



To learn more about us visit:  
[www.shelteringhands.org](http://www.shelteringhands.org)

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

July, 2019  
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## KEEP YOUR BARN DOOR OPEN!



A little less than a year ago, Volunteer Rosie Diaz began a Barn Cat Program at Sheltering Hands.

Stray cats and kittens, some feral or semi-

feral, are often brought to animal shelters but have little chance for the typical home adoption process. They are used to living outdoors and attempts to bring them inside usually fail. They beg to be let outside and may create issues within the house like jumping and climbing where not invited! So, what to do with these felines but find them an adoption "home" more to their liking? Enter Rosie Diaz!

Rosie knows that barn cats are hardworking members of the feline population. Known for their hunting skills they can be a great asset to farmers, ranchers, hobby farmers and many others. And here's a novel benefit...no more litter boxes!

Rosie began this new program initially with 15 candidates. It wasn't long before the idea caught on within the community and 12 were re-settled. Some did go to local farms, but a mechanic also adopted

one for his workshop and a carriage horse driver took one for her stable. Rosie mentions that some cats/kittens would do equally as well as a porch kitty or garden cat and there are over 6 now available to see.

All barn cat candidates are spayed or neutered, chipped and up-to-date on vaccinations; the adoption fee is only two for \$50 or one for \$35. Most of them are young and there are all breeds and colors to choose from. Sheltering Hands would prefer cats be adopted out in pairs whenever possible, but there is one difference with these adoptions. The cat(s) must be kept in a safe room or large crate with food and water for up to one month.

This allows them to become accustomed to their new environment. Once acclimated, they can be free to roam during the day, but must be in their safe area at night. To be certain these regulations are followed, Rosie makes house calls!

Most of these cats are used to both small and large dogs, but Rosie suggests they will need appropriate introductions and she's more than happy to counsel on how best to proceed.

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### Our Programs

Trap/Neuter and Return  
Seniors for Seniors  
Adoption

Low Cost Spay or Neuter

To learn more:

[info@shelteringhands.org](mailto:info@shelteringhands.org)  
and  
[www.shelteringhands.org](http://www.shelteringhands.org)

**Cats tend to meow only at humans....very rarely at other cats. So, there's a very good chance that 'meow' means:**

**"Come hither, slave"**

## Needs List

- \* Liquid laundry detergent
- \* Paper towels
- \* 8 gallon trash bags
- \* Tall kitchen trash bags
- \* [Kitten food!!](#)
- \* Canned cat food
- \* Dawn dishwashing soap
- \* [Gas Cards for Animal Transports!!](#)
- \* Food and Water Bowls (large and small)
- \* Postage Stamps (letter and post-card)
- \* Clay Cat Litter

## Up Coming Events

### PetSmart National Adoption Event—Ocala

Sept. 13, 2019 11:00 - 9:00pm  
 Sept. 14, 2019 9:00 - 4:00pm  
 Sept. 15, 2019 10:00 - 2:00pm

### Additional Adoption Events at PetSmart

July 13—August 10 - August 24  
 3500 SW College Road  
 Ocala, FL 34474  
 352-840-0663

### Ice Cream! Garage Sale! Face Painter! Adoption Event!!

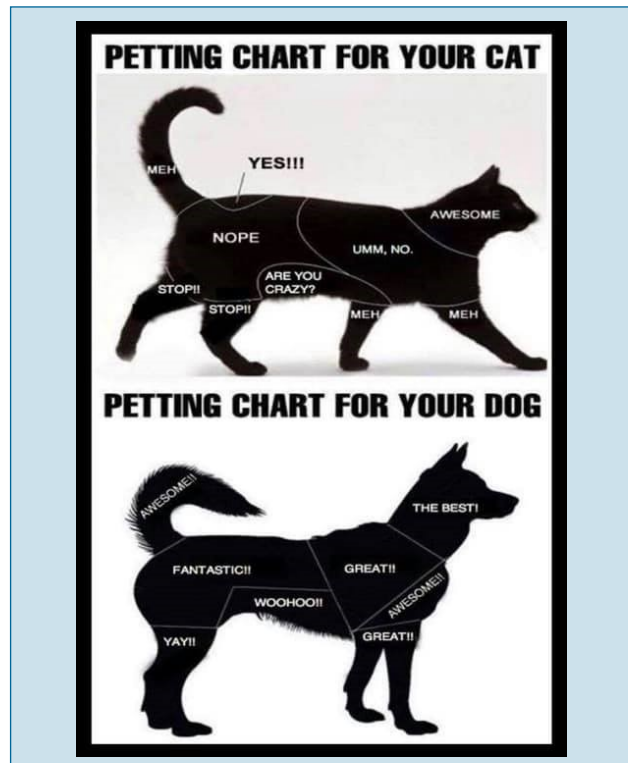
July 20, 2019 at Coco's House at Sheltering Hands  
 10:00—3:00

### I'm Adoptable!

Graff is an outgoing friendly ball of energy. He loves people and wants to be close to you. Volunteers say that he will crawl on their backs as they bend over to clean or even jump from the floor into their arms. This delightful guy deserves a good home.



