



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

December 2020

## SAVE THE DATE!!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Olaf's Chili Challenge Highland Memorial Park

1515 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Ocala

January 9, 2021  
12:00 pm to 4:30 pm



- ⇒ **FREE ADMISSION!**
- ⇒ **\$5.00 TO TASTE ALL THE GREAT CHILIS!**
- ⇒ **PLACE YOUR VOTE FOR THE BEST CHILI**
- ⇒ **VOTE FOR THE BEST COMPETITOR'S BOOTH**
- ⇒ **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**
- ⇒ **BAKE SALE**
- ⇒ **RAFFLE DRAWING**
- ⇒ **50/50 DRAWING**
- ⇒ **GAMES WITH PRIZES**
- ⇒ **FREE POPCORN AND COTTON CANDY**  
**(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)**

Local rescues and shelters from Marion, Levy, Alachua,  
Lake and Sumter Counties will be competing in the  
"Great Chili Paw Challenge" to win a trophy and cash  
prize. Come out for a day of fun for the whole family and  
support Sheltering Hands and all the local animal rescues  
while enjoying some great tasting chili.



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#### Our Programs

Trap/Neuter and Return  
Adoption:

Seniors for Seniors

Barn cats

Take A Chance On Me

Low Cost Spay or Neuter

To learn more:  
[info@shelteringhands.org](mailto:info@shelteringhands.org)



## Our Wish List

You can drop off any of these items at  
Sheltering Hands  
10397 N. Hwy 27  
Mon. Wed. or Fri.  
10 am to 4 pm

- Paper Towels (white)
- Gas Cards for Animal Transports
- Bleach, Dish & Laundry Soaps
- Canned Cat Foods
- Trash Bags (13 & 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

**2nd Annual  
Olaf's Chili Challenge  
January 9, 2021**

**We are at PetSmart in  
Lady Lake  
Fridays & Saturdays  
from 10-5  
Come and visit!!**

**Follow us on Facebook!**

### **NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM!!**

**Get or Gift an annual  
membership for \$25.00.**

**You'll receive an email copy of our  
quarterly newsletter, a Sheltering  
Hands car magnet (first-time  
members), a 10% discount on one  
of the following\***  
**Spay/Neuter**  
**Adoption**  
**Retail Purchase**

*\*One per year and non-transferable.*

**GET YOUR CAT'S FAVORITE CATNIP TOYS,  
PET ODOR CANDLES, CAT QUILTS AT  
SHELTERING HANDS  
MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-5 CASH, CHECK OR  
CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED.**

### FROM THE BOARD

We would like to thank you for your continuing support of Sheltering Hands. As a small non-profit, we strive to help as many cats and kittens as possible through our programs.

Our Spay/Neuter program offers spay or neuter procedure, a basic exam, Revolution to kill fleas, hookworms and round worms, FVRP and rabies vaccinations, pain medication and antibiotics for \$50. This program helps the public spay and neuter their personal pets, strays and feral cats to prevent the overpopulation in Marion and Levy Counties.

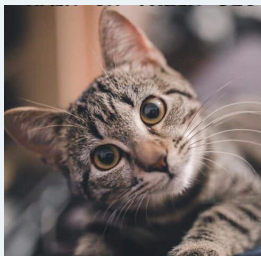
Even with this low-cost program, many feral cats go unfixed and numerous kittens are born into feral colonies. Kind-hearted people often start feeding these groups of cats and quickly are overwhelmed with increasing cat populations.

We have completed spaying and neutering 4 colonies for a total of 112 cats and are working on 2 more colonies.

We partnered with Marion County Animal Service, Humane Society of Marion County and TLC Petsnip – Marion for "THE BIG FIX." This one-day event spayed or neutered 255 cats free of charge to the public. It was a privilege to work together to make an impact.

A Facebook message can make all the difference for the life a cat like the one we got from a nurse who found a friendly cat whose leg had been badly broken...could we help? The answer was Yes! We had room to take in the cat with this emergency. "Shrek" had to have his leg amputated as it had healed in the wrong position and the only way to provide a good life for him was to remove it. Shrek showed much resilience and forgiveness. He had been shot and left for dead. If not for this amazing nurse and all of you that donated to his surgery, he would not be living in a great home.

