Cat Play
Interactive play keeps kitty healthy and happy.

TOO HOT TO HANDLE
Leaving your dog unattended in the car this summer could be dangerous and deadly.

STORM PHOBIA
There’s help for your pets during those scary summer storms.

PET BEHAVIOR
This issue is chock-full of tips to help your pet stay safe, happy and healthy.

IF I GO, THEY GO!
As we head into hurricane season it’s time to review your pet evacuation plan.

Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County, Inc.
PLEASE RELEASE ME (LET ME GO)

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

ADOPT A SHELTER ANIMAL

Discover gratitude and love in a delightful spectrum of color, texture, size and shape.

Spectrum Interior Design is pleased to support the Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County and its mission to find forever homes for the animals in its care.

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Director’s Message
by Chalmers I. Morse

Three years ago we had a vision, to help financially challenged folks get basic medical care for their pets and reduce the number of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens by opening a low-cost spay/neuter and wellness clinic.

Our clinic began as a “trial” in “retro-fitted” space one day a week with one vet. Today we are open five days a week with three vets and often have a wait list for appointments. Even so, last year the clinic helped more than 2,400 animals with basic vaccinations and medical care, most of whom had never been to a vet before. We sterilized more than 1,600 publicly owned animals, preventing what could have been more than 13,000 unwanted offspring in just one year.

Currently under construction, the Miriam D. Oberkotter Clinic, when completed will double in size to 3,000 feet. The expanded clinic will give us the capacity to serve more animals and reach the initial goal of sterilizing an additional 1,000 animals each year.

The need is enormous, as we estimate in Indian River County there are more than 80,000 companion animals, of which 70 percent are unsterilized, adding to the problem of unwanted births. We know that we cannot adopt our way out of this national epidemic, but with the new Miriam D. Oberkotter Clinic and support from the community, together we can make a difference. 🐾
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By Billie

I have studied many philosophers and many cats. The wisdom of cats is infinitely superior.
– Hippolyte Taine

Once you have had a wonderful dog, a life without one, is a life diminished.
– Dean Koontz
“I would want to be associated with somebody where the financial strength was unquestioned and where the name stood for integrity. What other quality would you want that Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices does not have; and I don’t think you could find one.”

Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.
It’s nearing that time of year to pull out your disaster sheltering plans and give them a thorough review. Indian River County has approximately 80,000 companion animals. In a best case scenario, there are only 1,000 to 2,000 boarding spaces available throughout the county. Do you plan to shelter in place with your pets or evacuate when the order is given? Are your pet’s part of your evacuation plan? Do you live in a flood or mandatory evacuation area? Do your pets carry proper identification such as tags and a microchip? If all of this sounds stressful and overwhelming, we completely understand.

In an effort to remove that anxiety we have developed a pamphlet with helpful information to assist you in deciding the best measures to assure everyone’s safety. It is available by visiting the shelter or can be accessed on our website at HSVB.org.

Indian River County has designated Liberty Magnet School at 6850 81st St., Vero Beach as the county’s first pet-friendly evacuation shelter. Now citizens have a safe refuge that will welcome families and their pets.

As with other evacuation shelters in the county, the pet-friendly shelter should be considered a shelter of last resort. To qualify for using the pet-friendly shelter, evacuees must meet certain requirements. They must reside in a mandatory evacuation area and bring with them an animal crate large enough to comfortably accommodate bedding, a litter pan, food, and water. They are required to show proof of current rabies vaccination and a county license for their pet.

Space will become limited very quickly. Please register now if you anticipate using this facility. Registration forms are available at IRCES.com, HSVB.org or by visiting the Humane Society in person. For questions, please contact Ilka Daniel at 772-571-6408.

If I Go, They Go!
As we head into hurricane season it’s time to review your pet evacuation plan.
By Ilka Daniel

They’re more than just pets.
They’re family.

We proudly support The Humane Society in their quest to find safe, permanent homes for all animals.
Dogs are joyful when they hear the car keys jingle. They’re hoping that maybe this time they “get to go on a car ride.” How can you say no to that cute face and wiggly tail? After all, it’s just a few errands. Why not let him come? Unfortunately, this kind of logic could be responsible for thousands of calls about dogs left in hot cars received by police departments, humane societies, Animal Control and veterinary offices across the country every year.

Heatstroke is a problem for dogs because dogs don’t cool down by sweating. In fact, their trunk and limbs contain no sweat glands. The only place dogs have sweat glands is on their feet. Their principal method of cooling is panting. Panting air across a tongue engorged with warm blood radiates the heat carried by the blood away from the body. This system works well unless there is no fresh air or if the inhaled air is warmer than the dog’s body temperature. Both problems can arise in an overheated vehicle.

How long can you leave your dog unattended in the car in the summer? Well, there are a number of variables but the short answer is “not at all.” A dog’s normal body temperature is already 101 degrees.

Heatstroke, seizures and death occur around 106 degrees. If you leave your dog in the car, you’re betting your dog’s life you’ll be back before he has a problem. Even if you provide a bowl of water and leave the windows down, your pet will still be vulnerable.

If you see a distressed pet locked in a hot vehicle in a parking lot, first, try to find the owner, perhaps by using the store’s intercom paging system. Next, make a call to the police and Animal Control as this is both an emergency and a violation of animal welfare laws.

A dog in heatstroke will usually have a swollen tongue that looks too big for its head. Usually the dog will be panting or experiencing respiratory distress and will have a rapid heart rate. Often he or she will be lethargic or weak and sometimes will be unconscious.

