



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

**Serving Marion and Levy Counties**

Quarter 1 Edition

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

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

*If you ever needed to know the meaning of the word "enthusiasm" I can tell you it's spelled "Elena Goulet"! A volunteer extraordinaire for the past 3.5 years, she's done everything from cleaning, feeding, writing newsletters and now fund raising/marketing and acting as treasurer for Sheltering Hands! I recently interviewed her about her experiences:*

**Me:** Was there something in your vocational background that accounted for the many roles you've done at Sheltering Hands?

**Elena:** Well, I was a software engineer before I retired, but truthfully, it was mainly my love of cats that caused me to volunteer here. I was and still am so impressed with the mission of Sheltering Hands and their commitment to putting the welfare of all the cats as their number one priority.

**Me:** Give me an example of what you mean by that.

**Elena:** There are so many! For one, we make sure our trap/spay-neuter feral cats receive the overall medical care that our adoptable cats do. We won't return a feral, sick or lame cat until treatment is received. Another example is a program I helped to start recently called "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 foster parent 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](http://www.ShelteringHands.org)) features several and we currently have 3 in foster care already.

**Me:** Are there other programs you'd like to see at Sheltering Hands?

**Elena:** Again...there are many! Of course, financial resources will dictate what's possible, but my feeling is whatever IS possible CAN be done. For example, I'd love to see us start a hospice-type program so that a cat's final months are as normal and comfortable as possible.

**Me:** I would think that with your fund-raising skills and your promotion to Treasurer, that would be a great combination towards finding the resources for programs of that type.

**Elena:** We are already so blessed with the support from the community and the amazing volunteers we have now. Everyone is so energetic and willing to get things done. Whether we need more litter, towels or food, or if we need to raise money to help with extenuating medical needs, someone or some group steps up to help. We recently asked for donations on our Facebook page to cover a required, expensive surgery for one of our cats and within only 47 minutes, we reached our goal of \$700! You just can't imagine how thankful we are and continue to be for everyone's support. Plus, we have a volunteer staff of 100 with a base core group of 40 who are regular daily/weekly helpers and without them, none of our programs would be possible.

**Me:** That's exciting! Finally, a look into the future; what would you most like to see happen at SH?

**Elena:** My dream is that the job of Treasurer is eliminated, and we go out of business!

**Me:** What??!!

**Elena:** [laughing] That means there is no longer a need for animal shelters; there's no longer a need for trapping feral cats; that every cat has a home and there are no "leftovers". Wouldn't that be wonderful?!



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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](mailto:info@shelteringhands.org)  
[www.shelteringhands.org](http://www.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  
(352-840-0663)

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

### Up Coming Events

#### Adoptions

PetSmart-Ocala 10-3  
Fridays & Saturdays

5th Annual Pet Expo!  
March 28

Tuscawilla Park 10-2  
Sponsored by WIND-FM  
Vendors, Demos  
Adoptions

Villages Pet Expo March 28  
(Village ID required)

12:45-4:00

Colony Regional Rec. Ctr.  
Hwy 466

PetSmart National Adoption  
Weekend June 5-7— Ocala  
10-6 Fri/Sat. 10-3 Sunday

### Did You Know....?

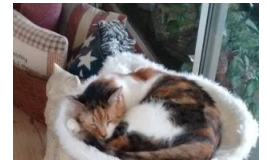
A group of cats is called a clowder, a male cat is called a tom, a female cat is called a molly or queen while young cats are called kittens.

**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.**

### SENIORS FOR SENIORS SUCCESS STORY!

Can you imagine how long it would take you, a mere human, to effectively interact with others if you'd been in near solitary confinement for five years?! You might have even forgotten how to be pleasant to others. Let's assume it would take you some time. But not so for Dixie!

This adorable calico took only a few days to show her appreciation to her new mom, Rita McChesney.



Dixie, 10 and ½ years old, spent nearly five years at Sheltering Hands with two previous placements that didn't work out well. For one thing, she wasn't happy with other pets and for another, she sometimes expressed her dis-pleasure in ways most people wouldn't like! She suffered with ear infections and wouldn't let people touch her, further limiting her chances for selection.

