

COOL NEWS & ANIMAL VIEWS



To Be Adopted, Some of Sumter's Shelter Dogs Went To Jail!

Citrus County Animal Services (CCAS) partnered with the Citrus County Detention Facility, privately operated by Core Civic, in order for both agencies to achieve two valuable goals: reduce recidivism by inmates who learn new skills and improve their self-esteem and help save the lives of many homeless dogs who are facing potential euthanasia through no fault of their own.

This Inmate/K9 Obedience Program began about a year ago and has already graduated over 50 dogs through their eight week training

program with tearful but happy graduation ceremonies. Our HS/SPCA was invited to provide any candidates with adoption potential and we gratefully obliged with over a dozen dogs who were awaiting a chance at a happy future. HS/SPCA Kennel Manager Carol Legrand mentioned "this

Phoenix Before



is a wonderful opportunity to provide another outlet to save more dogs' lives and help at risk people get a better foothold on regaining their own quality of life. Everyone wins when a community's resources work together!" A dozen dogs of all ages and breeds were transferred from Sumter County Animal Services and from our HS/SPCA directly into the Citrus program throughout the year. From there, the dogs were cared for under the supervision of CCAS Kennel Chief Crystal Wallace though they resided at the detention facility with the inmates as a team pack. Inmates must earn the privilege to qualify in their program. Many of the staff at the detention facility and their families and friends were so impressed with the results that many of the dogs were adopted by them or through word of mouth. As the dogs learned basic obedience, crate training and most importantly kindness and trust, they became increasingly adoptable and appealing to interested families.

One special dog named Phoenix, graduated July 9th along with three other Sumter dogs. Many may recall or have asked for an update on her and we are pleased to provide the great news. In late February, Phoenix arrived at the SCAS facility as a stray who suffered gross neglect, was nearly completely bald from severe demodectic mange, loaded with internal parasites, anemic, dehydrated and grossly malnourished as an unsocialized six month old puppy. Upon seeing her County intake photo, Carol Legrand described her as "a soul who needed to find hope again." While Phoenix waited for her owner to reclaim her, she began her medical

care and when no one came for her she was immediately pulled by our HS/SPCA to continue forward with her recovery towards a happier healthier future. She became a recipient of the special funds we set aside in our **Hope Fund** for medical expenses beyond routinely budgeted medical care.

Phoenix was given time to associate with people in a positive fun environment through our dedicated staff and volunteers. As her health improved, her weight increased, her fur gradually grew in and she blossomed into a lovely Chocolate Lab mixed hound

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with a bounty of energy and enthusiasm for life again. She was an inspiration to everyone who had the pleasure to witness her rise above her tragic beginnings by healing physically and emotionally simply through the kindness and effort of people who cared.

In May, she was transferred into the custody of Citrus County Animal Services to begin her Inmate/Obedience Training and she quickly became as treasured there by everyone who met her as she did while at our HS/SPCA. CCAS Kennel Chief Crystal Wallace added a highlight to Phoenix's graduation celebration, that "Phoenix will be conducting an interview with an interested family and their dog the very next day. We anticipate it going well based on her great personality and socialization." And it did! Phoenix has been happily residing with her new family since then.



Phoenix After

We truly thank both Citrus County Animal Services and Core Civic for allowing some of Sumter County's dogs be a part of this great community program helping both animals and people achieve better lives. We also thank those who donated to our **Hope Fund**, which has allowed us to help animals such as Phoenix whose medical costs are beyond the budgeted routine care.

Animal News Around the State:

“Protect Dogs - Yes on 13” is a grassroots campaign working to end the cruelty of greyhound racing in Florida by Dec. 31, 2020. When voting YES on this humane amendment in this November’s ballot, voters will have a historic opportunity to help thousands of greyhounds no longer suffer from confinement, injuries and death at Florida racetracks. Learn more by visiting protectdogs.org.



Ponce’s Law was officially signed into law by Gov. Scott in early April 2018 allowing judges to ban convicted animal offenders from owning pets for a court ordered length of time in addition to increasing the likelihood that they will do prison time as harsher punishments will be imposed. The law was named in memory of a puppy brutally beaten to death in Ponce Inlet in 2017.

