

PAW PRINTS

Humane Society of Levy County, Inc.

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Levy county has Humane Society

In March of 2005, a small group of concerned citizens, veterinarians, and a combination of rescue groups from the area decided to start a Humane Society in Levy County (HSLC). Why? Levy County has an estimated population of 35,000, and in the year of 2004, 64% of the animals brought to Levy County Animal Services were euthanized. One year later with the help of the newly founded Human Society of Levy County, Inc. they were able to SAVE 64% by being rescued or adopted.

The mission of the Humane Society of Levy County, Inc. is to provide foster care, adoptions and / or the placement of rescued animals that we receive from the local shelters. Donated funds will be used to facilitate the needed care, spay and neuter of rescued pets and the future health and well being of these animals. We will also provide educational programs in the areas of animal care, spay and neuter, animal cruelty and present these programs throughout Levy County.

The Humane Society of Levy County, Inc. is a non-profit organization that relies solely on monetary donations. All dona-

tions are used to care for the animals that are rescued from the local animal shelters.

The Humane Society of Levy County, Inc. is in the process of receiving its 501c3 non-profit status from the Federal Government.

How does that help you, the donor.? When our organization becomes a 501c3 non-profit, you, the donor, will be able to use those donated funds as a tax exempt on your Federal Taxes. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact us at 352.486.5705.



Rescued from the Levy County Animal Services Shelter.

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOGS AND CATS?

Dogs like any space near you. -- Cats like YOUR space!
Dogs will eat almost anything -- Cats will eat almost anything except what you served today!
Dogs prefer the wide outdoors -- Cats prefer that dog's stay there!
Dogs like to work and be active -- Cats disdain the thought!
Dogs are most active with you during the day -- Cats prefer to be active on you during the night!
Dogs will bring you your morning paper -- Cats will bring you the morning paper in sections (very small sections)!
Dogs are generally ok about taking medicines -- Cats are generally ok about giving you the medicine back!
When a dog is frustrated they will chew up your shoes -- When a cat is frustrated they will use your shoes for a litter box!
Dogs prefer wagging their tail when they are happy -- Cats prefer to chase the dog's tail when they are happy!
THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENCES IN HOW THEY ACT - BUT NO DIFFERENCE IN THE LOVE THEY GIVE BACK
APPRECIATE YOUR FURRY FRIENDS FOR WHO THEY ARE.

-Dr. Kathy Fleck
Treasurer

Special points of interest:

- Levy County Starts Humane Society
- Difference Between Dogs & Cats
- Presidents Word
- Rescuer Rests...
- Importance of Spay / Neuter
 - Donations Needed
 - Disaster Preparedness
 - Networking
- Operation K. A. R. E.

A word from the President ...

As President of the Humane Society of Levy County, Inc., I would like to thank all the members who continue to support our mission. I would like to express my deepest thanks to the rescues that have networked with us to rescue the adoptable animals that pass through our local shelter. I wish to thank David Weatherford, Assistant Director of Levy County Animal Services and his staff who have bent over backwards to work with us to reduce the number of animals that we have had to say Good-Bye to in the past year.

During the past year we have participated in different functions throughout Levy County. Those being the Jack Russell Mania in Williston (April & November), Chiefland Watermelon Festival, Horseman Park Rodeo events, Bronson Speedway events, Christmas Light at Roger Kunde's home in Chiefland, K.A.R.E. (Katrina Animal Rescue Effort) and our Membership Drives in Bronson Williston, and Chiefland, Christmas Party / Adoption Event at Earth Pets in Gainesville.

In September we applied for our Tax Exempt Status (which is back loqged to

date.) There is a great need for this status as for which we will be able to apply for grants for Spay and Neuter and Corporat e Donations.

HSLC continues to look for property which is zoned for a veterinarian practice for which to build a facility. Some have asked why Bronson? Well as president I would like to have a facility which I am close to for the well being of our pets. The objective of the facility will be for Spay & Neutering and a place for us to showcase our rescued adoptable animals. We are trying to work toward a Low Cost Spay/Neuter for residents of Levy County.

Humane Society of Levy County, Inc. has an Emergency Preparedness Trailer (45 ft) that is being outfitted with portable cages, cabinets, food, medical supplies, towels and blankets for Emergency Disaster Support. The trailer can be moved to Emergency Pet Sheltering Facility for support. We look forward to assisting Levy County Animal Services during a Disaster Preparedness situation.

I want to express my deepest thanks

to those that have opened their homes to foster our rescued companions and those that have helped to transport to our partnered rescues.

I need to challenge all members to go out and rally for more new members to further strengthen our goals, which will be the next hard step for us to take in getting a facility and setting up our own spay and neuter clinic here in Levy County.