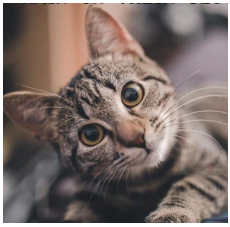


But that was then, and this is now! Rita has always been a cat-mom and heard about Sheltering Hands from a veterinarian. She decided to attend a meeting there just to learn about general information. She got intrigued with the Seniors for Seniors program, which is a Foster opportunity for the senior citizen to take in an adult cat. The cat may remain in the senior home indefinitely.

However, the senior has the option of returning the cat to Sheltering Hands if the need arises. The cat remains the property of Sheltering Hands so all basic medical needs are provided through normal health care channels. The senior provides the food, housing, litter and lots of love. (In some circumstances special diets, food and litter are provided). With more personalized attention from the senior, the cat is less stressed and can live out its life in comfort. Of course, the senior mom or dad has the option of keeping the cat permanently.

Rita and the Sheltering Hands staff were amazed when she first met Dixie as she crawled onto Rita's lap! That was a first! Rita reports that Dixie is funny, smart, playful, cuddly and definitely a loud "talker"! She also enjoys weekend camping trips.

If you've been considering adding a cat to your home but worry about raising it from the kitten stage due to your own life's stage, please consider this excellent program. It will mean so much to you and to one of our more "experienced" cats, too.



## Dear Tabby,

I am a 6 year old Siamese and have been an “only-pet” since I was a kitten. My ‘parents’ recently brought home a German Shepherd puppy, “Duke”. He is very irritating! He chews all my toys, steals my bed and sniffs me in places

he doesn’t belong. How can I get rid of him, or at least teach him some manners?

...*Not A Dog Lover*

### Dear Not A Dog Lover:

All puppies behave that way and there’s not a lot you can do at this point except to steer clear when he’s active. Perhaps find a new hiding place he can’t get to. Your ‘parents’ are the ones who will have to teach him good manners. However, an occasional swipe on his nose might just help to remind him to keep that nose out of your business! Over time, though, you both could become very good friends...like these two:



## I’M ADOPTABLE!



Hi! I’m about 2+ years old and love to be petted. It calms me and sometimes even makes me hungry! I am looking for someone who enjoys talking to me and just loving me! Oh — I’m not fond of dogs!

Miss Kitty

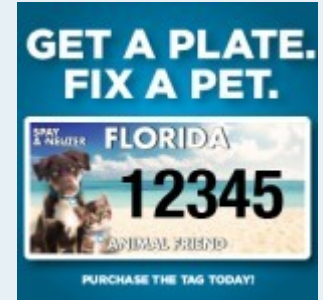
We’re Riley (10+) and Mystic (11+) years young, and we met here at the shelter. Maybe because we look alike we’ve become very close and would love a home that will take us both. Riley seems shy at first but that won’t last! Mystic watches over Riley and still loves to play. Come see all of us on the website for more details!

([www.shelteringhands.org/animals](http://www.shelteringhands.org/animals))



Riley & Mystic

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



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact

Gina at

[Gina@ShelteringHands.org](mailto:Gina@ShelteringHands.org)

## THANK YOU - THANK YOU!



This past January 11, Sheltering Hands hosted a fabulous day of Chili - Fun - Prizes - and more! This annual cookoff event starts the year with spice! All proceeds benefit the day-to-day operations for Sheltering Hands and we were blessed with good weather and lots of fun things to do. We want to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and the other rescue organizations who helped to make this day so very special! There would be no success story without all of your expertise and support. Plans are underway for January 2021!



Ferris Wheels & Carousels



### DONATION SPONSORS

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Burger King Hwy's 27 & 40 | Mrs. Renfro's Salsa      |
| Marco's Pizza             | Oriental Trading Co.     |
| The Ivy House             | Natural Balance Pet Food |
| Kirby Farms               | Jackson Galaxy - My Cat  |
| Berrittinni Feed          | from Hell                |
| Ocala Breeder's Supply    | Kong Cat & Dog Toys      |
| Sparr                     | Tabasco                  |



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.

PO Box 773175  
Ocala, FL 34477  
352-840-0663

\$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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Sheltering Hands, Inc is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. Your donation is tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.