

COOL NEWS & ANIMAL VIEWS



We've Seen the Greatness in OUR COMMUNITY!

GREATNESS IN: COMPASSION, GENEROSITY AND SERVICE

Our no-kill shelter is ALWAYS looking for more of these kinds of people. **APRIL is National Volunteer Appreciation Month** and we certainly do appreciate ours!

*Have you considered volunteering with us but aren't sure of what it entails?
Do you want to enrich your life with purpose and also make your community better?
Concerned you're going to adopt all the animals or be sad seeing homeless animals?*

You could be missing out on the rewards of socializing with the many dogs and cats in our care. Socializing is one of the best ways to help get our adoptable animals into their fur-ever homes. Volunteer Coordinator, Jane Mouradjian, explains to those interested but unsure. "Volunteering for our HS/SPCA becomes a passion when we realize we are the ambassadors for the many beautiful animals in need. There are so many other ways to volunteer beyond working with animals directly. Feel free to stop by our no-kill shelter and see how you can make a difference and join the family of wonderful volunteers we have."

Puppies Abounded!

It seemed "puppy season" came early this year and barely took a break. From December through February we experienced an unusual surge of litter after litter of puppies; we took in 32 in a total of six separate litters of varying ages, from many differing circumstances. Some were orphaned, some were surrendered, while some were abandoned, including the parent dogs. Our team was de-fleaing the infested ones, warming the chilled ones born in rare Florida frigid temperatures and hand-feeding the most frail. Our much needed foster homes took so many in who were better nurtured away from the shelter environment to reduce the risk of disease outbreak with these puppies of unknown health exposure and immature immune systems. Thanks to them and to one exceptional Mama dog named Nala, who nursed two additional litters of orphaned puppies; they began thriving and growing into beautiful bouncy bundles of fun!

So what do you do with so many puppies?

You host your first "Puppy Bowl" of course! We teamed up with Animal Planet and ASPCA in their national Puppy Bowl XIV event. As an Adoption Partner with our local Petco, we threw a very fun tailgate pawty filling the store with many Puppy Bowl fans. The puppies showed off their athletic prowess to the crowds before taking a hard nap during the kitten cheerleading halftime antics. Fans lined up for pawtographs and to submit their applications for their own forever MVP All Star or cheerleader!

We are now in peak "kitten season" which requires special needs such as IAMS Kitten Dry Food, blankets, towels, cat beds and foster homes where they will be nurtured and become easily adoptable.

The Petco Foundation Invests \$20,000 In Our Lifesaving Work

In February, during National "Spay/Neuter Awareness" Month, we received the great news of being awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Petco Foundation to support our "Big Fix" Free Spay/Neuter Voucher program. The Petco Foundation investment will provide the spaying or neutering of over 200 additional dogs and cats of qualifying low income Sumter County residents along with producing educational spay/neuter literature to reach underserved communities. In 2017, our HS/SPCA invested nearly \$75,000 to have 827 pets spayed or neutered, all made possible by donations and grants.

Chairman of the Board Celine Petrie noted, "Our Humane Society/SPCA exists to ensure a better tomorrow for the pets of our county through many programs. This grant from the Petco Foundation will be instrumental for our 'Big Fix' Free Spay/Neuter Voucher program to prevent countless animals being born who would be at greatest risk of becoming homeless, abandoned or potentially euthanized. On behalf of everyone at the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for Petco Foundation's ongoing support of our organization."

Tailgate PAWTY @ Petco!
BE THEIR ALL-STAR
11am-1pm at Petco!
Ra! Ra! Sis Boom BAAAA!

PUPPY BOWL XIV
HUMANE SOCIETY OF SUMTER COUNTY, INC.
ASPCA
ANIMAL PLANET

A Rescue Challenge We Never Faced Till Now...BELLA



In our 36 years, we have experienced a full spectrum of animal issues but a new one was presented to us this February.

Bella, an utterly lovely little seven-month-old Longhaired Chihuahua mix became our latest special needs dog. She was in great health except for one major issue: she has Canine Megaesophagus. Her esophagus does not properly deliver food/water down to her stomach. She can only eat/drink in an upright position and she must be kept vertical for 15-30 minutes to allow the food/water to settle in her stomach. If she stands too soon, everything comes up and she could aspirate potentially leading to pneumonia.

Her senior owners surrendered her to us as she became too much for them to handle. They consulted with a university vet hospital but learned there is no known reparative surgery option for dogs. It was suggested that she be put down but they brought her to us to see if we could help her. They loved her and wanted to give

her a chance with someone who could provide the special feeding care she needed. We saw that although Bella was very good being held in her caregivers arms while being fed, this may not last long as she continues to grow. She needed to learn how to sit in a special "Bailey chair" made for dogs with Megaesophagus positioning them upright while eating.

