIAN ANGELS

Ms. Carol Cummings
Mr. and Mrs. John Graney
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Horvitz - In memory of Shadow and Chaply
Mrs. Jean Hopkins and Kenneth Deanisher
Mrs. Louise Kline - In honor of Buddy, Holly and Pukka
Mrs. Arlette Janis - In memory of Zizi, Toby and Ginnie
Ms. Kim Jacob - In memory of Bubba, Trixie and Rocky
Ms. Mary Little and Frances Oliver - In memory of Midnight, Bo and Stripes
Mrs. Marge Owens - In memory of George & Owen's Jr.
Ms. Carol Palmer - In memory of Twig
Ms. Christine Purtot - In honor of Moses
Mr. David Smith and Mrs. Antonita Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Thad Vaxland - in memory of Mathewa, Smith and Tipp's
Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Buccker Wall - In memory of Annie

TOOTH FAIRIES

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fowler - In honor of Harley
Ms. Shelia McDonald - In memory of all my wonderful dogs
Mr. and Mrs. Rene and Cornelia Perez - In memory of Griffin Stewart
Mrs. Joanna Saliba - In honor of Phil Marquis Photographs

SPONSORS

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Dr. Brown's
Dyer Auto Group
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Vero Estate Jewelry
Vero Beach Police Department
Vero Beach Hotel & Spa
Treasure & Space Coast Radio

Mrs. Joanna Saliba - In honor of Phil Marquis Photographs

HUMANE SOCIETY VERO BEACH & INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Unconditional Love

Pets provide unconditional love in our homes and for our families. Page 2 Design proudly supports The Humane Society in their quest to find permanent, safe homes for all animals.

Unconditional Love
Dog training can be enjoyable for canines and their human counterparts. Valentine’s Day helps us take a moment to honor loved ones. Traditionally we show affection with candy and flowers; but if you have a dog, one of the best gifts you can give him is training.

Did you know dogs who attend classes are more likely to remain in their “forever homes?” According to The Humane Society of the United States, 90 percent of puppies who attend classes are retained by their families. It makes sense. We share our lives with dogs. But dogs need to understand how to live in our human world.

Attending a class and opening the lines of communication between dogs and people makes sharing our world more harmonious.

Some “pet parents” are reluctant to attend classes. This may be due to some misconceptions about dog training. Many modern methods are actually fun and enjoyable for humans and canines.

If you are looking for a class for your dog, make a few phone calls. Inquire not only about the price, but also the quality of the class. Ask if you can observe a session. Look on the Internet for qualified trainers such as Certified Professional Dog Trainers (www.ccpdt.org) or The Pet Professional Guild (www.petprofessionalguild.com). Find a class and a trainer that suits you and your dog. Training will solidify your bond and make living together a real joy – on Valentine’s Day and throughout the year.

Tips For Pet Training & Health

This Valentine’s Day, the most important gift you can give your dog is a healthy heart. Heartworms are spaghetti-sized worms that set up house in a dog’s heart and lungs. They breed thousands of babies called microfilaria, released into the dog’s bloodstream. You can see the microfilaria wriggling in a drop of blood, but only under microscopic magnification. Mosquitoes accidentally ingest these offspring while feeding on the infected dog and deposit them into the next dog they feed on. Mosquitoes deposit the microfilaria into any host they bite, including cats and people who on rare occasions can also get heartworm disease.

It is easy to prevent heartworm disease with a single, inexpensive pill given once per month at our Wellness Clinic for less than $6. But if you have a dog that tests positive for heartworm disease, all is not lost. Treatment involves controlled doses of arsenic and two months of cage rest and restricted activity. While it is more difficult to treat than prevent heartworm disease, most dogs who undergo treatment make a full recovery and go on to lead normal lives.

To have your dog heartworm tested or to purchase heartworm preventative, please call our Wellness Clinic at 772-388-0801.
of the shelter and will be our state-of-the-art facility. Hank chaired the building of Dr. Nicholas and Elaine Cole Coppola and brother to Melanie and Mary. Cole loved animals so much that he dreamed of one day being a veterinarian in practice with his sister who shared his passion for animals. Cole will be greatly missed by all of us – especially the animals.
Florida Veterinary League

Pets- Big or Small, We Love Them All!

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THE AW ARD-WIN NG ANIMAL
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Florida Veterinary League

IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

Animals are sentient, intelligent, perceptive, funny and entertaining.
We owe them a duty of care as we do to children.

– Michael Morpurgo
Greyhound racing may come to an end in Florida this year.

Grey2K - Running Out Of The Dark
New legislation could end the cruel practice of greyhound racing.

By Janet Winikoff

It’s a beautiful Saturday morning at one South Florida greyhound track. Gamblers, tourists and even a few families sit in the stands awaiting the next race.

