



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

2020 Quarter 4 Edition

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Recently, the Board of Directors at Sheltering Hands gained two new members and a returning Board member who has been a great contributor.

This has been a period of many additions, changes and reorganization for us and we are excited to welcome **Erica Hays**, a police officer and attorney; **April LeSage**, an accountant and our new treasurer; and **Leslie Hinson**, returning Board member. Thank you all for volunteering your time and your individual skills to the Board of Directors!

ERICA HAYS

N: Erica, how did you hear about our Sheltering Hands organization?

Erica: I knew Debbie Wabbersen as a fellow officer on the police force. I happened to mention I have a cat which I rescued about two years ago. Debbie told me she is a volunteer here and one of her positions is assisting in the surgery clinic two days a week as well as many other tasks for the shelter as needed. Debbie told me my cat could be spayed/neutered at Sheltering Hands' Surgery Clinic for an affordable fee.

N: What gave you an interest in joining the Board at Sheltering Hands?

Erica: Joining a Board is something I've never done before. I will be retiring soon after having been in law enforcement for 25 years. I believe I can be an asset in giving my ideas during this time of growth and change.

N: In bringing your set of skills to our organization, what would you like to see us accomplish in the near future?

Erica: Fundraising is a high priority. I would like to see goals for fundraising and community partnerships, moving forward to get donations and pledges to help with our budget.

N: Are there any programs you would like to see implemented?

Erica: At our last meeting, I enjoyed the discussions about having a membership drive with the community by introducing Platinum, Gold and Silver memberships. These donors could have Facebook recognition. I also feel it is very important for us to have volunteer appreciation events, special dinners and fun get-togethers, etc. Our volunteers keep the organization running and without them the many day-to-day functions could not be done.

APRIL LeSAGE

N: April, you've been a volunteer here for several years and you wear many hats! What made you choose this organization for volunteering your many hours?

April: Before I began volunteering, I had been coming here to have my cats fixed. I also had been helping with a cat colony. I decided I had time to help out this wonderful organization.

N: What are some of the duties you perform here?

April: Presently I spend Sundays cleaning in Coco's House, the homey atmosphere where our cats reside. I also help with our yearly Chili Cookoff, which raises much-needed funds for the shelter. And now I am Treasurer on the Board.



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Our Programs

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



Cont'd pg.2...

Our Wish List

You can drop off any of the items from our Wishlist at our Sheltering Hands location
10397 N. Hwy 27
Mondays 9-3
Tuesdays - Saturdays 9-5
(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-Lady Lake Hwy 441 in the 7 day pet center 10-3

PetSmart-Ocala Saturdays 3500 SW College Rd. 10-3

Did You Know....?

Cats cannot taste sweets and despite popular opinion, most are lactose intolerant and should not be given cow's milk.



From the Board—cont'd.

N: As a veteran volunteer, what would you like to see us accomplish in the near future?

April: Fundraising!!

N: What helped you make the decision to join the Board as Treasurer?

April: Elena Goulet was a big factor in making that decision. She works exhaustively in every aspect of the shelter, and I figured with my love of accounting I could take that task off her hands.

LESLIE HINSON

N: Leslie, welcome back to the Sheltering Hands Board. Not only are you a cat lover, you also foster many of our cats in your home. You have been a volunteer in many areas here for many years. What made you decide to come back to the Board at this time?

Leslie: Well, it is just a good time for me now. This organization has had many changes recently and I felt I could contribute.

N: What are some of your other “jobs”?

Leslie: I work in the Surgery Clinic on Wednesdays and Fridays and usually one Sunday a month assisting with our low-cost Trap/Neuter/Release surgeries for the feral cat population and for pet cats from the community. I assist Dr. McNichols and Vet Tech Susan. I also help with fundraising where there is always a need.

N: Do you think we are going in the right direction with the reorganization and plans being implemented so far?

Leslie: Of course!

N: What would you say our greatest needs are at this time?

Leslie: We want to broaden our volunteer base. We also need to work toward garnering more community support...and the big one, fundraising!

A huge thank you to Erica, April and Leslie for devoting their skills, input and hours into volunteering with Sheltering Hands and its Board of Directors.

Submitted by Nancy Prater

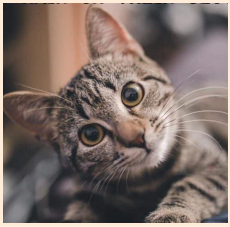
I'M ADOPTABLE!

Doppler was found in a warehouse where she was not safe and was taken to the Humane Society. They were full but reached out to Sheltering Hands to see if we could accommodate such a young kitty. Despite her young age (5-6 months estimated), Doppler is rather calm and easy going. She is sweet and loving and just loves her nap time (with or without a lap)!



