



To learn more about us visit:
www.shelteringhands.org

Our Mission: Improving the lives of cats through humane care, spay/neuter, adoptions, education and support services.

April, 2019
Volume 3, Issue 2

Letter from Sheltering Hands President

Our feline friends have a rich history. In 2007, the author of a study published in the research journal *Science* declared all domestic cats descended from a Middle Eastern wildcat, and that the process of domestication began 12,000 years ago in the Near East; precisely when the first agricultural society began to flourish in the Middle East's Fertile Crescent, and when the once wild cats became a welcome presence as a result of their protection of stored surplus crops from rodents.

Cats were highly revered by the Egyptians, and those convicted of killing a cat were often sentenced to death. The cat was the symbol of liberty to the Ancient Romans. In the Far East, cats protected treasured manuscripts from rodents.

For reasons unknown, Europeans began to demonize cats during the Middle Ages, associating them with witchcraft and the devil. Their unfounded superstitions resulted in the mass killing of cats and ultimately the death of 25 million Europeans to the Bubonic Plague, spread by uncontrolled flea-carrying rats.

Cats are again extremely popular and according to the 2017-2018 edition of the AVMA *Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook*, cats are the second most popular pet in U.S. households. But superstitions and stereotypes still exist. Asian, French, Scottish and Japanese cultures have positive superstitions about black cats.

But it's a different story in the U.S. Sadly, a UC Berkley study supports what U.S. shelters and rescues have known for years; black cats are unfairly stereotyped and because of this, are far less likely to be adopted than cats of other colors, and far more likely to be euthanized. According to Mikel Delgado, a UC Berkley doctoral student who authored the study, while "orange and Siamese cats are usually adopted within their first day at a shelter, black cats can languish for months because of people's preconceptions about their personalities and behavior." However, "there are no major studies that link coat color and personality."

The truth is, black cats are no different than cats of other colors. Each has a unique personality and is just as deserving of a loving home. Well actually, there may be one difference....research indicates black cats may have a greater ability to fight off infection!

Stephen O'Brien is an expert in cat genetics at the US National Cancer Institute's Laboratory of Genetic Diversity, in Frederick, Maryland. His research has convinced him black cats are healthier because of the genes that make a cat black.

Please, when you are ready to adopt, consider a black cat, or two, or three.....



Did You Know?? April 30th is National Adopt A Shelter Pet Day...

April is also Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month...

May 30th is International Hug Your Cat Day, and

June is Adopt A Cat Month!!



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Our Programs

- Trap/Neuter and Return
- Seniors for Seniors
- Adoption
- Low Cost Spay or Neuter

Cat Facts

The hearing of the average cat is at least five times keener than that of a human adult. And cats can rotate their ears 180 degrees!

Some people can barely wiggle theirs!



Needs List

- * Liquid Laundry Detergent
- * Paper Towels
- * 8 gallon trash bags
- * Tall kitchen trash bags
- * **Kitten food!!**
- * Cat food (Iams or Purina One)
- * Dawn Dishwashing Soap

Up Coming Events

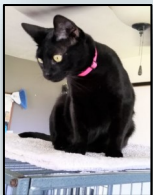
PetSmart National Adoption Event—Ocala

May 17, 2019 12:00 - 3:00pm
 May 18, 2019 12:00 - 4:00pm
 May 19, 2019 12:00 - 3:00pm

3500 SW College Road
 Ocala, FL 34474
 352-840-0663

We're Adoptable!

Midnight is a ball of energy. He is curious about everything and very interactive with people. He's easy going, loves attention and just a great all round cat. He does prefer to be the only pet in the family or with other male cats only.



This big boy is a gentle giant with a big purr! **Zeus** is friendly, outgoing and

although there was some concern about him getting along with other cats, it turns out there was no need for concern.



He's a wonderful all-round kitty who deserves a forever home that wants to lavish love and attention on him. If you are interested in adopting either of these wonderful kitties, email Sheltering Hands at:

adoptions@shelteringhands.org

Did you know the Sheltering Hands Gift Shop is open every Saturday from 12pm—4pm? The shop has many great items for sale at amazing low prices. We have cat toys, T-shirts, Pet Odor Solutions. All proceeds benefit Sheltering Hands.

HELP WANTED!