SUMTER COUNTY:

The Evolution of Our Relationship with Sumter County Animal Services

Our Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County (HS/SPCA) is working with Sumter County officials to begin transitioning adoptions and transfers of animals held at Sumter County Animal Services (SCAS) back to the County. The transition will be completed before or by the end of the calendar year.

Our HS/SPCA is pleased that Sumter County has made many improvements in its Animal Services division during the term of our voluntary partnership and we have been grateful to be an adviser and a positive influence on those improved policies. We commend the County in that it has committed to achieving and maintaining a 90%+ Live Release Rate going forward. We strongly believe that after three years of working together on adoptions and transfers the County can see how this goal can be accomplished with the guidelines and resources we have provided and will continue to provide in order to enable a smooth transition. And, therefore, we believe Sumter County is now ready to do it. Our HS/SPCA wants and expects the County to be a success in carrying out these functions and will offer the community mutual adoption events and other special activities with Sumter County Animal Services included where applicable in the future. We shall also continue to pull animals from Animal Services for our own no-kill shelter adoptions as we have done for more than three decades.

“Our Humane Society/SPCA has honored our mission by not only helping as many animals as possible throughout Sumter County but also by providing education to our leadership in more progressive proven methods of shelter management to save the most lives. We look forward to seeing the continued success of our County animal facility” added Public Relations Chairperson Claudia Labbe’.



Until the transition occurs, our **2018 By the Numbers** (Jan.-July) will include those of SCAS as well:

- **HS/SPCA Adoptions** 394 (Dogs=164 & Cats=230)
- **“The Big Fix”** Free Spay/Neuter Vouchers program invested \$47,000 to spay/neuter 388 dogs and cats of qualifying families throughout Sumter County.
- **The “Kibbles”** Free Pet Food Pantry program fed an average of 109 dogs and 83 cats monthly to 75 qualifying families throughout Sumter County, which equates to over 2,700 lbs. of dry dog food and over 645 lbs. of dry cat food monthly.
- **“Pets for Vets”** Reduced Fee Pet Adoption program 16 Veterans and/or Military adopted a pet
- **“Seniors for Seniors”** Reduced Fee Pet Adoption program: four seniors adopted a senior pet.

2018 Sumter County Animal Services (SCAS) Jan.-July adoptable/transferable animals:

- **Total 722 Dogs and Cats Saved!**
- **Total Dogs:** 315 (Adopted=25/Transferred=288/Returned to Owner=2)
- **Total Cats:** 407 (Adopted=20/Transferred=387/Returned to Owner=0)

Cost Saving Measures:

We are upgrading our system to provide email donation receipts instead of printed ones. This will reduce our expenses that could be applied to more animals in our care. Please let us know if you wish to receive only paperless receipts by sending us a quick email to info@hssPCA.org with **«Paperless Receipts Accepted» in the subject line.** Remember to include your current contact information (name/address/phone/email) and we shall update our records. Thank you for helping us reduce our environmental impact as we work to save more lives!



Improvements at Our Shelter to Dog Adoption Kennels

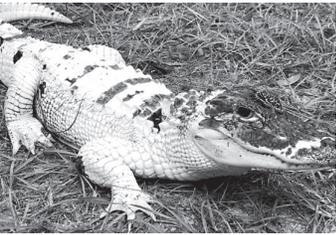
As part of our ongoing projects to improve our shelter's facilities, we are replacing the gravel in the dog adoption kennel runs with cement. That sounds very simple but it is, in fact, a complex project that involves disassembling the current outdoor kennels and moving them under the pole barn for the duration of the project. The new cemented kennels will require an entirely new septic system with pump and drainage. As of this writing, the permitting process is underway and the new kennel materials have arrived.



Horse stall rubber mats have been purchased to provide flooring while the dogs are housed temporarily under the pole barn during the day and they will continue to spend the night in the House of Paws. When finished, it is anticipated that we will have 20 outdoor runs instead of the current 16 in this area with improved sanitation for the dogs. This improvement was made possible thanks to funds from the Strut Your Mutt Charity Dog Walk and the many donors who invested in our work to help as many animals as possible.

