



PAW PRINTS

Humane Society of Levy County, Inc.

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President's Message

Making a PAWSitive Path...

Successful businesses and celebrities have reached their potential by facing everyday adversities. These adversities have helped them grow, overcome, and become a better person in society leading the way for others to dream big and motivate those individuals or companies to concur their goals. The Humane Society of Levy County, Inc., (Society), is in the process of growing, overcoming, and becoming the leader of our community.



Hello, members. I would like to take a few moments to introduce myself. My name is Michelle Hagan. I am proud to announce that I am your new President of the Society. My past roll within the organization included fundraising, education, adoptions, newsletters, advertisements, and updating and maintaining our website. Outside of this organization, I have helped numerous other non-profit organizations, and have a wonderful husband, Tim Hagan, one beautiful daughter, Victoria Kay Hagan, and a very handsome four legged son named Bailey.

There are numerous PAWSitive paths that our organization needs to grow, overcome and become a stable leader within our community. First, we need to

increase our membership. Membership can be obtained by any individual or child. Need an idea for your animal lover for their birthday or Christmas? Why not purchase them a year long membership. Second, the Society

needs to develop a n d m a i n t a i n o u r m o n e t a r y d o n a t i o n s.

Do you receive presents for your birthday that you could really do without from family members? Instead of presents, encourage your friends and neighbors to give in honor to the Society. Your monetary donation can be specific for our building fund or caring for any of our shelter pets. In addition, the Society needs to overcome adversities that are within our community. The Society will continue to educate the public on spay/neuter to stop pet over population within Levy County. How do we this? I ask you to encourage your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to spay-neuter their pets. Currently, you can help us by donating to our future spay-neuter building facility. In addition, the Society will be applying for the Florida Animal Friend Grant to provide low-cost spay-neuter for

families throughout Levy County. Finally, we need to become a stable unified leader by providing PAWSitive awareness within our community. There are many cats, kittens, dogs and puppies that need someone to love, appreciate, and care for them. Due to the current financial crunch that our community is facing, there is an abundance of great pets that are often surrendered by pet owners because of foreclosures, loss of income, or decline in health. These pets are waiting at the Levy County Animal Services to be adopted and cared about again. If you know of someone in need of an ear or shoulder to lean on, please contact the Levy County Animal Services to adopt that special listener and friend for life.

Let's Start placing our PAWSitive foot forward in helping these animals and promote the Society in a PAWSitive manner.

Look forward to seeing you around,

Michelle Hagan
President

Humane Society
Board of Directors

Michelle Hagan
President

Honorable Connie Asbell
Secretary

Mike Schenk
Treasurer

Mary Flickinger
Director of Fosters / Adoptions

Arnette Garrison
Rescue Liaison

Becky Gill
Director of Fundraising

Dr. Dee Esler, DVM
Director of Veterinary Medicine

One mile at a time...



The Society is honored to have four very active and road savvy individuals volunteer their time in helping animals rescued from Levy County Animal Services. They transport dogs and cats to various rescue groups within the state of Florida. These efforts save many pets who may not have had another chance at the local shelter. It gives the pets exposure in a more populated area, thus increasing their chances for adoption. From paperwork to comforting a lonely, scared, puppy on a rescue trip, these awesome people have it covered! Dan, Cj, Lee and Harry are literally saving lives "One mile at a time" and we are so very thankful and appreciative of their time, efforts and commitment! The 2001 Chevrolet Astro Van was donated by members, Lee and Mary Flickinger. The van, which is air conditioned in the front and rear cargo area, can easily handle eight to ten dog crates and a variety of cat carriers.



Pictured (left to right) Lee Flickinger, Harry Long, CJ Fletcher, and Dan Colucci



We need monetary donations to help continue the success of this program. Donated funds are utilized to medicate, vehicle maintenance, and fuel. Please donate today and designate your funds for **TRANSPORT** in the memo section of your checks.

HSLC & SHELTER WISH LIST

- Batteries (AA)
- Digital Cameras
- Memory Cards (San Disk 256+)
- Blankets and Towels
- Hand Sanitizer (pocket size)
- Cat Litter
- Cat & Kitten Food
- Dog & Puppy Food
- Laundry Soap
- Paper Towels
- Copy Paper
- Color Copy Paper
- Ink Pens
- Alcohol
- Leashes
- Collars (All Sizes)
- Crates (Dog & Cat All Sizes)
- Ziploc bags (ALL Sizes)
- Business Cards (White)(Laser or Inkjet) (10/sheet)
- Post Cards (White) (Laser or Inkjet) (4/sheet)

All items donated are used to help the animals or educate the public.



“Dog Rakes Havoc in Trash Cans”

Levy County Animal Services is responsible for the approximately 3,200 cat and dogs that enter their shelter for care each year. Approximately half face euthanasia.

Alachua County Animal Service our neighboring county has the same situation, where which they receive 7,000 cats and dogs who also face at least half being euthanized.