Greyhound racing is marketed in the Sunshine State as family-friendly entertainment, but there is a dark side to this sunny ad campaign. What most spectators don’t know is that greyhound racing is a business where dogs are considered disposable commodities. That’s why The Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County is determined to end this cruelty.

A racing greyhound’s life is short but not sweet. Unlike dogs and cats sold as pets, greyhounds bred for racing are valued less as companions and more as cash cows. These dogs have an average career span of just 18 months. Once they no longer serve their purpose, these graceful creatures may be shipped off to tracks in other countries, sold to research laboratories or killed.

It’s a cycle of cruelty from birth to death. Greyhounds are mass bred on puppy farms and only dogs with a keen drive to run survive. Once chosen for the track, greyhounds are often confined for up to 20 hours a day. They are only allowed out to train, race and relieve themselves. When not confined at or near the racetrack, they are hauled in trucks to tracks across the United States.

The diet of these canine athletes usually consists of “4-D” meat coming from dead, diseased, dying and disabled livestock. Since a winning dog equates to financial gain, it is not unusual for the trainers to give dogs illicit drugs including amphetamines, cocaine and steroids to boost their racing performance.

How can we stop this cruel sport? Our bet is on the answer is yes. Public opposition to greyhound racing is growing. Between 1990 and 2013, wagers have declined by more than 72 percent and taxes and fees collected by Florida have declined by 98 percent.

We are teaming up with Grey2K USA, The Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA and supportive legislators to ensure that compassionate legislation will be passed.

If you would like more information about ending greyhound racing in Florida, please call us at 772-571-6418.
After several trips to The Humane Society looking for that special dog, I spied a gray-faced Jack Russell Terrier in a basket behind the desk. His name was Theakston III. I took him to the small meeting room and his independent, superior air appealed to me. But deep down I thought he should be paying me more respect. After all I was the one assessing him!

The staff told me that Theakston needed heartworm treatment; and because he was 12 years old, he might not be first in line. My good friend, an ardent dog lover, inquired about my search. I liked Theakston, but I am ashamed to say I was thinking more of myself than him, imagining costly vet bills and the lingering sadness when he passed on. Then my friend asked, “Who is going to look after you when you are old?”

Like magic, my selfish thoughts were replaced with the keen desire to adopt Theakston – no matter what the odds. At this time my wife was not sure she wanted another dog; she remembered her heartbreak when we lost our last dog, Bitsy, to old age. Theakston took care of that at their first meeting in the play area, where he jumped up beside Melinda and put his head on her lap. That day Theakston got a new mom and a new name – Melinda called him “Mr. Sweetie” from then on.

In the eight happy years we had Theakston, he never jumped up on anyone’s lap. I could tell you many great stories about him; he was unlike any dog I have ever known. Theakston never sought affection but was always by our sides, loving us equally. Years later, when his eyesight failed, we would feel reassured by a cold nose on our legs whenever we sat down. In hindsight, I think Theakston was letting us know that all was well.

He passed away at 19 and though we are heartbroken he is gone, he has filled our hearts with joyful appreciation. He taught us the value of adopting an older dog. Thank you, Mr. Sweetie.

Learning Our Lesson
An older dog gives “pet parents” a new perspective.
By John and Melinda Meikle
Our All For Paws gift shop is a labor of love. Bonnie Spitzmiller, a longtime friend of the shelter, opened our adoption center’s boutique with just a couple hundred square feet of space. Today the shop inside The Humane Society has grown to a little over 1,000 square feet and includes everything from pet supplies to greeting cards. Our thrift shop volunteers work equally hard selling gently used clothes and household items, raising money to give shelter animals a second chance for a happy ending. Selfless love has its rewards for both the animals and the volunteers. Volunteers give to the animals and in return they make lifelong friendships.

We have also opened an online store. At www.all-for-paws.org you can find collectible ornaments, fun clocks and even salt and pepper shakers in many styles! The proceeds from your Web-based shopping go straight to our community’s animals – just another way of providing that much-needed second chance.

The Humane Society thrift shop on Route 60 offers something for everyone!
Looking Ahead: February Through April

### February 2015

**Adopt a Rescued Rabbit Month**

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**Helping Pets with Allergies** by Dr. Slade of Sebastian Animal Hospital and Bird Clinic

SHELTER EDUCATION ROOM 1 to 1:30 p.m.

**Dog Behavior** talk by Cissy Sumner, Best Behavior Dog Training

SHELTER EDUCATION ROOM 12 to 1 p.m.

**Caring for Your Senior Cat** talk by Joanne Raffaeli, Vero Beach, Sebastian Animal Hospital

SHELTER EDUCATION ROOM 12 to 1 p.m.

**Love Your Pet Adoption Promotion Day**

Contact Phaedra Kohler at pkohler@hsvb.org

**Cause For Paws!**

Our longest running and most important fundraiser is happening again, so circle Monday, March 23 in your date book and get ready for another **Cause for Paws**!