A dog in heatstroke is a medical emergency. First try to get the dog to a vet for cooling, intravenous fluids and treatment for shock. If no vet is available, remove the dog from the vehicle and get him or her into the shade or air conditioning. Next hose off or submerge the dog in cool water. Apply rubbing alcohol to his or her ears and feet for additional cooling. If the dog is conscious give him or her chilled Gatorade and honey mixed half-and-half in small amounts orally.

Most cats are too cool to be caught dead in a hot car. Most don’t enjoy car rides and thus aren’t commonly left unattended in an overheated vehicle. Should the situation arise, however, cats also succumb to heatstroke when left in a hot car. So do pocket pets, reptiles, amphibians and birds. This summer, do the most loving thing for your pets by leaving them home. 🐾
Wild thunderstorms can spark a flurry of calls from dog owners seeking help for their terrified pets. Thunderstorms are an unpleasant fact of life in Florida. Most humans learn to take the storms in stride. We view them merely as an inconvenience, but many dogs feel differently. The noise and flashes of lightning frighten them. Thankfully, there are an assortment of remedies you can try if your dog has a fear of storms.

The current trend for treating thunderstorm phobias is the Thundershirt. Designed with stretchy fabric and secured with Velcro, this garment is similar to a snug vest that you can put on your dog when he is scared. Like swaddling a baby, the maintained but gentle pressure of the fabric helps calm the pet.

The idea comes from the hug box used to help calm autistic children. The Thundershirt, as well as its cousin the Anxiety Wrap, is an excellent way to treat pet phobias without drugs.

In some cases where your dog’s storm phobia may be overwhelming, you and your veterinarian may need to consider adding medication to the mix. Whole Dog Journal contributor Pat Miller utilizes both a Thundershirt and the anti-anxiety drug Alprazolam, the generic for Xanax for her dog. Recommended by veterinary behaviorist Dr. Karen Overall, this combo can do the trick. Alprazolam is available by prescription only, this means a trip to your veterinarian.

Melatonin has become a popular aid in helping dogs deal with thunderstorms. Please check with your veterinarian before using for dosages and safety. Melatonin has the advantage of being readily available in most health food stores and can be given before you leave home.

There are several over-the-counter homeopathic flower essences available as well. These tinctures, known as Bach Flower Remedies, can help calm dogs. The most well known is Rescue Remedy. One advantage to using Rescue Remedy is you do not need to be home to administer it - just put a few drops in your dog’s water when thunderstorms are in the forecast. If Rescue Remedy does not help, a different Bach flower mixture from Homeopet designed specifically for thunderstorm problems might help. This remedy can be put in your dog’s water, too. While these products typically have no side effects, you should speak with your veterinarian about homeopathic products and experiment a bit with using them before deciding if they are right for your pet.

In the past, trainers advised you to ignore your dog during storms. The idea was if you paid attention to your dog when he was anxious, you are rewarding anxiety and would likely increase it. Newer research suggests this is not the case. Gentle reassurance does seem to help. There’s no good reason to ignore a dog when he is obviously stressed. While it’s not necessary to make a big fuss, you can let him snuggle up for safety. After the worst of the lightning is over, your dog should relax.

There are other techniques beyond those mentioned. By trying a few options you may be able to find a good method to keep your dog calm during storms.

Cissy Sumner Animal Behavior Manager at HSVB is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer. If you have training or behavior questions, email Cissy at csumner@hsvb.org or call the Behavior Hotline at 772-571-6409.
The 32nd annual Cause For Paws, held on March 21 at the Oak Harbor Club, was a great success thanks to Co-Chairs Mary Ryan, Maria Segura and Bonnie Spitzmiller, volunteers, generous sponsors, underwriters, donors, and supporters.

Guests were greeted outdoors on this beautiful evening with enthusiastic licks and wags from adorable, adoptable shelter dogs. Attendees mingled and viewed the multitude of incredible silent auction items, which were on display in the lobby and could be viewed and tracked on their smartphones and BidPal mobile bidding devices.

The Decorating Committee chaired by Susan Jewett, including Marsha Freeman, Leslie Cameron, Jeff Case, Annette Miller, Kitty Mountain and Dale Olah set a festive and colorful mood in the main dining hall with their creative centerpieces and animal figurines.

After a delicious meal prepared by award winning Chef Dean, bidders took part in a lively auction which featured a deluxe Cocktail and Dinner Cruise for eight on the 59 foot Mary L; several incredible trips, including a luxurious week for eight at the Sweet Dreams: home in Barbados; Your Name as a Character in a Stuart Woods Book; A Beautiful Seascape painting by local artist John Howard; and once again the famous Le Diner A Votre Maison Pour Dix hosted by Board President and Cause For Paws Co-Chair Mary Ryan, Executive Director Chalmers Morse, Director of Development & Marketing Russ Isaac and Foundation Board Member Fritz Spitzmiller.

Jennifer Downes, Dining Room Manager, and the entire Oak Harbor staff accommodated every request and helped to make the evening run smoothly. “We are so delighted with the results of the event and positive feedback we have received from the attendees,” commented Russ Isaac, Director of Development & Marketing.

