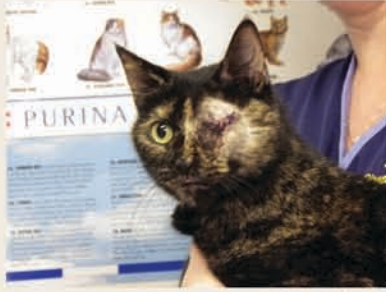


Shelter Angel



Teany received an eye enucleation after scarring caused by an injury she had as a kitten made her eye too large for the socket and it became difficult to open and close.



Clay, a 4 1/2 year old Chow/Husky mix is being treated for Heartworm Disease.



About Shelter Angel - How You Can Help

The Shelter Angel program is a medical fund that exists to provide treatment for animals with special needs, whom without treatment would be considered unadoptable. Donations to the program are used to cover the medical costs associated with an animal's treatment and care.

Your gift may be applied toward emergency or critical care, heartworm treatment, spay/neuter, or other expenses needed to ensure a pet's health and adoptability. It is a wonderful opportunity to help a pet find a permanent, loving home.

If you are interested in becoming a Shelter Angel, please contact Linda Kaub, Donor Relations Manager at lkaub@humane.org or visit our Web site to learn more.

Pet Club...

A special group for our four-legged friends

Our newest members



Callie Spencer (alumnus)



Carlie Sue Gunter (alumnus)



Missy Halpern (alumnus)



Lucy Hallabrin



Tabatha Arnold (alumnus)



Rascal Wilson (alumnus)



Sissy Ernest



Schwartz Hallabrin



Romeo Ernest (alumnus)



Tyson Skouras



Tyson Skouras

Spring/Summer 2011

Humane Happenings

humane=(adjective) tenderness and sympathy for the suffering or distressed.



Board of Trustees

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Executive Director
Phil Snyder with Pal, Ruffin

Executive Scoop

WE ARE YOUR HUMANE SOCIETY

Did you know that Suncoast Humane Society is not funded or operated by any national humane society or SPCA? This question came to light recently when friends mentioned to me that they had just helped us out by sending a large contribution to a national organization. They stated that they were so taken back by the advertisements being aired on our local TV stations. They actually thought they were giving to our "parent organization" and that it would eventually filter down our way.

NOT SO....

Although national organizations help companion animals by being a resource for local shelters and animal advocates, they are not involved with the sheltering of dogs, cats, or other animals in Southwest Florida. Their heart touching TV ads, being broadcast across the country may have you believing otherwise.

When you choose to support your local humane society or SPCA, you may be assured that your donation goes directly towards helping those animals being sheltered or cared for in your community.

For 40 years, Suncoast Humane Society has been helping both animals and people throughout Southwest Florida. Our services touch the lives of many in our immediate area and beyond. These services include the operation of our open admissions animal care center (shelter), pet adoption program, low cost spay/neuter, affordable preventive health care and the pet pantry.

Many of the animals we care for have the same sad faces and even sadder stories as the ones featured in the national ads. Just ask our staff and volunteers who are involved in our wonderful "Shelter Angel" program. This medical fund, operating on donations made by you, and others like you, allows us to help injured and ill pets, requiring extra medical care before finding a permanent loving home.

If you are reading this newsletter, Humane Happenings, "WE ARE YOUR HUMANE SOCIETY," and we need your help. Only with your generous support can we continue to offer these important services and programs. Hopefully one day soon, we will be able to afford a commercial featuring Sarah McLachlan or another compassionate celebrity with a great voice to help us with the plight of animals suffering here at home.

Phil Snyder

6781 San Casa Drive
Englewood, FL 34224
P: 941-474-7884 F: 941-475-3877
Email: information@humane.org
www.humane.org



A copy of the official registration (CH5561) and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free: 1-800-435-7352, within the State of Florida. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.
100% of all contributions go directly to SHS.

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Events

3rd Annual Critter Classic - April 9, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. Riverwood Golf and Country Club

Join us for a day of fun and philanthropy on April 9th at one of the area's most renowned golf courses, Riverwood Golf and Country Club. Your \$95 pre-registration includes a continental breakfast, 2 drink tickets, greens fees and golf cart, golf bag handling, and a Buffet Lunch. Best of all, your participation supports the important programs and services at Suncoast Humane Society.