Bonnie Spitzmiller co-chairs the event with newcomer Mary Ryan. They are planning some exciting changes.

Oak Harbor is this year’s venue. Chef Dean Evans, “Vero Beach’s Top Chef for 2014,” promises a wonderful menu.

Bonnie and Mary are bringing back the innovative BidPal hand-held bidding system for the silent and live auctions and are gathering some fabulous auction items.

But take note: this year’s Cause for Paws will be limited to 300 guests so watch your mailbox and return your RSVPs early to be sure to get a seat!

**Change Your Shoes, Change A Life.**

It will be here before you know it, so plan ahead for our **Wine, Women & Shoes** on Saturday, October 3 from 5 to 9:30 p.m. at Bent Pine Golf Club. Sip world-class wines, enjoy a glamorous fashion show and mingle with charming shoe guys! Tickets are $125. For more information, visit [www.wine-womenandshoes.com/verobeach](http://www.wine-womenandshoes.com/verobeach) or contact the event chairs at winewomenandshoesvb@gmail.com.

**Committee member, Melissa Montanez with event chairs Toni Abraham, Sara Labellarte and Michelle Servos**

**Sip & Shop** J.McLaughlin fundraiser to benefit HSVB

THE VILLAGE SHOPS 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Spay Day USA**

**March 2015**

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**Look Great For Less**

Thrift Shops promotion event. Both Vero and Sebastian thrift shop locations: 12 to 4 p.m.

**St. Patrick’s Day**

**Cause For Paws** Benefit Auction

At Oak Harbor, 6 to 9 p.m.

**April 2015**

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There’s not much that goes on here that doesn’t fly by me first. The shelter door swings open and in walks another problem to solve – right by the office I’ve lived in for years. After a while, the visitors leave and I appreciate a little acknowledgment on the way out. Periodically I get a “hello” or a wink, but daily I get much more from one human in particular.

There is a special place in my heart for the guy whose office is across the hall, Chalmers, the one who hears all the complaints and carries the weight of the shelter on his shoulders. There are happy days when an abandoned horse finds a new home, a successful surgery saves a life or fundraisers bring generous donations from beloved friends. There are hard days, too, when we hear about hoarders, puppy mills or dog fighting.

Committees meet, brainstorming begins and answers are found for those who can’t help themselves – like me. For the past 15 years I have watched the Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County grow from a small shelter on 41st Street to a facility of over 48,000 square feet on 38 acres, where we care for thousands of animals each year.

Because of my important position next to the door and thanks to Chalmers, periodically I will overhear cutting-edge news or word about a special program that’s in the works here. I look forward to sharing it with you. And when you pass it on, you can say that Billie said it first.
HUMANE SOCIETY VERO BEACH • 6230 77TH STREET, VERO BEACH, FL • 772-388-3331
EMERGENCY HOTLINE 772-388-4592

If you are receiving more than one copy of the Humane Times, please contact us at 772-571-6413 so that we may correct our records. The shelter is closed on most national holidays.

Adoption & Education Center
Adoption Supervisor – Ext. 111
Open Daily 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesdays until 6 p.m.

Pet Behavior & Training
Cissy Sumner, Pet Behavior Manager, Ext. 119
Connie Ellis, Dog Training
Jason Jarman, Dog Training

Volunteer Program
Milissa Ferrer, Volunteer Coordinator, Ext. 112

Animal Receiving Hours
Maria Valencia, Lead Animal Care Supervisor, Ext. 130
Mon., Wed., Thu. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Tue. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED – For assistance with lost or injured animals, please call the Emergency Hotline at 772-388-4592

Thrift Shops
Donations received 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Vero Beach – 4425 20th St.
Annette Barcus, Thrift Shop Operations Manager
772-567-2044
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sebastian – 441 Sebastian Blvd.
Raewyn Watson, Thrift Shop Operations Manager
772-589-0323
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

ANIMAL WELLNESS CLINIC
Clinic Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
(Thu. until 7 p.m.)
By appointment only
772-388-0801

Open Door. Open Heart.
The Humane Society Vero Beach is a nonprofit organization that operates the only open admission animal shelter in Indian River County. This Humane Society’s mission is to make a better community for the people and animals by:

• Providing humane care and shelter for homeless animals.
• Placing adoptable pets into permanent loving homes.
• Promoting spaying and neutering of companion animals.
• Promoting responsible pet ownership and respect for all life through humane education.
• Protecting animals from cruelty.
• Pledging to be advocates for animal protection.

We are dependent upon your financial support as a steady source of operating income. Please help us “speak for those who cannot speak for themselves” by your donations and your support of the thrift/gift shops.

SERVING INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SINCE 1953