Be sure to save the date for next year’s Cause For Paws on March 14, 2017 at Oak Harbor. Remember to make your reservations early as the event will surely be sold out again!
**Our 2016 Committee**

*Our sincere gratitude goes to Committee Members and Volunteers who invested hours in making this event a success.*

**Event Co-Chairs**
- Mary Ryan
- Maria Segura
- Bonnie Spitzmiller
- Bryant & Susie Alford
- Gloria Allen
- Sandy Ames
- Connie Angelus
- Sam Beach
- Jo Ann Becker
- Judy Bracken
- Peggy Bradt
- Julie Burns-Longtin
- Leslie Cameron
- Jill Collinson
- Jill & Larry Colwell
- Josie & Gary Dowler
- Maggie Duncan
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- Marcia Freeman
- Charlotte Gabrich
- Lorry Gartner
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- Pat Isaacson
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- Dena Lombardo
- Lala & Henry Maresi
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- Annette Miller
- Debra Morse
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- Marcia Reardon
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- Chris Ryan
- Kathi Schumann
- Virginia Schwerin
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- Susan S. Smith
- Eileen Snowberger
- Fritz Spitzmiller
- Al Stickney
- Joan & Skip Tolette
- Wendy Trimarche
- Lynn Weiskittle
- Maria Whittle
- Susie Wilber
- Eric Wright
- Chris Yates
- The Marvelous
- Humane Society Staff

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**Blessing of the Animals**

- Joanna Salina and Twiggy
- Pets and their people spending time together at the Blessing.
- Mark Wilson with 17-year-old, three-legged golden retriever Happy.
- Father Rodriguez says a prayer for one of more than 100 pets in attendance at the Blessing of the Animals.
May 7th we were blessed with one of the most beautiful days Vero Beach has ever seen. Animals of all shapes and sizes from tiny teacups to majestic horses with glossy coats and a happy nicker gathered at the Oberkotter Volunteer Pavilion for the Humane Society’s Annual Blessing of the animals.

Attendees had the good fortune of meeting Daisy and Gilly Donahue, the two malnourished bulldog pups rescued in December of last year. The Donahue family was honored as Humane Heroes, having provided protection to animals in harm’s way resulting in the prevention of cruelty and a higher standard of care in our community.

The Donahue pups along with well over 100 animals received blessings from Father Rodriguez and Father Murbarger of Trinity Episcopal Church. Following the service, shelter animals received blessings with the anticipation of being adopted into their forever homes.
In 2016, we are proud to donate a portion of every sale to the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County.

Earth Day booth in Sebastian with Volunteer Sandy Mandell, Volunteer Coordinator Gloria Allen and Volunteer Lorraine Riccio.

Crystal Mircea from the Jungle Club presents Gloria Allen with a check from their Humane Society benefit.

Chalmers Morse accepts a wooden quilt from Marty Friberg and JoAgnes Pasquarella from the Indian River County Woodcarvers.
Heroes of the Humane Society — 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.

Vero Thrift Store

APRIL: SANDY SPELLMAN
Sandy has been with us since 2010. She is our Thursday afternoon dressing room monitor, and comes in on days that we are short-handed. She is a tiny lady with big personality. A big part of our volunteer team!

MAY: RICHARD RAY
Richard has been with us a short time. He collects donations at our back door on Friday mornings. Richard is a hard worker who also assists with maintenance and animal transport at the shelter, too! A retired police officer from Washington DC, Richard also volunteers for the Sheriff’s Department.

JUNE: ANN CUNNINGHAM
Ann, a transplant from Michigan, has been with us since 2012. She works on Wednesday mornings and does a lot of the little jobs that need to be done. Ann also covers the dressing rooms. She’s a pet lover, too. Ann is always happy and smiling, a pleasure to work with!

Sebastian Thrift Store

APRIL: BARBARA DELL’ACQUA
A multi-talented volunteer, Barbara started with us in 2014 at the Sebastian thrift shop pricing clothing. Then she joined us at the shelter several days a week socializing cats. Now we’ve got her delivering the Humane Times. A busy lady! Her two children and three grandchildren live back home in Albany, NY, but love to shop at the thrift store on every visit! Barbara has two cats who “adopted” her. We appreciate all you do!

MAY: PAT STANLEY
Pat hails from Michigan but has called Florida home for many years. In fact, she started at the Sebastian Thrift Shop when it first opened in 2004! She’s our Friday cashier and switches off to be a “bag lady” when needed. She and her husband are the parents of a Labrador retriever and more cats than she cares to admit. One gives out her address freely, she says! In fact, her cat Ashley was a cover girl on a Humane Times issue back in 2009.

JUNE: MARY RAUSCH PINGREE
Mary has been with us since 2013. Another multi-talented volunteer, she prices clothing at the thrift store and also socializes dogs at the shelter. Mary is always happy and singing. She and her husband, retired professional actors, met on stage in the theater 42 years ago! They moved from NYC to Sebastian in 2005. Mary also reads to children in the school system. We’re blessed to have you, Mary!
Volunteering at the Thrift Shop

Have you ever wanted to volunteer for HSVB but are concerned that you will want to take home every single animal you meet? Well, we’ve got a position for you! Our thrift shops are a vital source of income that we use to support our shelter and the animals we house. By volunteering at our thrift stores, you are helping to support our animals without working with them directly and at the same time, making new friends with similar interests! Volunteer jobs at the thrift shop vary but can include cashiering, sorting, pricing and displaying items. Plus, you get discounts on merchandise! We are always searching for volunteers for both thrift locations. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more, email the Volunteer Department at gjones@hsvb.org or gallen@hsvb.org.

MAY: CHRIS WOODS
Chris Woods has been volunteering for more than two years, but in that time she has become one of our most valued dog socializers. Lucky for us, the hot weather doesn’t scare Chris! When summer hits, she is still here walking dogs for her two afternoon shifts per week. She has also taken on additional responsibilities as a new volunteer mentor, takes a dog to the Gallery Stroll each month and Saturday mornings to the Farmer’s Market, and helps fill our community pet food bank when it gets low. In addition to her volunteer work at HSVB, Chris also distributes Purple Emu Oil. We’re so glad that she is never too busy for us!