Visit www.humane.org for more information.



2011 Tennis Ball

This year's 3rd Annual Tennis Ball followed tradition by being another hugely successful fundraiser for Suncoast Humane Society. Thanks again to The Boca Grande Club who hosted this event as a kick-off to their 7-week long Professional Tennis Expo Series. The club raised nearly \$32,000 overall including the Ball, silent auction and weekly tennis matches for the animals at Suncoast.

Save the Date

April 28, 2011
Annual Membership Meeting
Location TBA

June 26, 2011
Night at the Park
Charlotte Stone Crabs vs. Bradenton

July - September
Summer Dining Series
Dates and Locations to be Announced



Left: Yvonne Anderson, President and CEO, The Boca Grande Club, Right: Phil Snyder, Executive Director at Suncoast



Left: Jennifer Shallow, Director of Operations at Suncoast, Right: Rich Harms, Friend and Supporter of Suncoast



Left: Diamond in the Ruff donor, Tim Banks of Cage Doctor Banks, LLC, Right: Diamond winner, Jill Butts

Fostering

Fostering doesn't just save one life, it saves many...

For people who can't or do not want the full-time commitment of adoption, there is an alternative that can not only save one animal life, but many lives. Fostering is the perfect solution for temporary pet parents who can only afford to give a few months or weeks at a time. Whether you choose to foster litters of sick or underage kittens or puppies or an adult cat or dog with special medical or temperament needs, you can make a world of difference for these furry friends. People often do not realize that despite having a well run shelter, some animals just do not shelter well, which can include but are not limited to large breed dogs such as Great Danes as well as some cats.

Animals that do not shelter well could have a longer stay at the Humane Society, if they find a home at all. No one wants to come to a shelter to see dogs jumping, barking and growling or a cat hissing at them, but these behaviors don't necessarily mean that the animal is aggressive. Imagine if you were a cat that once had the luxury of your own home and now you had to share that space with many other cats. It can be stressful to even the most docile, easy going feline. The same goes for our canine friends. Although they get out and exercise twice daily, the shelter does not reflect a typical home environment with long leash walks and possibly a yard of their own. They can get bored, restless and lonely sometimes resulting in destructive behavior or anxiety.

This does not happen to all animals that come into Suncoast Humane Society. Many adjust quickly to their new surroundings and get adopted very quickly. For those animals who need extra time, work or a nurturing home environment, we rely on caring foster families to help them through this transition. Would you consider opening your home while these animals await their second chance? Please contact Jennifer Shallow at jshallow@humane.org for more information. Animals are waiting...

"Fostering has been the best thing we've ever done as a family. Picture summer vacation, kids out of school, running around the yard with pups or playing with a new batch of tiny kittens. It's a win, win for both. My kids always wanted a puppy or a kitten, but kids grow up and they can lose interest. Fostering is a great learning experience; school kids can earn credit's for college and the best reward is knowing you've helped to save a life or maybe 8. My kids have left home, but I am still saving lives. Open your home and heart to those with cold noses. It will be one of the best experiences of your life."

By Foster Volunteer - Laurie Smith

Volunteer Corner



Barbara Josher

From Barbara Josher: I started volunteering at Suncoast Humane Society in July 2009, and I love interacting with and meeting the new animals that come in. Volunteers help make a big difference. We are all involved in helping pets find permanent, loving homes. More recently, I began to intern with the Veterinarian, Dr. Hitesman. I love being an intern because I can help the animals in different ways, such as temperament testing, helping as an adoption counselor, and even the small tasks like making sure they all get fed. I get to see the whole story unfold from the time an animal is surrendered then checking them for health and temperament and ultimately seeing that these animals find the perfect family and their own happy ending. In the end, I believe that I'll still be volunteering here when I am a Veterinarian myself, because giving your time is truly rewarding.



Kathy McGreal

To learn more about volunteering with Suncoast Humane Society, visit www.humane.org or e-mail Cheryl Casey at ccasey@humane.org.

From Kathy McGreal: I LOVE THE CATS! I love being greeted by the staff who seems glad that I am there. They have taught me so much and I admire the work they do and their love of the animals. I love my new friends who volunteer with me. Their devotion to the dogs and cats is truly inspiring. I love feeling that in some small way, I might be making a difference. (Retired people need purpose in their lives, and I have found mine!)