**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.**



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT #1



Donna & PittyPat

A little over two years ago when Sheltering Hands held their Grand Opening in their new location, Donna Mendonca and a friend were curious enough to attend it to see what the organization was all about. The rest for Donna is history, as she was so impressed with the mission/purpose and goals that she signed up to become a volunteer on-the-spot!

Most of her “work” involves helping with adoption days at PetSmart and various in-house chores on Fridays.

Donna has a life-long passion for cats and kitties. She rescued “Pitty Pat” literally off the street a little over 15 years ago and added her to the other two fur-babies at home. What she didn’t expect however, was that this pitiful, tiny “kitten” was pregnant!

While her primary focus is caring for the needs of the cats, she also encourages the other volunteers to communicate via email with one another to be sure Sheltering Hands has plenty of help. Often personal issues require someone to miss a day and the enhanced communication adds commitment to each other as well as to the shelter.

Donna’s volunteer spirit goes out to people too, as she also volunteers several hours a week at Advent Hospital in Ocala. She’s a true believer in the spirit-calling of giving back to her community. “If everybody did a *little* something, it would matter *greatly*.”

(from Page 1: Barn Cats)

Naming the cats and kittens has been fun for the staff. Some unique names include, Mickey Mouth, Genghis Khan, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme! You can see these adorable felines on our website under the "Our Cats" tab. Also feel free to contact Rosie with any questions. She's at the Shelter every T/Th/Sa/Su or call her cell: 352-359-5430 anytime.



Hi! I'm Sage...



I'm Mickey Mouth!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT #2

Meet Miss Savannah Langworthy from Williston, FL. This 9-year-old 4<sup>th</sup> grader has a big heart for animals and has shown how to share that heart of hers through fund-raising efforts for animal shelters.

In late January this year, she chose to raise money for Sheltering Hands in part as a thank-you for the beautiful cat, "Tebow" she adopted from them awhile back.

Each year since she was 7, Savannah would take on a service project to help improve conditions for pets awaiting adoption.

On her Facebook non-profit, fundraising page she made videos to educate others about adoption, spay/neuter and other responsible pet ownership topics. She put out donation boxes at her school, Dr. N.H. Jones in Ocala, and two classes adopted her project!

With those combined efforts, over \$400 was collected along with donations of treats, food, toys, towels and more!! Using a little over \$100 of that, Savannah shopped at Rural King for additional items the shelter had listed as needed.

Savannah is a credit to the community and a "fur-ever" friend of Sheltering Hands! Is it any wonder that this exceptional young lady has dreams of becoming either a veterinarian or an animal rehab specialist?



Savannah and Tebow



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](http://www.Smile.Amazon.com)



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gina at 352-840-0663 Option 3

# DOES YOUR CAT HAVE ARTHRITIS?



Does it look like he's walking a bit stiffly? Perhaps she won't jump up on the furniture anymore? An arthritic cat will show many different symptoms. Essentially, arthritis causes pain and the symptoms you may be noticing are the result of that pain. Each cat reacts to pain in a different manner and some "disguise" their symptoms longer than others. What should you look for? Here are some telltale signs:

- ◆ Your cat may be less active and sleep more than normal.
- ◆ Some cats become anxious and restless.
- ◆ Some have difficulty getting into a comfortable position for sleep.
- ◆ Perhaps your cat is avoiding contact with the family or acting more irritable.
- ◆ Others do just the opposite and crave attention and interaction.
- ◆ Your cat may meow in discomfort when picked up.
- ◆ Has your cat stopped grooming?
- ◆ Have you noticed weight loss and lack of appetite?

As you can see from these symptoms, your cat may or may not be arthritic but may be having other health issues. Whatever the cause of your cat's behavior, you should always call your veterinarian for recommendations.

Source: Ingersoll Animal Hospital

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 10 Million more cats are kept as pets than dogs!
- Every cat carries the Tabby gene!
- Most of a kitten's growth takes place during sleep!
- Cats prefer food at room temperature...just like their prey!
- Cats are either right or left-pawed!
- Cats have 26 facial expressions.....and we all love their smile the best, right?!



PO Box 773175  
Ocala, FL 34477

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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_