APRIL: JUDY KLOSKI
Judy Kloski was an English teacher and later the assistant principal of Sebastian River High School before starting her volunteering over five years ago as a cat socializer. She worked at our All For Paws store at the mall, too! Whatever we need Judy comes through, and she’s delivered hundreds of Humane Times throughout the community. She’s here at the shelter with the kitties as often as possible between her position at Historic Dodgertown, as well as volunteering for her church.

JUNE: GREG AND KAREN GERBER
The Gerbers are generously spending their Friday mornings working in the barn caring for our horses Billy and Rosie, along with all the other farm animals at the shelter. They retired from New Jersey to Florida to provide a home for their own rescue horses, Boomer and Buddy. Karen began riding late in life, and having horses is a dream come true. She’s a retired teacher and also volunteers with the IRMC Auxiliary. Greg is in boat sales and enjoys working with Youth Sailing. They share their life with Bogart the dog and Karen also devotes time to our Read & Relax program for dogs.
Out of the Shelter and Into a New Family

CHANCE YOUNG

When Pam Young first saw the large golden retriever mix, ironically named Chance, he looked like a sad, broken down old man. His hip and rib bones were visible, and his large canine teeth were broken. And to make matters worse, he had heartworm.

When Chance pushed his head into Young’s lap at the shelter, she decided to take him home as a foster to see if he would adapt to her household, which included a Lab/chow mix named Lily. It was a good month before he would do anything except lie curled up in a near fetal position. Pam decided to adopt him and with lots of love and attention, Chance began to run and play.

Two nutritious meals and a helping of doggie ice cream each day added a needed 20 pounds to his once skeletal frame. He has a daytime bed in the living room and at night he sleeps in a bed next to Pam. With his super sweet personality, he has made friends with her 6 and 8-year-old grandsons. And after prescribed medical treatment, his most recent test for heartworm came back negative.

Chance was 6 to 7 years of age when Pam found him at the shelter. She is glad that he came into her life. You might say that she has given Chance a second chance at life.

MOMMA, TROUBLE AND TONY WINIKOFF

Ten years ago, Momma and her kitten Trouble were two strays who had found their way to the Humane Society. Momma’s beautiful snow white coat, amber eyes, and sassy nature made her a shelter favorite. And then there was her adorable, mischievous black and white “tuxedo” kitten, Trouble. While Momma and Trouble loved each other deeply, they developed a close feline friendship with another shelter cat, a 26-pound orange and white tabby named Tony. He took to Trouble like a surrogate father, grooming and carefully watching over the playful kitten – all with Momma’s full permission.

Things changed when Momma and Trouble were adopted as a pair. Suddenly Tony was on his own. Recognizing that the tubby tabby needed companionship, Tony was adopted by the Winikoff family where he lived as the top cat for several years.

Four years later, while walking past an adoption room, Janet Winikoff did a double-take when she saw two familiar feline faces, Momma, and Trouble! Circumstances had changed for their previous adopter, and Momma and Trouble found themselves back at the shelter in search of a new home. As luck would have it – that home would be with the Winikoffs. Soon Momma and Trouble were once again with their old friend, Tony, who was back to grooming his long lost “son.” For Momma, Trouble and Tony, it’s just like the old days when the trio first met at the shelter.

Reunited and it feels so good!
The Humane Society cares for a variety of animals besides cats and dogs. Diann and Vincent DiBlanda write about the two goats they recently adopted.

After the passing of our goat Anu, her companion Muhtu was inconsolable. We knew she needed a friend.

Friends who volunteer at the Humane Society informed us there were two goats, Johnny and June, that had been at the shelter for a number of years awaiting a forever home.

Once we met them, we knew we had to introduce them to our goat Muhtu. Having previously introduced new animals in our home on numerous occasions, we knew it would take time before things would settle down.

At first it was touch and go. Muhtu was very territorial and did not appreciate “newcomers” into her world; however, after a couple of days they became accustomed to each other and things began to look better for all.

After being together for three months, you would think they have been together for their entire lives. They are inseparable, spend their days exploring the fields (never more than a few feet apart) and enjoying their daily graham cracker treats.

There is nothing more satisfying than giving abandoned animals a new home and watching them grow into it.

They are a joy.

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SUNNY MILLER

I am a handsome marmalade cat with a long bushy tail, which ranges from ginger to apricot at the tip. My new owner Trish Miller says I resemble the sun and named me Sunny. I came to the Humane Society when my former owner moved and couldn’t keep me. While I had a nice room with lots of toys and good food at the shelter, I wanted to find my “forever” home.

One day a lovely lady with hair my color came to see me. Trish had just lost her beloved cat at the advanced age of 17. I swished my tail and went into my cute routine of “making biscuits.” She succumbed and brought me home to a beautiful place full of interesting smells and lots of nooks and crannies to explore.

I have landed in the perfect home with my “bum in butter” as they say in England. I have toys, a scratching post, kitty doors and lots of good treats. Since I am a teenager in people years, I have lots of energy and sometimes jump on people with a resounding thump. I know I need to learn to calm down. I love Trish with all my heart and am trying to be a good kitty.
There are two things we can do for our cats that are often overlooked, but vastly improve their quality of life. These things are providing vertical space and interactive play.

Cats love to climb. That’s why you occasionally find them on top of the refrigerator or bookcase. Vertical space gives cats an opportunity to exercise their claws, legs, and minds. You can get tall scratching posts (also called “cat trees”) with shelves and nooks. Items wrapped in sisal rope are perfect for scratching. If you put the cat tree by a window, your cat will have great entertainment watching what happens outdoors. Placing a bird feeder outside within view is even better.