LIVES SAVED AT LOCAL SHELTER

YEAR OF 2000
75 ANIMALS

YEAR 2003
290 ANIMALS

YEAR 2004
663 ANIMALS

YEAR 2005
1446 ANIMALS

-Mike Schenk
HSLC President

What Happens When a Rescuer Rests....

I sit quietly listening to the birds and sounds of nature. My toes dangle at the water's edge and the sun feels warm on my face. I close my eyes, stretch out, and take comfort in the fact that I so deserve this moment of peace and quiet. Slowly, I feel my socks being pulled away from my

"I look up into their eyes and see my life's work reflected back at me. Their joy washes over me and I am renewed again."

lap. I jump up to grab them, but it's too late as I watch them tossed around between eight crazy dogs. "Give me my socks back! I mean now, I yell," searching for my shoes I find they've been taken, too. I chase barefoot through the yard, learning nature is not kind on bare

feet, as a sea of laughing dogs stay just beyond my reach. Exhausted, I fall back on the grass and gasp for air. Slowly, my shoes are lowered onto my breathless body and I am licked and snuffled as a colored quilt of fury faces surround me. I laugh and hug them all. I look up into their eyes and see my life's work reflected back at me. Their joy washes over me and I am renewed again. Sigh, who needs the peaceful life anyway?

-Mary Flickinger

Donations needed

The Humane Society of Levy County, Inc. is a non-profit organization that relies solely on monetary donations. All donations are used to care for the animals that are rescued from the local animal shelters. We are also in need of following items:

Foster Parents

Volunteer

Transportation

Crates

Towels

Collars

Leashes

Cat Food

Dog Food

Importance of Spay / neuter

It is a well proven fact that spaying and neutering pet animals dramatically cut down pet overpopulation problems, and consequently the numbers of animals that end up in and that are euthanized in shelter settings. Part of the responsibility of being a pet owner is spaying or neutering all pets that are not specifically intended for breeding purposes. Even if the animal is intended for breeding those reasons need to be considered carefully. For example, children can witness "the miracle of birth" on film without adding new unwanted pets to the problem. Many people also want one offspring from their favorite pet. However, most dogs and cats have considerably more than one offspring in even a single litter. The welfare of the rest of those animals also needs to be considered. Friends and family members who also say that they want one of Fluffy's pups often back out once the puppies are a reality. If you do decide to breed, even if it's only one litter, consider also taking

in one shelter dog as a foster parent. This alone can save numerous lives.

The Humane Society of Levy County is working hard to help reduce the tremendous pet overpopulation problem in our area by being actively involved with Levy County Animal Services in spaying and neutering shelter dogs and cats. We hope that within the next year we will be able to spay or neuter all pets that leave the shelter before they go to their new homes, thus eliminating problems with new owner's forgetting to keep their appointments. In addition, we have been actively researching a variety of ways to be able to offer the citizens of Levy County a low cost spay/neuter alternative. We are currently awaiting approval of our nonprofit status, which will allow us to do more fund raising and to apply for grant money that will aid in the development of a spay/neuter program. We are also looking for property where a clinic can be established. However, in order to continue to move forward, we need

your support, both financially and politically. Please contact your County Commissioners, and let them know how important these issues are to you. And in the mean time, if you have an intact pet, please consider having it spayed or neutered. One spay or neuter can save hundreds of lives!

-Dr. Darlene Esler
Director of Spay/Neuter

upcoming Events

April 1 & 2
Jack Russell Trials

May TBA
Adoption Events

June 3rd
Chiefland Watermelon Festival

July 3rd
Williston Fourth of July

In case of disaster, protect your pets!

Your animal's best protection is to be with you. Taking your pet requires special planning and following are some guidelines:

- Keep your pet's vaccinations and medical records up-to-date
- Make sure your pet wears a comfortable collar with the proper identification, license and rabies tag. Also, consider a microchip or tattoo as additional identification insurance.
- Locate safe places for your pets BEFORE disaster strikes. Many emergency shelters for humans do not allow pets due to public health and safety reasons.

If you must leave your home, here are some resources to contact:

- Boarding Kennels
- Veterinary Hospitals
- Friends/Relatives
- Hotel/Motels (that will allow pets)
- Animal Shelters (consider only as a

last resort)
Disaster supplies to prepare:

- Portable kennel carrier or crate for each pet for whom you are responsible. (Carriers should be large enough for animal to stand up and turn around in)
- Food/water bowls
- Pet food and water
- Litter and litter box
- Pet's medications
- First aid kit
- Pet's medical records
- Leash
- Cloth towels/paper towels
- Plastic bags for waste

Leaving your pet behind will place your animal at greater risk for injury or loss, so please make every effort to take your pet with you. If there is no alternative and you must leave your pet, take the following precautions:

- Bring your pet indoors. Never leave a pet tied outside.