Our compassionate volunteer Facilities Manager, Jeff Roels, took the time to construct a custom chair for Bella from online videos and drawings and using her specific measurements. While we taught her how to eat in the chair, we searched for a truly committed adopter for this little jewel. And sure enough, a special family came to adopt a special dog. Her new mom, Rosie, learned how to feed her like a pro! Bon appétit Bella!



Debbie Smith,
Volunteer and Bert

4TH ANNUAL STRUT YOUR MUTT

was a tremendous success and grand show of love from our community! By the end of the day, our community raised over \$45,000 to fund the vital work of our shelter. The day never had a dull moment. The hundreds of canines and their proud people "strutters" could easily feel the positive energy from this life-saving event. We thank our devoted co-presenters Buffalo Ridge Animal Hospital and CBC National Bank and all the compassionate businesses who attended for a worthy cause, regional animal rescues who also make a difference saving lives, the exciting animal athletes and performers as well as the three celebrity veterinarians of *The Vet Life* adding a little more fame to the day! But our hearts are huge with gratitude for Debbie Smith, the mastermind of this great event...and her precious mutt Bert! "It's all because of Bert" says Debbie!

Our Affiliations and Memberships



Our Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc. was recognized for our transparency with a Gold Seal on our GuideStar Nonprofit Profile! GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit

organizations. In order to get the Gold Seal, our HS/SPCA shared important information with the public using our profile on <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/59-2999283>. Now our community members and interested donors can find in-depth financial information about our organization.



We are a member of FAAWO (Florida Association of Animal Welfare Organizations) a state-wide coalition of animal welfare, animal protection agencies striving to alleviate cruelty

and suffering by strengthening the human/animal bond and promoting respect and compassion for all life. This is a group of dedicated animal advocates working together to positively impact animals throughout the state of Florida. FAAWO's goal is to offer assistance, exchange ideas and support our colleagues in the compassionate work of saving lives. By uniting our voices on important issues, we can affect change on local and state levels.



As a Best Friends Network Partner we recently had the pleasure of welcoming the CEO of Best Friends, Gregory Castle, and his colleagues to our area. We had the opportunity to discuss the progress of our goal of Sumter

County becoming a no-kill community, with the intention that it will be sooner than Best Friend's nationwide goal of 2025. The accepted definition of "no-kill" is a Live Release Rate (LRR) of 90%+. With our guidance and Best Friends resources, our County leaders developed a program of TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release) for feral/ community cats launched in January 2018. Its first two months have demonstrated its effectiveness, significantly raising the LRR in Jan. to 87.3% and Feb. to 90%. Much work remains to benefit the animals in the County's facility but this program is a positive example of what can be achieved when working together towards a common goal.



Shelter Animals Count is an independent 501(c)3 with broad collaboration from the animal welfare community. By creating standardized reporting and definitions for shelter statistics including intake, adoptions, return-to-owner, transfers, euthanasia and shelter deaths, we will increase live outcomes.

NEW Website Launched

November 1, we launched our website's new look (hsspc.org) developed by HS/SPCA volunteer Cindy Samp. By bringing the development in-house, we saved the cost of hiring a webmaster and enabled quicker turn-around on updates. The site is updated daily regarding adoptables, lost/found pets, events and current news. Newsletters, forms and applications are also available. This was quite a task Cindy took on and we appreciate her commitment to it!

2017 By the Numbers: So much misinformation is being distributed in our community in recent times that we want to clarify some key points so there is NO doubt in anyone's mind of our commitment to save animals.



HOPE Fund Recipients

What is the difference between our Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County (HS/SPCA) and Sumter County Animal Services (SCAS)?

Our Humane Society/SPCA is:

- a 501(c)3 charitable organization
- supported by donations and grants
- No-kill shelter
- Mission: Protect Animals

Sumter County Animal Services is:

- a unit of County government
- supported by tax dollars
- animal control facility
- Mission: Protect the Public

What is the relationship between Sumter County Animal Services (SCAS) and the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County?

On February 1, 2015 Sumter County Animal Services (SCAS) and the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc. began working with an understanding frequently referred to as the "partnership." The County had decided that it did not want to continue doing adoptions and transfers directly so that it could prioritize its public safety mandates and the County recognized that the HS/SPCA was better qualified to carry out those activities. SCAS then approached the HS/SPCA to be the contact point for adoptions and transfers and we agreed as we believed it would lead to

more animals being saved, honoring our mission. The HS/SPCA does not take possession of these animals but acts as a third-party administrator in the adoption or transfer. The HS/SPCA works with many rescue partners to accomplish the large number of animal transfers. The HS/SPCA does not have a formal, written agreement with SCAS but rather works under an understanding that we will work together to save and relocate as many animals as possible from SCAS.