There are many ways to provide vertical space. A sturdy shelving unit that won’t tip if a cat jumps up, an end table and a few boxes are all easy, inexpensive ways to increase your cat’s territory. This is particularly important in multi-cat homes. All the kitties need a fun, safe place to perch so make sure each cat has a spot to get up and out of the way so he or she can watch the world from a safe location. This might even keep them off your tables and countertops!

Contrary to popular belief, most cats enjoy interactive play both with other cats and humans. They seem to have a preference for fishing pole or wand-type toys. Some cats like crinkle balls or ping pong balls. The toy choice varies with the individual cat. To get things started, try teasing your cat with a peacock feather or wand toy. Teasing brings out the desire to chase, which can stimulate your cat into action.

Play is a great stress reliever. A few ten to fifteen-minute play sessions daily can help avoid boredom, create a bond and even relieve inter-cat tensions. Play, followed by a small meal or snack can trigger a beneficial pattern of feline behavior. Most cats like to hunt (play), eat, groom then sleep. If your feline is too busy, try a fifteen-minute play session to drain some energy. Then feed a snack and watch your cat unwind.
Most of us consider cats to be low-maintenance pets. While this is generally true, it does take a bit of effort to introduce a new feline to your home.

One common characteristic among cats is their dislike of change. That means care must be taken when adding a cat to your life to help with the transition to its new home. Below are a few suggestions that can help ease your cat into his or her new family.

**Be Prepared:** Make sure you have all of your new cat’s supplies, food, litter and litter box ready and set up. We suggest initially using the same food and brand of litter your cat was familiar with before adoption. Once your new cat has settled into your home, you can change to any good, quality food and a non-scented litter. In both cases, we recommend a gradual change.

**Create a Safe Space:** Another good idea is to create a temporary haven for your new pet. A separate room, complete with all the essential items is ideal. It can be a spare bedroom, laundry room or even a bathroom. This allows your feline friend to get used to a new location without any social pressure. This is especially true if you have other pets. It can be challenging for a new cat to navigate an unfamiliar home if he or she is concerned about the other animals present.

In these temporary quarters, be sure the food and litter box are set up as far away as possible from each other. Understandably, cats don’t like to eat near the bathroom. Provide places or a tall scratching post where your cat can perch (also known as “vertical space”), boxes for hiding and soft resting places. Spend some quiet time in the transition area with your cat. Allow ample opportunity for the cat to approach you on its own but you can always tempt kitty with some special treats or a fishing pole-type cat toy. All of these things will help your cat feel comfortable and want to interact with you. If possible, do several short visits each day that includes play and a small snack. This encourages a cat to express his or her natural behavior pattern of hunting (play), eating, grooming and sleeping.

Once your cat feels comfortable with you, try introducing him or her to the rest of your home. Open the door from your cat’s temporary living area and allow him or her a chance to explore. If you have other pets, it is advisable to contain them for the first few times your cat investigates. This allows the new cat to get comfortable with the layout of your home without the worrying about altercations with other pets. You can also let your other pets investigate the cat room while kitty is elsewhere. This gives them a chance to get comfortable with the new cat smell before the first meeting.

If you don’t have other animals, once your cat seems comfortable and has had some opportunities to explore, you can begin giving him, or her free roam of your house. If you do have other pets, allow them to meet through a gate the first few times. You can also try some play sessions or feed a special snack within view of each other. This can make the first meeting calm and positive, which will surely set a great stage for their lives together.
Litter Boxes
*The good, the bad and the ugly.*
By Cissy Sumner

_In ancient times cats were worshiped as gods; they have not forgotten this._
– TERRY PRATCHETT

The most common feline behavioral problem we hear about involves cats failing to use the litter box. While there is an assortment of reasons for this issue, it can be corrected. Matthew Wildman of the Humane Society of the United States offers the following suggestions for avoiding litter box issues.

1. Use an uncovered litter box.
2. Make sure it is large enough for the cat to be comfortable.
3. It should be easy to enter. The sides need to be low enough for the cat to enter and exit easily.
4. Two inches of litter is usually adequate.
5. Cats seem to prefer clumping, unscented litter.
6. Be sure the cat has a clear, unobstructed and safe path to access the box.
7. Scoop daily and clean weekly.
8. Have one more box than you have cats. For example, provide three boxes if you have a two-cat household.
9. If you have multiple cats, spread the boxes out to avoid feline altercations or “ambushes.”

There are four main reasons cats avoid the box according to Wildman.

**Medical Problems:** Medical problems need to be immediately addressed by your veterinarian. Try to provide as much information as possible. When the problem started, changes in the household, vocalizing and any other new or problematic behavior you might have noticed.

**Litter Box Set-Up:** An issue with the set-up might involve uncovering the box or moving the box to a more accessible, quiet location in your home.

**Environmental Stressors:** The surroundings could be a change in your home or something happening outside.

This might be feral cats, construction or other types of noises and activities.

**Tensions in a Multi-Cat Household:** Occasional altercations between cats are common so it’s important to watch your cats’ behavior. Are they relaxed around each other or do they act cautiously? Walking along the edges of rooms, hiding or scanning for other cats in the house are just a few signs that tensions exist. Placing litter boxes in various rooms to make sure they are available to ALL the cats is vital.

If your cat is missing the litter box or eliminating in inappropriate locations, carefully consider what’s happening in your home. If your cat’s inappropriate marking has been determined to be behavioral in nature, stress-reducing products such as Feliway may be helpful. These products mimic a hormone that cats secrete when they are feeling safe and secure.

Need more help? Please feel contact The Humane Society’s Behavior Department at 772-571-6409 for guidance.
Horsin’ Around

Why is my horse so naughty?
*The key to understanding your horse's behavior.*
By Kirsten Nelsen at Wexford Training

Questions are often asked when things fall apart, or the horse is just not performing to expectation levels. The question is simple to answer, but understanding often means the person has to make a massive shift in how they think about the horse and riding.