You can meet this wonderful kitty by appointment with an approved application.

Applications are available here: www.shelteringhands.org/info/adoption.



Dear Tabby,

My human totally insulted me recently. I had spotted, tracked, attacked and “retired” a mouse in our basement. After I accomplished this awesome feat, I brought it to my human as a sincere gesture of my love for letting me be a part of this home, and what did she do? She jumped onto a chair yelling, “No! No! Go away! Ick!!” My feelings are terribly hurt and I’m not sure I can forgive her. I know I will never want to please her this way again. Should I forgive this treatment or ignore her attempts to appease me?

...Insulted Hunter in Distress

Dear Hunter:

I can only imagine how frustrated you must feel! Your human obviously has no concept of how helpful you have been! May I suggest you do your best to act normally while continuing to search out more presents for her, but next time give it a better presentation? Perhaps you could leave it in her bathtub?

Marie Dukas is a recent volunteer in our Surgery Clinic at Sheltering Hands.



Marie has already been volunteering for several months in our shelter home, cleaning and socializing with the cats. She also helps at our PetSmart adoptions. Recently, with our need for more volunteers to assist with spaying and neutering surgeries in the Sheltering Hands Clinic, Marie volunteered her services there also. Marie is a retired RN and she is fitting in very well with the staff in sur-

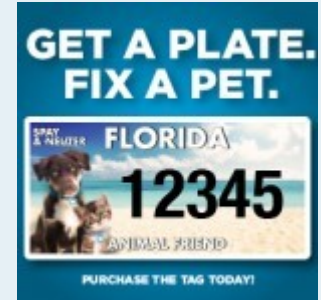
geries. She is being cross-trained in preparing the cats for surgery, recovery and getting the instruments ready to assist Dr. McNichols in the OR. She says she is fascinated to see how all the volunteers working in the clinic are so passionate, dedicated and professional, working so well together; the entire process is like a finely oiled machine. Thank you, Marie!

At this time, Sheltering Hands has a great need for volunteers to assist in our Surgery Clinic on Wednesdays and Fridays. No experience needed; staff will train you. We would also welcome new volunteers for the other positions we have.

If interested in our Surgery Clinic or any other assistance, please email us @ volunteers@shelteringhands.org. Thank you!



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**

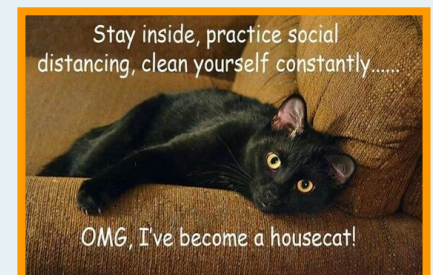
<https://www.chewy.com/rp/4793>



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



“FOSTER FAILURE” by Barbara Verde

Volunteering to help socialize the cats at Sheltering Hands was a delightful experience; then the Corona virus had everyone sheltering in place. Wanting to continue to help, my husband and I decided to foster one of the cats. Our very gentle schnauzer, Bella also thought this a good idea. We were given Jordan, a very shy, petite, four-year old orange tabby. We established a safe place for her in our office. Following the protocol for introducing a new pet to the home on Sheltering Hands' website was extremely helpful.

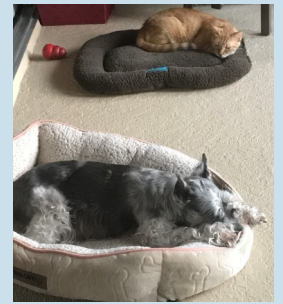
Once Jordan adjusted to her new environment, her charming personality emerged. I spent many hours every day working with her and found she loved to play, especially with a wand with a rope-like fabric attached. Tying that rope to my belt buckle created a “mom-and-her-little-shadow” effect which led to the nickname “Shadow.”

Jordan's sweet nature and playful ways endeared her to us quickly. After a week, we knew that she would be a permanent resident and decided to call her Maggie, after my very first cat. Being careful to introduce the cat and dog led to a mutually agreeable “I'll-ignore-you-if-you'll-ignore-me” relationship!

Patience, love and acceptance of her fears and idiosyncrasies encouraged Maggie's playfulness. We knew that she might not be a lap cat but watching her dart from room to room with her toys in her mouth, following me everywhere, walking around Bella without a second thought made us proud to be “foster failures.” We will foster again because we know the value of socializing a cat and hope that others will take this leap of faith as well.



Maggie



Maggie & Bella

ATTENTION CRAFTERS!

Sheltering Hands would love to provide you a way to showcase and sell or donate your craft items that our cats would love to take with them to their forever homes. Ideas might include beds, chase toys, catnip stuffed mice/balls, etc.



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

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.