Success Stories

Special Delivery from Walton County

We received a special delivery shortly after noon on Wednesday, February 9th at Suncoast Air Center in Venice. 9 dogs arrived from Walton County Animal Control via Pilotsn'Paws, a non-profit organization that facilitates conversation between pilots willing to transport live animals and animal shelters in need of their services. On this occasion, Suncoast took in 6 puppies and 3 adult dogs from Northern Florida to help them find permanent loving homes. We often work cooperatively with other animal shelters when there is an opportunity to do so. While our first priority is to care for animals in our community, we had the space and an opportunity to help animals who may not have had a chance elsewhere. After a long journey of 400 miles, 2 hours in the air and 30 minutes by van to their final destination at Suncoast's Animal Care Center, we're happy to report that all 9 dogs have found loving new homes after less than 1 week with us. Because of you, we can help the animals who need us most and continue our important mission of reducing the number of homeless animals and improving the quality of life. We're making a difference thanks to you.



Pilot, Dick Sipp arrives in Venice in his "home-built" RV-10 from Marianna, FL with his precious cargo.



Marilyn Lippert, Animal Care Manager (left) and Jennifer Shallow, Director of Operations (right)



Pilot, Dick Sipp unloads one of the six lab mix puppies.



Far Left: Victor Sands and Amelia
Left: Grayce Robertson with Cessna
Right: Nancy and Larry Lamkay with Bravo



Far Right: Rhonda and Dave Gentry with Echo

Vet's Voice

Fighting the Flea



Our veterinarian, Dr. Randy Hitesman

Preventive Care Clinic

Call for your yearly vaccination appointment or schedule your pet's affordable spay/neuter surgery.

(941) 474-7884

Types of commercial products available for flea control include flea collars, shampoos, sprays, powders and dips. Other, newer, products include oral and systemic spot on insecticides.

In the past, topical insecticide sprays, powders and dips were the most popular. However, the effect was often temporary. Battling infestations requires attacking areas where the eggs, larvae, pupae and adults all congregate. Because some stages of a flea's life can persist for months, chemicals with residual action are needed and should be repeated periodically. Sprays or foggers, which required leaving the house for several hours, have been used twice in 2-week intervals and then every two months during the flea season.

Treating animals and their living areas thoroughly and at the same time is vital; otherwise some fleas will survive and re-infect your pet. You may even need to treat your yard or kennel with an insecticide, if the infestation is severe enough.

The vacuum cleaner can be a real aid in removing flea eggs and immature forms. Give special attention to cracks and corners. At the end of vacuuming, either vacuum up some flea powder into your vacuum bag, or throw the bag out. Otherwise, the cleaner will only serve as an incubator,

releasing more fleas into the environment as they hatch. In some cases, you may want to obtain the services of a licensed pest control company. These professionals have access to a variety of insecticides and they know what combinations work best in your area.

As one might expect, flea control through these methods is very time consuming, expensive and difficult. The good news is that currently, with the newer flea products on the market, flea control is much safer, more effective and environmentally friendly. Current flea control efforts center on oral and topical systemic treatments. These products not only treat existing flea problems, they also are very useful for prevention. In fact, prevention is the most effective and easiest method of flea control.

It is best to consult your veterinarian as to the best flea control and prevention for your pet. The choice of flea control should depend on your pet's life-style and potential for exposure. Through faithful use of these systemic monthly flea products, the total flea burden on your pet and in the immediate environment can be dramatically reduced. Keeping your pet on monthly flea treatments especially in areas of high flea risk is an excellent preventive method of flea control.

compassion= (noun) a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.

Bits n' Pieces

2012 Pet Calendar

Entries are now being accepted for the 2012 Pet Calendar. Visit www.humane.org for more information or pick-up an entry form at the Animal Care Center located on San Casa Drive or at any of our three Thrift Store locations. *Please note that our entry rules have changed.*

Thrift Store News

All Stores - 51% Off on the 4th Saturday of every month!

North Port - Stop by the Farmer's Market on the 2nd Saturday of each month

Venice - Mondays - Stuff a bag with clothes that have no pricetag for \$5.00, Wednesdays - All clothing over \$1.87 is 50% Off

Englewood - Stop-in for a wide selection of boutique and speciality items. Accepting quality donations.