Numerous dogs and cats are found scavenging for scrapes of food in trash cans. These animals coming into the shelter have no identity and usually have been abandoned by someone that wanted a cute puppy or kitten and then discarded them when the newness wore off.

When they enter the shelter they

soon learn that if you make some noise someone will come by to see who is so loud. They are provided fresh food and water. But there is something missing and that is LOVE. They don't have the play toys they had when they were small and the affection they had.

Most of the problems stem from the lack of spay/neuter. Due to awareness and the stigma with dog owners that neutering a dog in some way emasculates the dog and it not a manly pet.

Levy County residents need to get it together as pet owners. We, not only as animal-lovers, but rather as human beings, must take responsibility for the inexcusable

number of animals that are unnecessarily put to death every year. Spaying and neutering your pet

is one of the most effective and simple ways to control pet overpopulation and, in turn, decrease the number of animals that are killed.

There are those that think, I'm castrating my animal. A dog or cat that is spayed or neutered, however, will likely be happier and will live a longer life. A sterile pet will be less confrontational, less

frenzied and much better behaved.

There is no ethical reason your dog or cat should not be spayed or neutered. The risk of unwanted litter of offspring is simply too high. The Humane Society of Levy County, Inc. is working to establish a facility to do Low Cost Spay and Neuter. We need your support!

VET ADVICE

Dr. Dee Esler, DVM

Halloween can certainly be a fun holiday for families and children, and it can be fun for pets, too. Pet costumes, hair dyes, nail polishes, and treats are available to help your pet become a part of the fun. Halloween can also present some dangers to pets that pet owners should stay aware of. First of all, please only use hair dyes and other cosmetics that are specifically made for pets when getting your little friends in costume. Some human hair dyes, hair sprays, etc. can be toxic if your pet licks or ingests them. Similarly, only choose costumes that do not have parts that a pet can easily chew off and ingest. Buttons, eyes, strings, and threads can pose serious



hazards to your pet's health. Some types of candies, especially chocolates, can also be toxic to pets. Make sure that you keep people candy and other treats where pets cannot get into them. If you want your canine and feline pals to be able to share in the treats, use only treats that are made for them. Also keep in mind that they are considerably smaller than people. Even pet treats can cause diarrhea and vomiting if given in excess.

If you want to take your pet out trick or treating or to a Halloween party, please make sure you keep them with you at all times. It is best to take them on a leash. On trick or treat

days there is extra traffic on the streets and extra noise and confusion outside. Even pets who are used to being outside can easily get lost, stolen, or injured in the confusion. If you cannot keep your pet with you, it is best that he stay at home, preferably inside or in a secure pen to keep him safe. Unfortunately, there are a few people in the world who enjoy being cruel to animals, and Halloween presents a perfect opportunity for them. It is best to keep all pets in a secure location on and around Halloween, but it is especially important for black cats, and to a lesser degree for black dogs.

With a few precautions everyone can have a fun and safe Halloween. Happy Halloween everyone!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

october						
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				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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november						
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29	30					

december						
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27	28	29	30	31		

January 2010						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

October - 15th (5:00PM - HSLC Board Meeting)
 October - 29th (TNR - Otter Creek)
 October - 31st (H-O-W-L-O-W-E-E-N Biker's for Pets)
 November - 7th & 8th (Jack Russell Mania)
 *November - 19th (5:00pm - HSLC Board Meeting)
 November - 26th (HAPPY THANKSGIVING)

*December - 5th (Chiefland Christmas Festival)
 *December - 17th (5:00pm - HSLC Board Meeting)
 December - 25th (MERRY CHRISTMAS)
 January - 1st (HAPPY NEW YEAR)
 *January - 21st (5:00PM - HSLC Board Meeting)
 *tentative events pending board approval

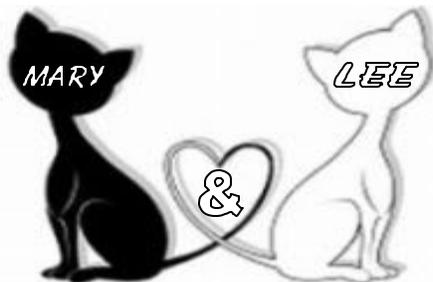
Want to help at these events?

Call 352-486-5705

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Love & Animals Walk Hand-and-Hand

Congratulations



Congratulations

Today, October 11, is our anniversary and we celebrated 27 year's of marriage and rescue work with a big breakfast, hot coffee and calls from friends. My husband laughed as I cranked the radio up and glided around the room with my favorite cat in my arms. As we swayed to the music, I felt so fortunate to have a partner in life to share my love of caring for disabled animals. There are times I don't feel so fortunate, like when I'm struggling to pay bills, keep a roof over our head, and pray that broken equipment keeps going. We have many friends in rescue who are all walking the same fine line as resources are stretched to the limit to care for "just one more." The life of a rescuer is different in many ways, we rescue what others have thrown aside and we reach out to comfort the suffering. There's no time off, lots of cleaning, sleepless nights and backbreaking work. But looking back, it has made me a better person and I am honored and humbled to do this work.

Mary Flickinger