

STAR PAWS THE SPAYED GENERATION

Thank you to everyone who journeyed into the unknown to navigate a virtual event. With your help we raised \$272,000 to save lives!

We heard from our local heroes, and our Honorary Chair, Sandy Cagan - proprietor of the Orlando Cat Cafe. We witnessed acts of kindness that go beyond the season, and we celebrated the increase in lives saved in Polk County from 2018 to 2020.

A special Thank You to all our sponsors and everyone who helped this evening come to fruition.

Together we will finish the old year and bring in the new, saving lives!



Dear Santa Paws,



I know you mostly get letters from humans, but I'm hoping you will read a message from a shelter dog too. I have been a good girl all year and didn't hunt a single cat - even though they're sent by the Grinch - so I hope I'm on the Nice list.

I only have one wish for the holiday, and that is for a loving home. If that isn't possible, I've dressed up to be your helper. Maybe I could work with the elves? I bet I would be great at helping!

What else... I'm five years old, great with both adults and puppy-humans, and I love walks and treats. I'm super smart too, so I bet I could learn things. Just as long as there aren't any cats. I do *not* like cats. That doesn't put me on the naughty list, right?

Anywoofs, I'm sweet and loyal, and pretty if I may say so myself. Hope to hear from you soon.

Hopeful wags from Bella



SPCA
FLORIDA



December
2020

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Here to Help

The pandemic continues and dogs and cats arrive daily. We often receive more than 50 frightened, sick, and injured pets in less than 8 hours. Please, stay with us to help them. Every dollar makes a difference, and we are forever grateful.

5850 Brannen Road S.
Lakeland, FL 33813
863-646-7722

Adoption Center
Mon. - Fri. 11am to 6pm
Sat. & Sun. 11am to 5pm
SPCA Florida
Medical Center
Mon. - Sat. 8am to 6pm



www.spcafloida.org

paws TALK

for the love of animals

MERRY
CHRISTMAS!
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Can I go Home with You?

This holiday season, a furry lifelong companion may be just what's needed to make the days merry and bright. To help as many kitties as possible find homes, we are offering a feline adoption special at Petco Lakeland: adopt a cat or kitten for \$20!

The special is only at the Petco Lakeland location and will run until the 40th kitten or cat is adopted, or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first.

All felines are spayed/neutered, microchipped, and up to date on vaccinations. Find them at Petco Lakeland, 4139 US Hwy 98 N.



Congratulations on passing 1,000!

Our partner, Orlando Cat Cafe, recently shared some pawsome news: they reached their 1,000th adoption!

1,000 lucky kitties in happy homes, what a milestone! Orlando Cat Cafe started as a dream, and now they have been saving the lives of cats and kittens from Polk County since 2018.

If you're in their area, the cafe is well worth a visit. To ensure appropriate physical distancing, it is best to make a reservation on their website www.orlandocatcafe.com to make sure there is room.

To make things even better, Orlando Cat Cafe's own Sandra Cagan was the Honorary Chair of Star Paws, the 2020 virtual Auction for Animals, that was held November 14th.



Adoptions by Appointment

The COVID-19 Pandemic has not shown signs of slowing down, and in an effort to keep everyone safe, SPCA Florida is continuing appointment-based adoptions.

Browse available pets on our website, www.spcflorida.org, and give us a call at 863-577-4615 to schedule an appointment. Our staff is standing by to help you find the perfect family member to bring in the New Year. Masks are required.

Tail-wagging Joy

Scout's life wasn't always easy, but after more than four months of care at SPCA Florida he finally found his Happily Furever After. Scout has had a hard time trusting women and feeling secure, but after several visits and a 2-night sleepover, he knew he found the right home.

Here he is with a couple of his friends from the canine team and his new family. There must have been something in the air that day, because not all eyes were dry as he left! If you're thinking about adding a dog to your family, your next furry friend might be waiting at SPCA Florida. Go to our website www.spcflorida.org and take a look.



Send a Holiday Greeting!

This year, we may not be able to get together in person as we're used to, but we can still stay in touch. Firefighters from Lakeland Fire Department and rescued pets from SPCA Florida are spreading holiday cheer together through holiday greeting cards.

Proceeds from the cards will be used to improve lives of pets in Polk County, to ensure no animal goes hungry, and to provide medical and emergency assistance for pets and the families who love them. Each bundle contains five unique and different greeting cards, envelopes, and a bonus card with Firefighter Santa Claus.

To see more and order yours, visit www.spcflorida.org



Fosters Save Lives

Little Hendrix was born under a car in a storm, daughter of a very young and emaciated mom who had almost no milk. Luckily a kind family found them, brought them inside, and took them to SPCA Florida when the storm receded.

Among other health issues, the tiny kitten had a large amount of fluid under her right eyelid. Her health declined and after just a few days, she required round-the-clock care. She was too weak to feed on her own and spent several days in an incubator with a tube threaded down to her stomach.

Sadly, her two siblings did not make it. It isn't uncommon that kittens this small succumb to bacterial infections, and as much as the foster family and SPCA Florida's veterinarians struggled, the siblings could not be saved. At the time of the last sister's passing, Hendrix seemed fine, but a week later, she had a fever and was lethargic. The foster family rushed her



to SPCA Florida's Medical Center, where she spent three days with an IV and medications.

Fortunately, Hendrix is a fighter. She pulled through and regained her health, and became a big sister to two other foster girls, teaching them how to be a kitten. She's rambunctious and playful, and eager to start life with a family of her own.

Foster families are truly lifesavers. It can be bittersweet, but without fosters, kittens like little Hendrix wouldn't have a chance. With them, cats and dogs can flourish and live a long and happy life.

If you want to help, learn more and sign up on our website: www.spcflorida.org/fostering - we provide all the supplies you need, and you will make a real impact on someone's life.



SPCA Florida's Medical Center Offers TPLO Surgeries!

Canine cranial cruciate ligament disease (CCL/ACL tears) are among the most common orthopedic conditions in dogs. There are many options for treatment, but surgery is recommended for the best chance of long-term success.

The procedure is common at specialty level veterinary hospitals. Our lead surgeon, Dr. Dorian Lara, has brought it to SPCA Florida's Medical Center.

In a human, ligaments can be repaired or even replaced, but the procedure doesn't work well in dogs. Furthermore, a dog's and a human's knees are constructed differently and braces don't work as well on a dog as on a person.

The TPLO surgery allows a dog to walk comfortably without a cranial cruciate ligament, with an excellent prognosis for recovery. The dog will not be allowed to run, jump, play etc for eight weeks after surgery, and this is to protect the repair and help avoid complications. After this period, most dogs are able to return to their normal, active lifestyles.

