

PAW PRINTS

Humane Society of Levy County, Inc.

February 15, 2007

Volume 3, Issue 3

HSLC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Humane Society of Levy County, Inc. would like to invite all members to our Annual meeting on March 15, 2007. The board of directors will unveil the Spay/Neuter Meter at 6:00 pm next to Affordable Solutions located off Highway 27 directly across from Perkins State Bank. The meeting will take place at Bronson Town Hall, 660 East Hathaway Ave, Bronson at 7:00 pm. This building is located directly across from IGA/Buy-N-Save. The Board of Directors will give a financial summary, discuss past activities, future activities, and accomplishments. We encourage all members to attend. Those members that do attend will receive a free t-shirt. The Humane Society of Levy

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's Board of Directors have a combined total of over 70 years experience of working, caring, and adopting animals. Everyone that

meeting will have the opportunity to meet board members, and find out how your help can impact a furry friend for life. If you would like more information, please contact us and leave a message and someone will return your call that evening at 352-486-5705.

Special points of interest:

- Annual Membership Meeting
 - Van Donation
 - Presidents Word
- Everyone NEEDS This...
 - Cats Aging Gracefully
 - Teaching of our Dogs
 - Calendar
 - Top Ten List

HSLC RECEIVES VAN



The Humane Society of Levy County, Inc. is proud to announce that the Levy County Commissioners has donated a van. This van is in great condition. We

send our many THANKS to the county commissioners. We also want to extend a big Thank You to Bob & Sandi Levesque. These two people spent a great deal of their

time lettering the van from head to toe with graphics and HSLC information. The van will even reflect at night with the different materials they used.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT....

I am your Animal Control Officer. I am not the dreaded "dogcatcher" or the "murderer" you call me. It is not I who allows your pet to roam the streets, to contract diseases from other free-roaming animals, to be hit by passing motorists, or poisoned by rotting garbage bags. I am the one who must look into those sick, pain-glazed eyes, try to remove the animal, without causing it further pain, and then humanely "put it to sleep" to put an end to its suffering.

It is not I, who allows your pets to breed, then dump the unwanted puppies and kittens on roadsides and in shelters. I'm the one who must find the tiny animals before they die of starvation, exposure or disease, and as an act of mercy, exterminate them. It hurts me to be forced to kill hundreds of thousands of animals each year, but because of your irresponsibility, I have no choice.

It is not I who abandons unwanted animals on farm road, telling myself some friendly farmer will surely take them in and give them a good home. But I am the one who

must pick up the frightened animal who waits in vain for its beloved master, wondering why it has been abandoned. I am the one who must help that friendly farmer trap, tranquilize or kill that a

nimal because it has begun to roam in packs with other abandoned hungry animals, killing livestock, fowl and game.

I am not the one who breeds and fights dogs in the name of "sport". But I'm the one who fights the breeders and participants, and must pick up the dead and dying animals that have been left behind.

"because of your irresponsibility, I have no choice."

It is not I who keeps a pet confined in an area too small - without

food, water, shelter or exercise. But I must deal with the irresponsible owner who does.

It is not I who refuse to spend time

and money to keep up regular inoculations that all pets require. But I am the one who must pick up the sick animal that is dying of a preventable disease.



So remember, the next time your child is bitten by a stray dog, your trash is dumped and scattered, your pet is lost, stolen, poisoned or hit by a car, it is the animal control officer you call - not the "dogcatcher". The next time your pet is picked up, or you are cited for neglecting or abusing it remember, I am only trying to get you to fulfill your responsibility to your pet, your neighbor, and yourself.

Do not scorn me. Respect me, for I am the product of your irresponsibility. I love animals, and I care.

YOUR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
-Mike Schenk
HSLC President

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS THIS....

Are you a member of the Humane Society of Levy County, Inc.? or Are you interested in becoming a member?