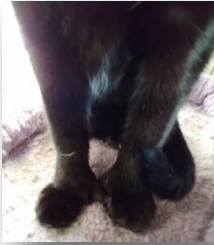
Are you an organized, detail-oriented person who loves cats? We have a perfect role for you:

Sheltering Hands needs a **Foster Coordinator** to organize and monitor our foster homes. The Foster Coordinator would be the liaison between the foster parents, adoptions and our medical director. He or she would coordinate which cats/kittens would be going to adoptions, which need to go in for routine care and be available to assist foster parents with questions or concerns. This is a perfect position for someone who may prefer to normally work from home. We are looking for someone who enjoys working with people and cats and has excellent communication and interpersonal skills. **For more information, please contact Gina at 352-622-8867.**

Cat Phrases

(Answers on page 4)

Identify the phrases from these emoji images.



Forever Home Wanted

Ollie **has extra toes**. Ollie was dropped off at a police station by someone who claimed his owners moved away and just left him. He is an extremely sweet cat who is struggling to get his bearings and figure out how he lost his happy home. He is low maintenance and although appreciates attention does not demand it. If you are interested in adopting this wonderful kitty, email Sheltering Hands at adoptions@shelteringhands.org. His likes are wet food, mittens, sunshine. His dislikes are gloves (no room for the extra thumb), and bossy cats.

A church group in The Villages makes cat beds for sheltering hands out of donated fabric. We use the cat beds at Coco's house and we sell them in our gift shop and at Brick City Veterinary Clinic to raise money for cat medical emergencies.

If you have fabric to donate please drop off at the gift shop on Saturday from 12-4 or Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 11-4 at the surgical center. 10397 N Hwy 27 Ocala, FL 34482.



This is Dixie. She obviously loves the Cat Beds! She's also available for adoption.

Florida Animal Friends
Help end pet overpopulation and purchase a Florida Animal Friend License Plate today!



Chewy.com

For every new customer purchase through this site, Chewy will donate \$20 to Sheltering Hands, Inc

<https://www.chewy.com/rp/4793>



Fresh Step

For every 10,000 points Sheltering Hands receives, we get 23 boxes of free litter!

Select us as your favorite charity and shop at www.Smile.Amazon.com



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gina at 352-840-0663 Option 5.

Hello Spring!

As springtime is in full bloom at last, it's also a good time to remember certain seasonal concerns that face our cats namely poison! Do you know all the plants that harbor dangers for our kitties? Here's a list to help you make good decisions about what spring flowers and plants *not* to bring into your home:

1. Lilies
Calla, Peace and Peruvian lilies cause minor irritation and drooling. Tiger, Day, Asiatic, Easter and Japanese Show lilies can lead to kidney failure with only a few nibbles!
2. Azaleas
3. Cyclamen
4. Crocus (the spring variety will cause nausea/vomiting & diarrhea while the autumn Crocus is deadly)!
5. Kalanchoe
6. Oleander
7. Dieffenbachia
8. Daffodils
9. Lily of the Valley
10. Sago Palm
11. Tulips
12. Hyacinths → The toxin is located in the bulbs of these plants, so if you have them in your garden and you have a dog, be sure he's not digging them up!

And while we're on the subject of dangers in the home, those plug-in air fresheners contain well over 60+ harmful chemicals and many of the plug-ins are right at nose level for both cats and dogs! Most air fresheners including the brand that supposedly freshens pet odors on furniture are in the top ten most dangerous to animals and humans as they contain phthalates (pronounced thal-ates), a known carcinogen.

CAT PHRASE ANSWERS

1. Cat and Mouse Game
2. Cat Litter
3. Grumpy Cat
4. Cat Got Your Tongue
5. Catnip
6. Cat Nap
7. Cat Walk
8. Crazy Cat Lady

Kitten Season and How You Can Help

Warmer months mean more kittens :

Volunteer (kittens need cuddles and litter boxes changed)
Foster (share your home and your heart)
Donate (See form below and supplies also welcomed)
Adopt (Check our webpage for Our Cats)
Spay and Neuter now

Donation supplies for kittens and cleaning (kittens are messy) [See Pg. 3 insert]



PO Box 843

Williston, FL 32696

This is a change or correction to my name or address information.

Your contributions support our spay/neuter/return program and provide us needed supplies to care for cats who are awaiting adoption. **THANK YOU!** For online donations: visit ShelteringHands.org and select the **DONATE** button.

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other \$ _____

I authorize you to charge my credit card \$ _____ to become a monthly contributor.

Visa Mastercard Check Enclosed

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____ (mm/yy) CVV _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone (_____) _____

Email _____ Signature _____