



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

Serving Marion and Levy Counties

To learn more about us visit www.shelteringhands.org

October, 2019
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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

It sometimes seems hard to believe that Sheltering Hands is almost a “teenager”. Looking back over the past twelve years, we take pride in the efforts of so many volunteers, donors, staff and Board members. Working together, we have helped tens of thousands of cats and the people who care for them. Some highlights from our past:

- We have provided Trap-Neuter-Return (“TNR”) services to over 10,000 cats! In doing so, we have easily prevented more than 100,000 cats from being born homeless and unwanted.
- We have placed over 2000 cats and kittens in loving adoptive homes.
- In our unique Seniors for Seniors program, we have placed more than 100 older cats with seniors who very much wanted a pet but were concerned about what would happen to their beloved companion if they were no longer able to care for it. Problem solved! That well-loved cat comes back to Sheltering Hands!
- Generous donations and support allowed us to buy and refurbish a

clinic on US Highway 27 where we perform our TNR surgeries. Like the “teenager” we almost are, we are excited about the future and have embarked on a complete reorganization from top to bottom. Our Board is working with an expert in small, non-profit businesses to fine tune our operations and increase our effectiveness. Our Board is creating strategic plans that will better align our work with the needs of our area and provide a solid framework for the future of our organization. Over the coming weeks, Sheltering Hands will be meeting with stakeholders, other non-profit animal rescues and the business community to examine our operating practices, explore new networking opportunities and make sure we are providing the services that are needed and wanted in our area. However, we are not waiting to implement some important improvements. In the past few months...

We have moved to a comprehensive online database where we can track all our cats. With this new program, our team can pull up

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Our Programs

- Trap/Neuter and Return
- Seniors for Seniors
- Adoption:
 - Barn cats
 - Take A Chance On Me
- Low Cost Spay or Neuter

To learn more: info@shelteringhands.org



Our Wish List

You can drop off any of the items from our Wishlist at our Sheltering Hands location
10397 N. Hwy 27

Mon. Wed. or Fri.

10 am to 4 pm

- Paper Towels (white)
- Gas Cards for Animal Transports
- Bleach, Dish and Laundry Soaps
- Canned Cat Foods
- Trash Bags (13 and 39 gal sizes)
- Copy Paper
- Dry Cat Food (Iams, Purina One, Authority)
- Disposable Bed Pads/ Puppy Pads
- Towels, flat sheets, pillow cases
- Thank you notes

Up Coming Events

As of October 1st, we will be available at PetSmart ONLY on weekends.

- November 8 to 10 is National Adoption weekend and we will have cats at PetSmart from noon to closing on the 8th; 9:00 to closing on the 9th and 10:00-2:00 on the 10th.

Feral Cat Day — October 16

A day to celebrate cats of all stripes, no matter where they call home. Feral cats have been stigmatized the world over, but thanks to this holiday, we can change how we see these lovable nomads. Roughly half of the 146 million cats in the US are feral or unowned!

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.

SAVE THE DATE!!

You definitely don't want to miss our biggest event to kick off 2020.

January 11, 2020 Noon to 4:30



Hosted by The Beach Ocala—13201 County Rd 326

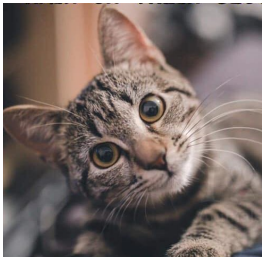
A day of family fun tasting great chili, entertainment including live music, bounce houses, games with prizes, concessions, a bake sale, raffles and a 50/50 drawing. **FREE** admission!

\$5.00 gets you a wristband to taste and vote for all the different chilis available. All proceeds benefiting Sheltering Hands and our cats.

Local rescues, shelters and veterinarians from Marion, Levy, Alachua, Lake and Sumter Counties will be competing in the “Great Chili Paw Challenge” to win a trophy and cash prize.

To learn more about how you can get involved with sponsorships, donations or volunteering, join our next meeting on Wed, October 16th 5PM (in the Tuxe Center at Sheltering Hands).

Or register on our website: www.shelteringhands.org



Dear Tabby,

My human is clueless! She doesn't seem to realize my food bowl is empty because I can see a little bit of the bottom of the bowl. How do I get through to her that I could starve to death?!

...Hungry in Homosassa

Dear Hungry:

I don't think she is deliberately forgetting to feed you. Please understand that most humans eat all of their food at one sitting. It's clear to me that she simply hasn't been well trained in your more highly evolved needs. Keep up with your constant reminders and she'll eventually learn.

WE'VE GOT A NEW PROGRAM!

"TAKE A CHANCE ON ME"

We house our cats in a home-like atmosphere as you know, but occasionally we'll have some that are too shy and prefer a quieter space. They may be older or a bit cranky when meeting people for the first time. Consequently, they don't "show" as well and are less likely to be adopted. This new program encourages a potential adopter to "try out" one of these cats for 3 months allowing for more time to integrate into their new home before a fulltime commitment is made. Our website (www.ShelteringHands.org) highlights several and we currently have 3 in foster care already. We'll feature at least one of the incredible success stories in our next edition! Maybe one of these beauties is waiting for you!



Hi! I'm Patches...

...and I'm Jordan



I'm Adoptable!

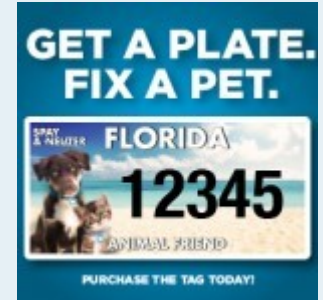


Captain

This boy is friendly and affectionate. He is an active kitty who loves to play and loves to cuddle. This little guy was found as a baby by a kind police officer at a crime scene. The officer contacted Sheltering Hands so he could be bottle raised until he was old enough to eat on his own. If Captain picks you, he will shower you with love and attention.

See more at www.shelteringhands.org

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

Gina@ShelteringHands.org

records from any internet connected device. No more searching for paper, no delay in examining records or finding information.

- All adoptable cats are now online and viewable from all major online adoption websites. This has significantly increased our number of adoptions. Potential adoptive families can even fill out their pre-adoption form online!
- With cat health and welfare as our primary focus, we have adopted and implemented the Five Freedoms* to provide the highest quality of life we can for our cats as they await their forever home.
- We are partnering with other area rescues to increase and supplement our efforts. By working together, the cats benefit.
- In a joint project with LeAF (Levy County Animal Friends), we will be providing low-cost spay/neuter services to cats in Levy County.
- We have added to our medical team and now have both our TNR surgical team of vets and a wellness vet who provides day-to-day care at her clinic for our adoptable and senior-for-senior cats. In addition, she will be making "house calls" on a monthly basis to monitor the health of all cats at our facility.

Working with our team of caring veterinarians, we have arranged for specialists to come to our facility to operate on cats with special needs. This provides us with a significant cost savings by providing the facility, equipment and support techs for the surgeon. Surgery that might have been cost prohibitive is now better within reach.

Like teenagers we have areas where we need to do better. That starts with listening and learning. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to listen and reach out to our stakeholders and fellow cat lovers. With your help and support, we will continue to work to help Sheltering Hands grow and better serve the needs of cats and those who love them. If you have been a past supporter, THANK YOU and we want you to continue to be a part of our family. If you have never had the chance to see what we do, we invite you to contact us and see how you can be a part of our growing family of animal advocates. Together we will make the world a better place for our animal friends and companions.



Gina Camilleri Board Chair



PO Box 773175
Ocala, FL 34477

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 _____

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