

# PAW PRINTS

Humane Society of Levy County, Inc.

April 3, 2009

Volume 5, Issue 5

## THE PRES SAYS...

We at the Humane Society of Levy County are very proud to have a dedicated voice for those who can't speak for themselves. The Society is constantly working to rescue and protect animals in distress and to find loving forever homes for the rest of their lives.

We applaud those who have adopted from us and say a giant thank you to the many rescue groups who work with us to reduce the deaths of very adoptable pets.

From 2002-2004, Levy County Animal Services adopted 472 animals. Then in 2005 a concerned group of volunteers and citizens formed the Humane Society of Levy County. Working with Animal Services, a record number of animals have been saved totaling 5,607!

The work of the Society is supported entirely through the donations of our supporters and

members. Through the generous hearts and hands of our supporters, we can ensure that animals will not be alone, hungry, sick, afraid, or in pain.

Our members and supporters help in so many ways. By providing foster care, transporting animals to other shelters for adoption, providing food and supplies, and volunteering at fundraising events.

In August of 2007, the Society received a \$20,000 Florida Animal Friend Grant to provide spay and neuter services to pets of Levy County residents who live in financially limited households. These funds were made available through the Florida Animal Friend License Plate Program.

A total of 111 dogs and 233 cats were spayed and neutered through the program. Pet owners who qualified paid a \$5.00 co-pay which included the surgery and a rabies



Mike Schenk at "Bark-N-Purr" Concert

vaccination.

We look forward to the day when the Society has its own spay/neuter and adoption center where we can provide services to the residents of Levy, Dixie, and Gilchrist counties year round.

Mike Schenk,  
President

### Humane Society Board of Directors

- Mike Schenk, President
- Jody Heflin, Vice-President
- Connie Asbell, Secretary
- Toni Collins, Treasurer
- Mary Flickinger, Membership
- Arnette Garrison, Rescue Liaison
- Michelle Hagan, Director of Education

time to renew your  
membership....



## Meet EMMA & Friends...

By: arnette garrison, rescue liaison.

This is Emma. Just a plain, black, cat, with nothing but a very pregnant belly. She had so many strikes against her just for being what she is. There was this one special thing about her though, she was the sweetest girl who loved to be loved on! I would reach in her cage every time I would walk into the cat room, and when I would start petting her she would roll onto her back for me to rub her belly. Soon, her belly was to big for her to roll on to her back. Here she was in a shelter without a home and she was getting closer and closer to giving birth to a litter of homeless kittens.

As I look around the cat room, I see the other cats who have joined the ranks of homeless animals. Autumn was a beautiful cat who's coat was the colors of an autumn, forest floor. She brought one kitten in with her, but was fostering three other kittens who needed a wet momma to nurse and raise them. Onyx was just as white as a cloud on a clear blue day. She too was nursing orphans that would straggle in, to little to live on their own. Hope was another white cat that came in with milk, but no babies. I was told that some people found her wandering around and left her in the drop off. They gave no other information, no area where Hope came from, nothing. So we had no way of knowing where her babies were or how they were doing! Her tummy was a little rounded, so I named her Hope. As in "We Hope she's not pregnant again"!

It is so sad to look around and see a bunch of beautiful, friendly cats and kittens. As sweet as they are, being sweet doesn't get everyone adopted! Without a foster home, many



adopters, or a rescue group, these pets didn't have a chance of making it out of the shelter alive. A few days later, Emma gave birth to five baby kittens. What a good Momma cat she is! Always nursing and cleaning her babies, and would not get up to feed herself until her babies were content.

A kitten came in one afternoon who was very pretty. I placed her in a cage and tucked everyone in for the night. The next morning when I opened the cat room I heard someone sneeze. It took me half of the day to catch the sneezing one. It was the pretty kitten that had come in the

day before.

Upper Respiratory Virus is just that, a virus. Nothing you can do to treat it, you just have to let it

run its course. Usually, when Upper Res-

piratory gets in to the cat room we have to euthanize every cat or kitten in the room. It's called eradicate, and so we have to eradicate the entire cat room. It has been done many times before, but I just could not let it happen that day. Without hesitation, I took 4 Momma cats and 27 kittens to my house to hopefully survive the virus that they had been exposed to.

Sadly 13 of the 27 kittens ended up with pneumonia and died. However, 14 kittens (5 of those being Emma's) Emma, Autumn, Onyx, and Hope all went to a rescue group to be adopted.

That plain, black cat that I was telling you about, Emma. Well, she was the first cat adopted, and then the rest followed. I guess someone else saw the same sweet and loving soul in Emma, that I saw!

## foster Opportunity

Foster parents provide temporary homes for animals prior to adoption. Why do animals need foster care? Some of the reasons are:

- Foster care can help save an animal's life when a shelter is full.
- Some animal's don't do well in a shelter environment because they are frightened or need a little extra TLC.
- Newborn animals who need to be bottle fed usually need foster care.
- Some animals need time to recover from an illness or injury before adoption.

The Society will provide all of the necessary food and medical care for the foster animal. Don't think you have the time? You might be surprised.

Why not call Jody Heflin at (352) 316-5155 or Arnette Garrison at (352) 221-2450 and talk to them about how you can become an angel of mercy to a pet in need. There is an animal that is waiting just for you.