The simple answer to why your horse is acting out in uncooperative ways, showing behavior problems that may have even become dangerous, chronic lameness, soreness or even a performance plateau is because your horse does not feel safe and comfortable on the inside.

The answer is straightforward and can have layers. It requires a depth of understanding to grasp.

Horses are quite logical and quick to change when they can, ready to forgive past abuses, hardships and always willing to take a good deal once one is offered. Horses do not forget, but they do forgive.

The first step toward a solution for any current problem lies in understanding. Looking at the problem from the horse’s perspective may help you understand why the problem exists in the first place.

Safety is the primary concern of all living creatures, including humans. When horses feel unsafe, they tend to revert to instinct. We do what it takes to survive. If food, shelter or social interaction is denied, then the body is triggered to fear and acts accordingly. In a state of fear or survival, none of us are “who we are.” We are just doing our best to make sure we get food, water, shelter and a network of friends. Our behavior expresses that fear.

Horses will bite, strike, kick, attack, spook, run away, avoid and shut down as coping strategies when feeling unsafe. If you consider a human that is also in survival mode, you may realize that people are not so different in their coping strategies when fear is the primary emotion.

A horse that feels unsafe can only let us know through behavior because they can’t tell us the problem. When an animal exhibits fight or flight behavior, you can bet the horse feels unsafe at that moment, even if you don’t understand why. It is important, for your safety, that you recognize these incidents and make a change.

Comfort is a much deeper topic and takes longer to understand. Suffice it to say, that RIDING, something we often take for granted, is an unnatural act for horses and not one that is easy for them. If the saddle, bit or rider adds to the challenge in any way, the problem is magnified, and thus, we return to the safety issue. So learning how to understand and ride well, is ultimately for the ease and sense of safety of the horse.

Quite often horses in rescue situations are subject to continuous cycles of bouncing from owner to owner. A proper and thorough equine rehabilitation program is the foundation for successful equine adoptions. At HSVB, we are proud of our adoption retention rate of placing horses into loving and permanent homes.

For more information on horses and livestock available for adoption, please call Ilka Daniel 772-571-6408.

Making your horse feel safe and secure is often the answer to resolving many equine behavior problems.
If you have a puppy, “leave it!” should be the first cue you teach. You should use “leave it!” where many people might say “no.” By the time dog owners need help with their training, the dog has already learned to ignore the “no” word. They hear it so often in so many contexts; it has no real meaning to them.

Use the command for “leave it!” in any instance, a dog shows interest in a forbidden object, be it animal, vegetable or mineral. A well taught “leave it!” can prevent a dog from ingesting a pill that’s fallen on the floor, eating a delicious lunch on the table or stop your dog from a negative interaction with another dog.

To teach the “leave it!” command:
1. Start with a treat in your fist.
2. Put your hand in front of the dog’s mouth and wait. There must be no part of the treat available to a questing tongue or prying teeth. Now, wait for the dog to figure out how to get that treat out of your quiet hand. Pawing does not work. Mouthing does not work. Licking and gentle gnawing do not work.
3. Just be patient and wait until the dog moves her nose away from your hand! When the dog moves away from your hand, click or say yes and open your hand to reward your dog.
4. Keep the treat safe from her until she moves away from your hand and reward. In no time, your dog will look up at you the minute the fist is offered. Now you know she understands the concept.
5. At this point, add the words “leave it!” so there is a verbal cue in addition to your hand signal of a fist.

Training your dog to leave something alone has the advantage of teaching some self-control. The only way for your dog to be rewarded is to stop being annoying and defer to you, the keeper of all good things. This helps dogs maintain a compliant frame of mind. This compliance is the key to a good relationship with your dog.

Once your dog understands “leave it!” you can test out different scenarios: floor “leave it!” coffee table “leave it!”... the possibilities are endless!
Set Your New Pet Up for Success

Getting ready for your new arrival can clear the way for a happy homecoming.
By Cissy Sumner

Bringing a new pet into your home is an exciting time. Making some advance preparations can help pave the way for a smooth transition. This is especially true if you have existing pets and are adding to your animal household.

- Stocking up on supplies in advance helps make the actual homecoming less chaotic. For dogs, a crate, bowls for food and water, a collar and leash plus ID tags are among the necessary items. Cats need a litter box, familiar litter, plus food and water bowls.

- Try not to change your pet’s food immediately. The stress of moving can create digestive upset. Keeping the same food might help avoid gastrointestinal distress.

- If you don’t have any other pets, the homecoming is a bit easier. Limiting the new animal’s access to certain areas of the home, confinement of some type and careful monitoring to create good habits from the start are important.

- Make sure your dog or cat knows where the bathroom is located. Keep the cat in one room initially. Provide a litter box in one area and sleeping quarters and feeding station in another. It is important to maintain some distance between the toilet and living area. Most cats are tidy and prefer this type of setup.

- Dogs should be walked on a leash to the toilet area and rewarded for successful outings. House training is all about location. Be sure the dog knows where the bathroom is and how he can gain access.

- Crate training, limited spaces and constant monitoring will help get a new dog into a daily routine.

- If you have other pets, introductions should be carefully orchestrated. For feline introductions, we recommend setting the new cat up in a separate room. Introductions should be done gradually. Allow the cats time to see and scent each other through a gate or barrier first. Later, add adjacent play and feeding sessions to help the cats learn to enjoy each other’s company.

- Dogs do well when introduced on neutral territory. A nice walk and some mutual sniffing can get things off to a good start. Generally speaking, bringing the dogs in together helps to keep them calm.