- We do not own the animals at SCAS. The County does.
- We do not decide which animals are deemed adoptable. The County does.
- We have no involvement in determining the County's budget for SCAS operations as we are not part of County government.
- As of October 1, 2017 Sumter County pays for the spay/neuter surgeries of all the dogs and cats that are transferred out of their facility.
- With the help of pre-approved no-kill rescues/shelters, volunteer transporters, social media pages and adopters, **98% of the adoptable SCAS dogs and 97% of the cats** were safely placed in 2017! **This** is why we **voluntarily** agreed to help with their placement three years ago and we continue to provide guidance to SCAS as they progress towards higher Live Release Rates.

- **HS/SPCA Adoptions** - 613 (Dogs=302 & Cats=311)
- **"The Big Fix"** - Free Spay/Neuter Voucher program invested **\$74,588.11** to spay/neuter **827** dogs and cats of qualifying families throughout Sumter County thus reducing the number of unwanted births.
- The **"Kibbles"** - Free Pet Food Pantry program fed an average of **175** dogs and **178** cats monthly to approximately **126** qualifying families throughout Sumter County which equates to over 4,448 lbs. of dry dog food and 1,400 lbs. of dry cat food monthly.
- **"Pets For Vets"** - Reduced Fee Adoption program: 13 Veterans and/or Military adopted a pet.
- **"Seniors For Seniors"** - Reduced Fee Adoption program: 5 Seniors adopted a senior pet.

2017 Sumter County Animal Services (SCAS) adoptable/transferable animals:

Total 1,151 Dogs and Cats Saved!

Total Dogs: 526 (Adopted=104/Transferred=422/Returned to Owner=5)

Total Cats: 625 (Adopted=12/Transferred=613/Returned to Owner=0)

Our HOPE Fund was created to assist abused and neglected animals in emergencies or with critical needs in their care; it is named in honor of a newborn kitten which was witnessed being thrown from a moving vehicle and saved by caring Sumter residents. Any funds exceeding an animal's needs are applied for other animals facing such needs in the future. In 2017, our top 35 medical cases paid from our HOPE Fund cost over \$19,000. We always want to give them HOPE and provide a brighter future for these deserving animals.

Charlie, the sweet little brown tiger kitten, barely six-months-old, was found as a stray. He faced a big challenge from his broken front leg and a growing infection from the exposed bone. While going through his stray hold period at the county facility, Charlie received vet care for his injury. Its severity concerned us but Charlie never let his injury get the best of him. As soon as his hold time ended with no one claiming him, we immediately brought him into our custody and went straight to our vet where Charlie received a necessary full leg amputation. Charlie's medical care reached \$1,900 and this is even with the reduced rate our vets generously provide us. He rebounded so well, seemingly un-phased and ready to take on the world! Charlie showed love and gratitude to his caregivers especially to foster mom Christine, who even introduced Charlie to his new forever mom, Deb!

Another expense our HOPE Fund covers is the treatment for heartworm positive dogs which averages \$400-600 each, depending upon the size of the dogs. For example, at the time of this writing, we have six dogs receiving this costly but life-saving treatment. Under strict supervision while being treated, these dogs have reduced physical activity to not stress their hearts while the parasites die off and their hearts gradually heal. It takes time, special attention and love but these dogs can then usually return to a normal lifestyle when adopted. This is why we encourage all pet owners to put their pets on heartworm
PREVENTION.

ADOPT, DONATE, VOLUNTEER

How Will You Make a Difference?



By Getting Involved!

Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc.

PO Box 67 994 CR 529A
Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538
352-793-9117
www.hsspsca.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**
Cheryl Deese, **Rescue Coordinator**
Tera Becker, **Kennel Tech.**
Heather Irwin, **Kennel Tech.**

Part-Time Staff

Tammy Wright, **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 six full-time and two part-time employees, our HS/SPCA is ALL thanks to volunteers!