# WARNING

## CATS IN HEAT

If you've noticed that cats are friskier than ever these days, it is not just your imagination. The national pet adoption community, *Pets Across America*, believes that global warming, which causes rising temperatures, is extending the cat-breeding season past spring, the usual time for a kitten boom. More breeding means even more kittens, and ultimately more cats filling up shelters nationwide.

Several shelters that partner with *Pets Across America* and others have reported that intakes were up 30 percent in 2007. While we can't put an immediate stop to the warming trend, we can stop unwanted litters of cats by spaying and neutering.

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

The last time cat-owner Kelly Levy saw her tiger-striped feline was before she took her husband to the airport. The 24-year-old came back to her house late Friday to find the bottom step, where Gracie Mae would usually be waiting, empty. Levy tore the house apart looking for the 10-month-old tabby who had been spayed just days before. She and her dad took out bathroom tiles and part of a cabinet to check a crawl space and papered the neighborhood with "lost cat" signs. Then she got a phone call. "Hi, you're not going to believe this, but I am calling from Fort Worth, Texas, and I accidentally picked up your husband's luggage. And when I opened the luggage, a cat jumped out," Levy recalled the caller saying, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported. Rob Carter, of Fort Worth, told The Dallas Morning News for its online edition Tuesday that he made it home with the suitcase. "I went to unpack and saw some of the clothes and saw it wasn't my suitcase," Carter said. "I was going to close it, and a kitten jumped out and ran under the bed. I screamed like a little girl." Carter said that he eventually was able to get the cat to come out from under the bed. "In the morning, I got close enough to see its collar and the phone number on it," he said. "So I called the number and got a hold of the crying wife of the traveler." Gracie Mae had crawled into Seth Levy's black suitcase undetected, been put through an X-ray machine, loaded onto an airplane, thrown onto a baggage claim conveyor belt and picked up by a stranger.

Carter delivered Gracie Mae to Seth Levy and the tabby made the 1,300-mile trip home on an \$80 plane ticket Sunday night. Carter said that he considered keeping the cat before he knew she had a home. "If I couldn't have found a good home, I would have kept her," he said. "We were going to name her Suitcase."

## OOPS!



# 2nd Annual "Bark-n-Purr" Charity Concert



Society of Levy County, Inc. board of directors, I would like to personally thank you the community, sponsors, vendors, and volunteers for your recent support to the 2nd Annual "Bark-N-Purr" Charity Concert - BBQ Cook-Off. This event could not have been a success without the help of you, the community, and the many other sponsors, vendors, and volunteers who donated their time and support.

The 2nd Annual "Bark-N-Purr" Charity Concert - BBQ Cook-Off kicked off the day of activities with an official opening ceremonies with a full military color guard provided

ALL Supporters: On behalf of the Humane Society of Levy County, Inc. board of directors, I would like to



an invocation at noon on February 28th, 2009.

There were numerous activities that went on throughout the day including the Disc-Connected K-9's, a snow slope for the children, free BBQ tasting, drum line performance from the Bronson

High School drum line, K-9 demonstrations from the Levy County Sheriff's Dept. and the City of Chiefland. The Humane Society provided a booth for attendees to receive free educational materials such as spay and neuter, how to be a good pet owner, and have a chance to meet some of our adoptable animals looking for their furever home. The event also

included live entertainment including Bryce Carlisle, Tom Jackson, and Sony BMG Nashville artist Craig Morgan. In addition, the audience gave a warm welcome to local college football standout Tim Tebow

enjoy the great country music.

Once again, the Humane Society would like to Thanks these local sponsors and vendors: 93.7 K-Country, Town of Bronson, Levy County Visitor's Bureau, Levy County Sheriff's Office, School Board of Levy County, Progress Energy, Tobacco Free Florida, Sunstate Federal Credit Union, WCJB -CW, The Shed Ranch, Marcotek-Xerox, Insurance Center of Dunnellon, Aaron's Rent-A-Center, ticketalternative.com, Waste-Pro, Gainesville Ice, Jones Septic, Hinote Electric, Dan's Custom Golf Carts, O2B Kids, AP Limo, Greensouth Equipment, BK Cypress Log Homes, Flagship RV of Crystal River, Bell's Catering, Bubba Que's, Hungry Howies, A Cannon Photography, All Florida Enterprises, Inc., United Hay Sales, Curves of Chiefland, Tarmac, Bark-N-Purr Inn, Photofrost, Perkins State Bank, Bronson Ace Hardware, Cathy Robinson, Wal-Greens, VOLUNTEERS, and ATTENDEES.

Once again, the Humane Society of Levy County, Inc. thanks ALL of you for your efforts and contribution of time!

Michelle Hagan  
Director of Education  
"Bark-N-Purr" Committee Chair

## PICTURES



Michelle speaks with Craig Morgan



TIM TEBOW



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# Membership

Please CHECK which MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- |  |                      |                                 |  |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Life | \$ 1,000.00 Annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$ 50.00 Annually<br><small>2 Single &amp; up to 4 youth</small> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Buddy     | \$ 125.00 Annually   | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth  | \$ 15.00 Annually <small>17 &amp; under</small>                  |

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