Well, everybody needs this NEW magnet that we have now have in

stock. All proceeds go towards the animals that we help and rescue from the shelter. Each magnet is ONLY \$ 5.00. Please come out and show your support efforts of the Humane Society. To-

gether, as a community, we can stand strong to educate and raise awareness of pet over population.



Magnet is ONLY \$ 5.00



HELPING YOUR CAT AGE GRACEFULLY

Cats begin to enter their senior years when they are around 8 years old, which is equivalent to a human in their late 40's to early 50's. Often it is difficult to tell when your cat begins to feel its age. Signs of aging might include less activity or less willingness to play games.

Behavioral changes in aging cats may include decreased activity, less interaction with family members, less enthusiasm when greeting family members, sleeping more, disoriented behavior and hiding.

Metabolic changes may include weight gain or loss, changes in hair coat, skin etc., changes in eating or drinking habits, more frequent urination or inappropriate elimination outside of the litter box.

Physical changes may include limp-

ing or stiffness of joints, vision or hearing problems, dental problems, digestive problems and increased number of infections.

You can help your cat age gracefully not only by taking it to the veterinarian at least twice yearly for a check-up (including blood work and a thorough exam) but immediately if you notice a new condition. The senior cat has a greater need for easily digested diets including increased canned formulations. They often have some degree of arthritis so comfortable bedding and placement of food, water etc. in lower sites is often needed. The aged cat often is more sensitive to changes in the household so adjustments, such as having a quiet/safe area for the cat to be when there is increased activity or changes, should be made.

The senior cat is often the cat who ends

up at the shelter because the owner is unable or unwilling to cope with the normal aging problems. Another group of seniors end up there because of the death o their caregiver. Many times family members do not want to suddenly take in a cat with potential health issues. Unfortunately many of these cats never get to enjoy a loving home ever again. For this reason one of the best things you can do for your senior cat is to make arrangements for it's care in case of emergency or unexpected loss of you, it's caregiver.

It's not only about helping them age gracefully, it's about helping them live a full and loving life.

**-Kathy Fleck
HSLC Treasurer**

March 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 
4 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 	16	17
18 	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 

 March 3, 2007, Low-Cost Vaccine Clinic, Levy County Animal Control, 3-4 pm

 March 15, 2007, Annual Membership Meeting, Bronson Town Hall, 7:00PM

 March 4, 2007, Adoption Event, Clearwater

 March 18, 2007, Adoption Event, Clearwater

 March 15, 2007, Unveil Spay/Neuter Meter, Affordable Solutions, 6:00PM

 March 31, 2007, Jack Russell Mania, Williston , VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

April 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 
15 	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

 April 1, 2007, Jack Russell Mania, Williston, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

 April 15, 2007, BIG ADOPTION EVENT, Clearwater

 April 14, 2007, AARP, Williston

HUMANE SOCIETY OF LEVY COUNTY, INC.

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Let's Raise Awareness!

TEACHINGS OF OUR DOGS

As I drive up in my car I see 8 dogs running towards me. Their faces fill the space when I open my door. Each one gets a kiss and a smooch, regardless of what they've been rolling in. Bags rustle as noses search for treats, each dog dancing away in pure delight when handed a biscuit.

I can think of no one in my life who has ever welcomed me the way my dogs do. They are always glad to see me, totally interested in everything I'm doing, listen with approval to my secrets, make me laugh and play, comfort me when I'm

sad and keep an eye on me to make sure I'm safe. My own parents did not provide me with such care. Dogs teach us so many things about ourselves and life in general. In essence, they teach us to be better people, to give and care about something other than ourselves. They live their lives for us in every way, asking very little in return. Their hearts are full of love and compassion for us and we don't have to look or act a certain way to receive it. Everyone should know this awesome love that dogs have for us. Thankfully, there's enough dogs to go around for everyone. So, if

you consider yourself a loving, kind, capable and compassionate companion, come over to the shelter and pick up your bundle of joy.

-Mary Flickinger