Our adoption program is on target to place 240 cats and kittens in forever homes this year. We have 58 Senior-for-Senior cats in our care where we match senior citizens 75 or older with a cat 8 or older. Cats in this program are typically treated by Sheltering



*Dear Tabby,*

My littermate "Snickers," hogs the litter box and then steals food from my dish! And when I'm resting, she'll sneak up on me and bite my neck! I've had it! Should I reciprocate or just ignore her?

*....Angry Sister*

*Dear Angry:*

Snickers is just being a cat! Some are more playful or mischievous. If you return the behavior, you'll just encourage her to continue. With any luck, your owner will get you your own litter box and separate the food bowls.

## ADOPTABLE CATS FROM "A" TO "Z"!



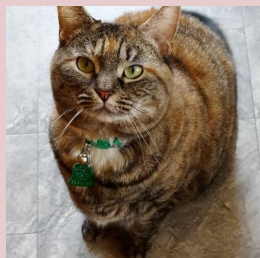
**ALEX** —Alex is a smart and playful cat. He is not fond of dogs and will hiss at them. Alex is looking for a forever home that has spaces for him to run and play. He would prefer to be the only cat as he is very picky about his roommates.

**ZOEY** —Zoey is a big girl who wants a family who understands her. She is friendly and outgoing and likes attention. She will let

you know when she's been overstimulated. She would prefer a home with adults or older children who know when to give her a break.

**Get more details at**

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



Hands' veterinarian or one of the local animal hospitals. Mr. Bibbs' senior-for-senior parent loved our program so he got the local newspaper to write an article about it. Unfortunately, we lost Mr. Bibbs this year. While no cat replaces another, Mr. Bibbs senior opened his heart to a new cat Riley.

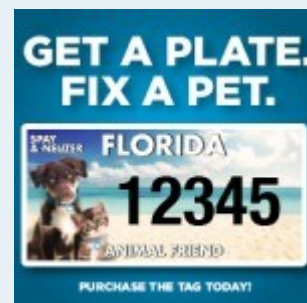
We are extremely excited to have started our Membership program and a craft club that is making quilts to raise funds for our programs. We look forward to the January 9<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Olaf Chili Challenge.

In the coming year, we are looking to expand our low-cost spay/neuter assistance, participate in Big Fix events and match more Senior-for-Senior cats. We cannot do this without your support. As we approach the end of the year, please consider us for your holiday or year-end gifts.

Sincerely, Sheltering Hands

## 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:**

<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 Elena at [Elena@ShelteringHands.org](mailto:Elena@ShelteringHands.org)

## DO YOU SPEAK 'CAT'?

Ever wonder what all the different sounds your cat makes mean? Cats don't have a built-in language to communicate with other cats. That sweet "meow" was developed just to speak to people! Some are truly pleasant sounds like purrs or squeaks while others can raise the hair on your head! Deep growls or yowling at night can be quite disturbing as you worry, is he sick, lonely or just being a bit of a brat?! Any sound your cat makes is his attempt to communicate something to you and he thinks it's important enough to repeat it over and over until you figure it out! Since most people don't speak "cat", it's a good idea to refer to pet experts for possible causes of yowling.



Cynthia Karsten, DVM Behaviorist from California, says one possibility is boredom. Cats need stimulation, especially if she is an indoor cat. We'll look at solutions shortly, but pet owners might also want to consider a quick trip to the veterinarian to rule out any medical or physical reasons for yowling. We know that cats often wait until they can't hide their pain or illness any longer before we have any clue that something's wrong. Arthritis in the older cat and hyperthyroidism are often discovered by your vet when the night time yowling has become a nightly routine that you finally can no longer endure!

Is your cat spayed/neutered? If not, hormones may be the cause of most yowling; spay/neutering will resolve it. In the older cat we also can't ignore the possibility of cat dementia as a behavioral cause of yowling. What to do? The suggestion for a visit to your vet might be a good way to start, but also think of things you can provide to keep your cat more engaged. New toys, cat condos, outdoor tunnels or cages that keep them safe but involved in the surroundings outside. Consider an extra meal at bedtime to keep hunger at bay until the morning. Dr. Karsten says, "Keep a log of all your cat's activities. Journal when the yowling happens and try to link it to something; some sort of trigger."

If you've been away for a period of time, she might just want a little extra attention, or if there have been major changes in the household (new baby, new pet, move to new home) then you're most likely dealing with a stressed-out cat requiring that added attention for reassurance.



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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.