2018 The Villages Monthly Pet Adoption Calendar

@ The Villages Regional Recreation Centers

Interested adopters can meet many beautiful dogs at our monthly pet adoption days at varying Regional Recreation Centers in The Villages every 3rd Friday from 11AM-1PM, weather permitting at the outdoor adjacent gazebo. We'll have an HS/SPCA volunteer inside the lobby with adoption books, applications and general info should the dogs not be able to attend during inclement weather.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

4/20/18 Seabreeze Rec. Ctr.
5/18/18 Lake Miona Rec. Ctr.
6/15/18 Colony Cottage Rec. Ctr.
7/20/18 Laurel Manor Rec. Ctr.
8/17/18 Paradise Rec. Center
9/21/18 Rohan Rec. Ctr.
10/19/18 Dwight D Eisenhower Rec. Ctr.
11/16/18 Mulberry Grove Re. Ctr.
12/21/18 Seabreeze Recr. Ctr.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH:

2017 Nov: Dawn Foster
Dec: Doreen & Erin Maciarz
2018 Jan: Jeff Roels & Barry Greenawald
Feb: Cindy Samp
Mar: Sue Brakeman
Apr: Stephen & Savannah Eddy

Another Giving Opportunity

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) can satisfy your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), in part or in whole, and assist our Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc., your local no-kill animal shelter. *If you are charitably inclined, love animals and don't need all or part of your annual RMD, why not satisfy your charitable intentions that minimizes your income tax and save lives at the same time?*

You have the ability to direct your IRA Trustee or Custodian to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly to a qualified 501(c)3 organization such as the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc. in the amount of all or part of your RMD for that year. The result of this QCD is to remove taxable RMD income from your 1040 to the extent of the Charitable Distribution.

Distributions of this kind, and the accompanying reduction in taxable income, are permitted to the extent of your RMD for any given year or \$100,000, whichever is less. If you file a joint return with your spouse, and he/she is also 70½ years old or older, you may charitably distribute up to \$200,000 or your total RMD, whichever is less. Your QCD must be completed and received by the charity by December 31st each year. Only IRAs qualify for Qualified Charitable Distributions. Donors must be at least 70½ years of age.

2018 Calendar of Events

Follow us on Facebook & our website for latest news & events

APR National Animal Cruelty Prevention Month
National Volunteer Appreciation Month
4/14 **PetSmart Grand Opening Adoption Day**, 3667 Wedgewood Ln., The Vlg.
04/17 **Curious Cuisiners Club presentation**
04/17 **Vlgs. Middle School Builders Club presentation**
04/22 **Volunteer Appreciation Picnic** at our shelter, 10am-2pm
04/28 **Tractor Supply Adoption Event**, SR 48 Bushnell, 11am-1pm

MAY National Animal Disaster Preparedness Month
"Be Kind to Animals" Week, May 6-12

5/04 **Hurricane Prep Expo**, Rohan Rec. Ctr. The Villages, 10am-2pm
05/05 **Key Scales Ford Adoption Day/Donation Drive**, Hwy. 441, Leesburg, 10am-2pm

JUN National "Adopt a Shelter Cat" Month

JUL National "Mutt Day" July 31st
7/07 **Petco National Pet Adoption Day**, Lady Lake, 10am-2pm
07/25 **BINGO Night Fundraiser**, O'Dell Rec. Ctr., The Vlg., 5:30-9pm

AUG National "Make a Will" Month
National "Homeless Animals Day" August 19th

SEP "Responsible Dog Ownership" Month
9/01 **Petco National Pet Adoption Day**, Lady Lake, 10am-2pm
09/28 **BINGO Night Fundraiser**, O'Dell Rec. Ctr., The Vlg., 5:30-9pm

You can make a charitable contribution to benefit the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc. directly from your IRA and avoid income tax on the distribution.*

Additional Ways to Give:

- Join our "Humane Heroes" with a monthly automated donation for your convenience. Contact our Shelter Manager, Anne Miller for details.
- Shopping online can have dual benefits! For your shopping ease, your online purchases can help our shelter! AmazonSmile: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2999283>
- Visit Ebay For Charity and see how easily you can help! If you are an Ebay Seller and wish to help, please consider making a portion of your sale directed to our non-profit. Check out the lovely donated items we have on our own Ebay page at <http://www.ebay.com/usr/hsspsca>

*The information provided herein is not intended to represent legal nor tax advice. Each individual's situation is different. Any person interested in pursuing a Qualified Charitable Distribution is urged to consult their attorney and/or tax accountant to determine the effect such a distribution would have on their own personal tax situation.

Your gift is very much appreciated and may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained by writing to the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc., PO Box 67, Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538, 352-793-9117 or www.hsspsca.org. The Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc. has been formed to: 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. If you are a resident of the state of Florida, you may obtain financial information directly from the state agency: FLORIDA - A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352 (800-HELP-FLA) WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING www.800helpfla.com. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Florida Registration CH4452.