- Prepare a selected area of your home - preferably without windows - but with adequate ventilation.
- Leave enough food and water for at least three days. Water should be left in bathtubs, sinks or other sturdy spill-proof containers.
- Leave familiar bedding and toys
- Secure a note on your front door alerting emergency personnel that pets are inside. Provide a telephone number where you can be contacted.
- Never leave cats with dogs, even if they normally get along.
- Keep small pets safely caged. Leave these pets with food and water dispensers that regulate the amounts.

Secure bird cages so that they won't swing or fall.

-Michelle Hagan
Director of Education

Networking With Other Rescues.....

Our President touched on how thankful we are for all of the rescues that saved precious lives this past year. We are so fortunate to work with both types of rescues: the "all breeds" and the "pure breeds". Altogether a team of approximately 50 different groups, help the animals at the shelter. What an amazing feeling to know that just one phone call can give a dog or cat a second chance to the life they deserve. It may sound simple to just "rescue" an animal, but the amount of

time, love, and dedication for that one life is immeasurable. We do it everyday... everyone does make a difference... one

*"We do it every day...everyone does
make a difference...one life at a time."*

life at a time. All it takes is one caring individual to give a "voice" to those who can not "speak". On behalf of every life that was saved and in memory of the lives that were lost, I leave you with this thought...

"I LOOKED AT ALL THE CAGED ANIMALS IN THE SHELTER... THE CAST-OFFS OF HUMAN SOCIETY. I SAW IN THEIR EYES LOVE AND HOPE, FEAR AND DREAD, SADNESS AND BETRAYAL AND I WAS ANGRY. "GOD," I SAID, "THIS IS TERRIBLE! WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING?" GOD WAS SILENT FOR A MOMENT AND THEN SPOKE SOFTLY AND SAID, "I HAVE, I CREATED YOU.""

Jody Heflin
Vice-President

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Let's Raise Awareness!

Operation k.a.r.e.

Operation K.A.R.E. was one of our largest undertakings this past year. The devastation that Hurricane Katrina caused to both lives and property is unimaginable. To say the least, there was an immediate need for help. The problem was..... WHERE do you start, WHO do you help first, and HOW can a few people make a difference? Well, as they say, there is strength in numbers. Operation K.A.R.E. (Katrina Animal Rescue Effort) was established by a combined effort of the Humane Society of Levy County, Inc., Earthpets Natural Pet Market, Greenery Square Home and Garden, other area businesses, and the two main rescues that had already been a lifeline for our animals here in Levy County. In fact, Toni with Alley Cats and Canine Orphans, Inc. (Cocoa Beach, FL), and Debi with Second Chance Rescue, Inc. (New Smyrna Beach, FL) were the main reason Operation K.A.R.E. was formed.

A transport of our animals to these rescues had already been planned for the Friday after Katrina made landfall. We couldn't change plans.....over 30 lives from our shelter were depending on this transport.

When the animals were dropped off with Toni and Debi, we were told of THEIR plans to go to Mississippi and Louisiana. We wanted to help them, just as they had helped us.

Joy Drawdy, co-owner of Earthpets in Gainesville, had begun planning on how we could help locally. Her 20+ years of experience

with rescuing homeless animals was why we looked to her for guidance. She started contacting certain individuals that she knew would help us get Operation K.A.R.E. off the ground, and also coordinated numerous foster homes that would be of the utmost importance. (What a task for Joy!!) One person in particular was Melissa Glikes. She too brought many years of animal rescue experience to our newly formed team. She not only opened her heart....she opened her home to help the animals. Her horse barns were perfect for a staging area which posed as a centralized area. At this staging area, we utilized local vets, vet techs, and volunteers to help triage the animals. All of the healthy animals went to foster homes where they waited some time until we decided it would be okay for them to be adopted to a new permanent home.

The outpouring of support from the surrounding communities was beyond anything we had expected. Donated funds were put in a separate K.A.R.E. fund and strictly controlled by our Treasurer, Dr. Kathy Fleck. (A complete financial report is now available). 100% of the funds were used to evaluate, and medicate the animals. They were also used for short and long term care to get the animals healthy and ready for adoption. Other donations included food, vet supplies, bottled water, leashes, collars, fans, crates, cat litter, horse supplies, towels, blankets, pet bowls, etc. These items were

used to completely fill and supply large transport teams that went to some of the hardest hit areas.

Over 200 cats and kittens, and 100 dogs and puppies came through our area. Our "Feline Rescue and Support Team" was lead by Kendra Gillium and the animals were provided vet care by Dr. Levy. Our "Canine Rescue and Support Team" had medical care by several local vets and were under the supervision of the Humane Society of Levy County, Inc.

The main objective of this effort was to help the survivors on a "small scale" from the areas of mass devastation, at the same time.....keeping in mind the other souls at our Levy County Shelter.

This was an experience that all of us will keep in their hearts and minds for many years to come. I feel very special to have been a part of this effort.

Jody Heflin,
Vice President