- Be certain to monitor the dog’s interactions; keep their visits short; and give the new dog some quiet time in his crate. For the first few days try to avoid too much excitement and overstimulation.

- Careful monitoring is the key to bringing any new pet home. It is not safe to assume your pet understands how to behave in a home situation. By starting out with structure and rules, you set your pet up to succeed and begin your new relationship in a positive manner.

Change is hard for all our pets. Whether it’s a move from the shelter to a single pet home or becoming part of an existing animal family, taking some time to prepare and plan introductions to make the best likelihood of success.
Recall Basics
Keep Your Dog Safe by Teaching Him to Come When Called.
By Cissy Sumner

An important word to introduce is “come.” There is nothing more dangerous or annoying than a dog who does not come when called (recall). He can be hit by a car, attacked by other dogs or just wander away, never to be seen again. After calling “come,” to your dog, he should come, if not galloping, then in a straight line without delay and close enough to easily touch the collar. Your dog should sit at your feet, if physically possible.

There are many reasons dogs have slow or non-existent recalls. As puppies, they are often under our feet. We forget to take advantage of this time of attraction to strengthen our recall. Since the puppy was never trained to respond to our specific cue “come,” as the dog gets older and more interested in the outside world, our recall deteriorates. We call our dog repeatedly without success, and this weakens our recall.

Sometimes we call our dogs away from having fun to do something that is not enjoyable or we yell or use a harsh tone of voice. This teaches your dog that coming to you is a bad option. To have a good recall, “come” MUST be fun for your dog. Call your dog to play a game, eat his dinner or go for a walk. Even if your dog is already coming for those activities, add the command. It will strengthen the behavior you desire. To practice the come command, start with Spot on a leash in a low distraction environment. Have extra special treats for this exercise. You want “come” to be fabulous! Here are a few tips for helping your dog learn the “come” command.

Call your dog’s name. The instant he looks praise him verbally.

As he is moving toward you, add the word “come” in a happy voice. Use his name and the “come” command ONCE. If Spot doesn’t start coming toward you, clap your hands, make smoochy noises, run away, wave food, anything you need to do to get Spot headed your way.

As soon as Spot starts moving toward you, begin praising him all the way to you.

When Spot arrives at your feet, give the “sit” command. Then gently reach out and touch his collar and give him a reward.

The entire recall sequence for Spot should be: “come,” “sit,” and owner holds the collar and gives a reward (treat). Practice frequently at unexpected times. Give your dog a surprise when he comes, like a piece of meat, a game of tug or a ride in the car.

If you have to do something your dog perceives as unpleasant, just go get him. Do not pair the “come” command with a disagreeable activity. It will have a negative effect on his response.

Have specific criterion for your recall such as “come,” “sit,” touch the collar and give a reward. Once your dog understands exactly what that word “come” means, you will have success.

Name recognition is one of the four essential commands of dog training. Remember, to respond to a cue; your dog needs to know you are speaking to him. When you say a dog’s name, it means “pay attention.” But another important command is “sit.” A dog who is sitting is pretty pleasant company. “Sit” fixes jumping. The two actions are mutually exclusive.
Dog Training: The Four Essentials

Use playtime as an opportunity to train.

By Cissy Sumner

There are four essential commands for dog training. They are name recognition, sit, come, and leave it. But the only way these work is by taking the time to train!

People often think they are too busy to work with their dog. It’s true that life is busy. But, when you make the choice to have a pet, you also make a commitment. This includes finding the time to teach them acceptable behavior. And, the truth of the matter is, every interaction you have with your dog is teaching them something. Doesn’t it make sense to take advantage of those moments and use them to the benefit of you and your dog?

You find time to feed your dog or take him for a walk or to play. If you have time for those daily activities, you can also find the time to train him.

Have your dog sit for his dinner. Have him sit for the leash. Have him sit before the door opens. These small requests go a long way to teaching your dog to look to you for guidance. But being a leader for your pet does not mean physical domination. You should be a kind and benevolent leader. You are clear with your commands and cues so your dog can understand and be compliant.

A simple game of fetch can be a great learning experience. Instead of mindlessly throwing the ball, have Spot sit first. Toss the ball and tell him to go get it. As he returns, call him to come. Sure, he is coming anyway, but this is a perfect time to condition the response to the verbal command. When Spot comes, he sits politely again for another round of play ... or is it training? Spot does not care as long as the interaction continues. Now you have taught him to sit when he is excited. You have reinforced his recall. That same amount of time spent for play has served double-duty and has become a valuable training tool.

If you are watching television to relax after work, try some “commercial” training. As the advertising begins, train your dog. Practice some “leave it” commands. You do not even have to get up from your chair. You can also play tug. This can teach Spot to wait for an invitation to play. You tug, have him drop the toy, sit and start again. This gets the dog excited and teaches him to calm down. It allows you to initiate the game rather than have the dog demand attention. Again, you do not have to move; the dog does the work.

Be creative about finding the time to train your dog. It is worth the effort. With time, your dog will become the accommodating companion you want.
For Love of Family, Friends and Pets

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Elizabeth Ahlstrand.......... Donna Ahlstrand
Austin .............................. Carl Wessinger
Belle ............................... Joan Cook
Mary Helen Black.............. George Winsiewski
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John Galbert ..................... Bob Walsh
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Suzanne Geyer .................... Franklin Tate
Suzanne Geyer .................... Marie Tufo
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Lois Barshell Travers ........ Robert Flacco
Baxter Yacolucci ............... Suzanne Taylor

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Amelia Elliott ...................... Ashley Dowdell
Maureen & Lance Luther ...... Mary Laughton
Jane Mudd ......................... Michael Karin
Cornelia Perez ..................... Oak Harbor Country Club
                     Dog Show
Amber Smith ..................... Kristin Davies
Paula Snyder ..................... Robert Schaefer

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Bebe ................................ Martha Lemasters
Bogey .............................. The Robert F. & Eleonora W. McCabe Foundation
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Duncan ............................ Eileen Finestone
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Sebastian ........................ Ty Lawrence
Bailey ............................. Sheila Washburn
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Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way.