Animal Cruelty/Arson & Gator Theft Crimeline Reward Offered

This summer, a heinous act of animal cruelty occurred in Sumter County and we knew that such person(s) should be held accountable and so we offered \$1000 to the Crimeline total reward money now reaching at least \$8,500. The reward will be given by Crimeline for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the guilty parties in the Sumter County Sheriff's case of 43 alligators and crocodiles burned alive and the theft of one rare leucistic alligator in Bushnell June 22, 2018. To be eligible for this reward tips, which remain anonymous, must be submitted to Crimeline at 1-800-423-TIPS (8477).



"These terrible crimes against animals are absolutely unacceptable. The individual(s) responsible for this need to be captured immediately and we hope the missing alligator will be safely recovered" commented HS/SPCA Chairman Celine Petrie. She emphasized that *"we are asking for community help with any information which could help bring justice to these innocent victims."*

Thrift Store News

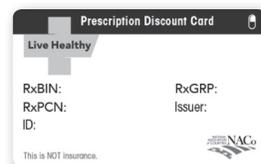
In the last few years, many of our supporters have suggested that we open a thrift store again. This time around, there were many things that had to be taken into consideration including finding a suitable site at an affordable price, buying fixtures and staffing the store, which would require either hiring employees or finding volunteers willing to commit to the hours the store would be open. Recently, we found a way to try out the idea of a thrift store without such a large commitment of resources. It's a sales booth at the Wildwood Antique Mall at 364 Shopping Center Drive on 301! We were able to secure a 10' X 10' spot at a reasonable rate and the staff there handles the sales and sends us a daily summary of transactions. All we need are donations of suitable merchandise and volunteers to collect it, price it and arrange it. And in typical fashion, some of our wonderful volunteers jumped in with great enthusiasm! So, by the time you read this, it will have been up and running for a month or two. Stop by and browse. If you have items, mainly vintage or antique, you would like to donate, first call our HS/SPCA office.

As always, we appreciate all the different ways people show their support for our Humane Society. Time will tell how this idea works out for us and if it's a success, we will look into expanding the thrift store concept.

NACo Prescription Card for Pets' Meds

We often hear how pet owners may not be able to afford certain prescription medications for their pets (or for themselves too). Here is a FREE prescription discount program, which can help pets owners save a bit of money - an average of 24% off the retail price of prescription medications, which are also prescribed to pets. This is not insurance but a discount program.

Sumter County, FL is a participating member in the NACo Prescription Discount Card Program. So join the thousands of county residents using their prescription discount card provided to you free of charge by and start saving today! Applicants can print their cards easily from the online link with the pet owner's name on the prescription discount card, which is accepted at 68,000 participating retail pharmacies nationwide! Enroll easily at nacorex.com/pet-medications or call toll-free at 1-877-321-2651.



Brielle

Our Hope Fund needs your support

Currently our Hope Fund needs your support so we may continue helping animals who may otherwise not receive a second chance if they are not afforded this medical care. We have had MANY special medical need cases in 2018 and by mid-July our expenses were over \$7,000. A few of the many cases included:

- six dogs receiving heartworm treatment,
- a puppy receiving Parvo treatment and fortunately recovered fully,
- a German Shepherd receiving cruxiate ligament surgery,
- a dog in great pain needing "cherry-eye" surgery of the inflamed/prolapsed third eyelid,
- three dogs each requiring leg amputations (one named Brielle, was a gunshot victim where her leg was shattered),
- multiple cats with oral ulcers, corneal ulcers and diabetes,
- various dogs, cats and kittens with a range of health issues such as periodontal disease requiring dental extractions, pregnancy complications, severe upper respiratory infections, lice/mange, mastitis and more.



Brielle's X-Ray

Calendar of Events

2018

September *"Responsible Dog Ownership" Month*

09/28 Jukebox Bingo Night (SOLD OUT), Eisenhower Rec. Ctr., The Vlg.s., 5:30-8:30pm

October *National "Adopt a Shelter Dog" Month*

10/02 National Night Out, Sumter County Sheriff's Office at Lake/Sumter State College, 5-9pm