– JOHN MUIR

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“SAVING ONE DOG WILL NOT CHANGE THE WORLD, BUT SURELY FOR THAT ONE DOG, THE WORLD WILL CHANGE FOREVER.” – KAREN DAVISON

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HUMANE SOCIETY OF VERE BEACH & INDIAN RIVER COUNTY • 27
Your heart and “sole” can save an animal’s life.

The Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County has partnered with Wine, Women & Shoes again for their 2nd annual fundraiser on Saturday, October 15, at Bent Pine Golf Club in Vero Beach. Last year, attendees of this exciting event enjoyed a wonderful fashion show, wine tastings and wine raffles, a “Key to the Closet” raffle, live and silent auctions and once again, the charismatic Shoe Guys ... an irresistible group of fit and friendly men from the community who know the difference between a wedge and a platform pump. They support the cause and are willing to brave a party full of women to mingle and present the latest shoe styles on silver trays.

Visit the website for more information and to purchase tickets at WineWomenAndShoes.com/verobeach. The ticket prices are $125 for general admission and $175 for VIP tickets, which include extra goodies in your take-home swag bag and premium seating. Once again it will be the “kickoff event” of the season in Vero Beach! We hope to see you there. 🐾

Looking Ahead: July, August and September
### August 2016

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**International Assistance Dog Week**
- 2:30 p.m. Agility Training
- 8 a.m. Agility Training

**International Cat Day**
- 2:30 p.m. Agility Training
- National Immunization Awareness Month

**Spoil Your Dog Day**
- 8 a.m. Agility Training

**National Check the Chip Day**
- 2:30 p.m. Agility Training

**National Black Cat Appreciation Day**
- 2:30 p.m. Agility Training
- 8 a.m. Agility Training

**National Take Your Cat to the Vet Day**
- 2:30 p.m. Agility Training

**World Rabies Day**
- 8 a.m. Agility Training

### September 2016

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**Labor Day**
- 2:30 p.m. Agility Training

**National Disaster Preparedness Month**
- 8 a.m. Agility Training

**National Deaf Dog Awareness Week**
- 2:30 p.m. Agility Training

**National Iguna Day**
- 2:30 p.m. Agility Training

**Puppy Mill Awareness Day**
- 8 a.m. Agility Training

**NATIONAL HOMELESS ANIMALS DAY**
- 8 a.m. Agility Training

**INTERNATIONAL HOMELESS ANIMALS DAY**
- 8 a.m. Agility Training

**NATIONAL DOG DAY**
- 8 a.m. Agility Training

**NATIONAL DEFENDERS OF DOGS DAY**
- 2:30 p.m. Agility Training

**NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WEEK**
- 8 a.m. Agility Training

**INTERNATIONAL HOMELESS ANIMALS DAY**
- 8 a.m. Agility Training

**NATIONAL MUTT DAY**
- 8 a.m. Agility Training
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The greatest pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself, too.
-Samuel Butler

The Vero Beach Dog Park is a free park that provides a clean, safe environment for dogs of all sizes to roam freely in a 5 acre green space.

Funding for The Dog Park relies 100% on contributions from the community. Please donate today!

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Vero Beach, FL 32963
Or Donate Online:
www.VeroBeachDogPark.org

V8 Dog Park is located at 3449 Indian River Drive East

The Vero Beach Dog Park is a (FEDERAL) CHARITY ORGANIZATION, TAX ID:46-4824134 registered with the State of Florida, REG CH4023096. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800) 435-7352 within the state. STATE REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION.
Exciting things are happening at the Humane Society this summer, which keeps me one busy bird, I can tell you that.

First, there is the long-awaited construction of the expanded Miriam D. Oberkotter Clinic. I have of course been overseeing the development, but when they brought in a crane to set the steel roof trusses, I was a little too close, and they ruffled my feathers, so now my observations are from the safety of a nearby tree.

During construction the clinic has not lost a beat, spay/neuter surgeries continue to take place in the early mornings, though they have been moved to an alternate location in the Adoption Building. Patients coming for wellness care, have been redirected to a "special entrance" at the Admissions/Lost & Found Building.

Our summer camps have been a real hit, as I watch the kids coming and going from learning all about animals. They have fun classes, and one of them is pet photography. For some reason, I can’t quite put my finger on, my shelter buddy Mooshu, the bearded dragon gets his picture taken more than I do.

This summer has also been a time for learning about behavior. Cissy Sumner, our Animal Behavior Manager, has been teaching a bunch of classes, like her popular “Sit. Stay. Love.” classes as well as agility training for those who want to kick it up a notch.

Being the curious bird that I am, I flew over to the agility course the other day just to check it out, but I was confused. The people were running the course alongside their dogs. So who was Cissy really training, the people or the dogs?

My friends in the Development office have been busy planning the next “big” event, Wine, Women & Shoes, which will be held in October and is a fun evening. For information call the Development Office at 772-388-3826.

Got to go, I’m flying over to the barn to meet our newest residents: goats Gracie and Bobby and a pig named Hammy Faye Bacon. Remember keep your wing tips up.
The Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County is a nonprofit organization that operates the only open admission animal shelter in the 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 to help keep our doors open for all animals. 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