10/19 Vlg.s. Dog Adoption Day, Eisenhower Rec. Center, 11am-1pm

10/20 Blessing of the Animals, HOPE Lutheran Church, 8am-12noon

10/26 Wildwood Spooktacular, City Hall, 5:30-8:30pm

10/30 Jukebox Bingo Night, Red Oaks RV Resort, Bushnell, 5:30-8:30pm

November *National "Shelter Appreciation" Week, Nov. 4-10*

National "Adopt a Senior Pet" Month

11/10 PetSmart Nat'l. Adoption Weekend, at Wedgewood Lane, 10am-2pm

11/16 Vlg.s. Dog Adoption Day, Mulberry Grove Rec. Center, 11am-1pm

December *National "Mutt Day" Dec 2nd*

12/08 Holiday Party, Katie Belle's, 11am-2pm

12/20-24 Barnes & Noble Gift Wrapping, All day at The Villages by LSL

12/21 Vlg.s. Dog Adoption Day, Seabreeze Rec. Center, 11am-1pm

2019

January *National "Spay/Neuter Awareness" Month*

01/26 Buttonwood Heights Ladies Luncheon/Auction

01/26 R U Smarter Than a 5th Grader? Night (SYM event), Eisenhower Rec. Ctr. 6-9pm

February

02/02 Casino Night, at George Nahas Chevrolet & co-hosted by ReMax Premier Realty, 6-10pm

02/03 Puppy Bowl, Petco

02/23 Trivia Night (SYM event), Eisenhower Rec. Ctr., 6-9pm

March

03/01-09 Sumter County Fair, Community Info Table

03/14 Red Oaks RV Resort St Patty's Adoption Day, Bushnell, 1-2:30pm

03/30 Strut Your Mutt (SYM), Wildwood Community Center, 8am-12pm

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH:

- 2018** May: **Phil Braun**
- June: **Andrea Moxness**
- July: **George & Mary Ketterer**
- Aug: **Elizabeth Brown**
- Sept: **Steve Miskiewicz**
- Oct: **Claudia Labbé**

Our great volunteers will now also be celebrated on our Facebook page as well as on our website! Join this devoted group of animal loving people and get involved by making a difference in our community!

Need A Guest Speaker?

We welcome the opportunity to connect with our community's clubs, groups, civic organizations, businesses, schools and churches. Would your audience benefit from learning about the vital work our non-profit does throughout Sumter County for animals and people? We do more than rescue! We educate animal lovers about disaster preparation, pet trusts in planned giving; we provide public assistance to qualifying low income residents' pets; we offer tours of our shelter and volunteer opportunities to our community's youth and adults plus more! Contact Claudia Labbe' at 352-793-9117.

A "Feel Good Tail Waggin' Moment"

Our volunteer Judy Hutton captured this precious moment at an adoption event last year and we wanted to share its simple beauty with you. It is of happy little Trixie in the trusting hands of one of our other devoted volunteers, Jeff Roels, in August of 2017. This special moment between them exemplifies, from the heart, the love and care that go into our rescued animals and how our animals joyfully respond.



Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc.

PO Box 67 994 CR 529A
Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538
352-793-9117
hsspca.org

Our Mission

- Encourage responsible animal ownership practices through education;
- Report incidents of animal cruelty and/or neglect to government agencies chartered to take appropriate action;
- Provide care for adoptable animals that are injured, abused, unwanted or abandoned;
- Secure permanent homes for as many adoptable animals as possible;
- Provide spay and neuter services for animals to be adopted, as appropriate, to reduce unwanted animal populations.

Board of Directors

Celine Petrie, **Chairman**
Grover Stewart, **Vice Chairman/Secretary**
Jane Mouradjian, **Volunteer Chairperson**
Frank Arenas, **Director**
Gil Korta, **Director**

Full-Time Staff

Anne Miller, **Shelter Manager**
Carol Legrand, **Kennel Manager**
Estrella Gusman, **Adoption Coordinator**
Tera Becker, **Kennel Tech.**
Heather Irwin, **Kennel Tech.**

Part-Time Staff

Tabatha Green, **Kennel Tech**
Kathryn Lane, **Bookkeeper**

Always consider yourself invited! We welcome interested visitors to see what we are about, how well cared for the animals are and meet our great staff and volunteer team. We want you to feel confident about where your donations are going.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Office: Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm
Sat, 9am-4pm

Kennels close 1 Hour before Office

If you are interested in VOLUNTEERING, we host a Volunteer Orientation on the 1st Saturday each month. Just complete an application in person or on our website. We can't say enough about the importance of our volunteers. With the exception of our paid staff listed above, our HS/SPCA is ALL thanks to volunteers!