EXPANDING OUR DREAM

Over the last 30 years Dogs & Cats Forever, through the generosity of our donors and supporters, has saved the lives of thousands of South Florida's homeless dogs and cats. Starting with only a handful of animals in foster homes, we now occupy an 8-acre site where we care for more than 200 animals, and adopt out more than 700 dogs and cats each year. After months of planning, work is finally underway to not only further assist the area's animals in need, but also to enrich the lives of our long-term canine and feline residents. In the next few months we will be constructing a 3,600 square foot senior dog building where our older dogs can have more spacious accommodations both inside and out.

In addition, thanks to recent donations, our Feline Leukemia positive cats will have a brand new building-complete with a screened-in patio and outside catio, and our FIV-positive cats will be receiving an outdoor catio added to their room.

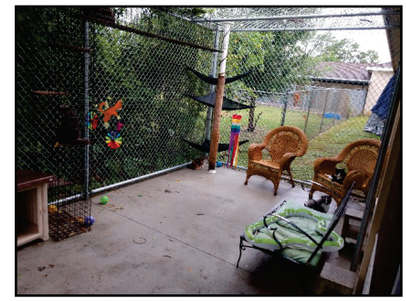
Finally, we are pleased to announce that “Help Us Help Them” is funding a group of dog cottages designed to be forever homes.

Thank you to everyone who helped us throughout the years and who continue to assist us as we continue to grow.- Jay Apicella, Executive Director

A DREAM COME TRUE

JoAnne Matz, founder of “Help Us Help Them,” had a vision. JoAnne wanted to make sure that dogs who lived together would have a forever home together. That vision is now becoming a reality at Dogs & Cats Forever. Ground has been cleared, and construction is starting on a cluster of forever homes. Thanks to JoAnne's hard work in partnership with Dogs & Cats Executive Director, Jay Apicella, “Help Us Help Them” will fund the entire project and make a dream come true.

For Our Feline Guests



Catio for FIV positive cats to be donated in memory of Hazel Messinio by her family.

Feline Leukemia building to be donated by Sheryl Dunn in honor of her mother, Normandee Ludwig.

Become a Feline Guardian Angel. Sponsor a cat for adoption.

Happy Tales

SABRINA

For years, experts have said that owning a pet is good for your health. Not only do trained service animals assist the blind and deaf, but also ordinary pets, serving as Emotional Support Animals, help those who are depressed, recovering from illnesses, or suffering from chronic conditions. Although service animals have historically been able to accompany their owners in all situations, recently the federal Fair Housing Act has given Emotional Support Animals (those which are deemed medically necessary to a patient's well-being) equal status-meaning that they cannot be refused by airlines, landlords, homeowners associations, and the like.

Although Sabrina had no experience as an Emotional Support Animal, she was exactly what Shirley needed. Shirley had been looking at pictures online of cats that she liked. One day, she decided to visit Dogs & Cats Forever to pick out a feline companion. “My husband had passed away and I was upset and lonely. I had nothing to look forward to,” said Shirley. When she entered Cat Room 4, Sabrina, a black and white adult, walked right up to her. Shirley said that not only was Sabrina exceptionally friendly, but also she was identical to her deceased daughter's cat from years ago. Naturally, Shirley adopted her. Shirley said that Sabrina adjusted immediately. “She sleeps on me with her head on my shoulder,” said Shirley. “She must have been owned by an older lady because she sat in my lap right away.” Shirley admitted that Sabrina does have a habit of being "nosy," however. “She got locked in my pantry and I thought someone stole her,” said Shirley. “I was so distraught, I didn't even go to the hairdresser.” Shirley said her friends have noticed a difference in her mood since Sabrina arrived. “From that day, my life changed,”said Shirley. “I saved her life and she saved mine.”

Many of the cats at Dogs & Cats Forever are friendly with people of all ages and social with other animals. These pets would easily qualify as Emotional Support Animals.

HAL

If ever an outcome was meant to be, it was the adoption of Hal, a six-year-old Chihuahua who arrived at Dogs & Cats Forever a year ago, along with 11 other Chihuahuas removed from a hoarding situation.

All of the dogs were frightened, and it took months for shelter personnel to gain their trust. One of the first to go home was Sammy, a handsome boy who was adopted by Joseph and Phyllis Lombardino in June 2017. As time went on, others from the group also found homes, and after almost a year of socialization, it was Hal's turn to meet the public. He was highlighted as TCPalm's Pet of the Week and on the shelter's Facebook page, where he was spotted by none other than the Lombardinos. Joseph said that he noticed immediately that Hal looked just like Sammy, adding that Phyllis had urged, “Just go get him.” At the shelter, as soon as Joseph picked Hal up, the Chihuahua started kissing him, to the amazement of all concerned. “He took to me immediately,” said Joseph, who at that point learned that Hal was Sammy's actual twin brother.

At home, Joseph said that Sammy and Hal seemed to know each other, and that Hal's transition has been flawless. Joseph explained that he took Hal on a leash into the backyard, telling him, “This is your yard, now,” adding that from that day on, Hal was completely house-trained. Joseph said that Hal, Sammy, and his older Chihuahua, Nathan, each has his own dog bed — which they each respect — but that all three sleep in bed at night with them.

“Hal is such a blessing,” said Joseph. “He is so appreciative, thanking me every day for a home where he is loved and has a purpose. We are all one happy family.”

READY TO ADOPT? Visit our Main Shelter,
4600 Selvitz Rd. | Fort Pierce, Florida 34981
772-489-5454 T-F 12pm-5pm Sat 12pm-4pm

PetSmart Tradition Cat Adoption Center
10540 SW Village Pkwy | Port St Lucie, Florida 34987

PetSmart Vero Beach Cat Adoption Center
6590 20th Street | Vero Beach, Florida 32966

Many thanks to.....

Our vets: Operation SOS, All Creatures Animal Hospital, Prima Vista Animal Hospital, Midway Veterinary Hospital, VCA Florida Veterinary League, Animal Medical Hospital, Community Veterinary Clinic, Crossroads Animal Hospital & Morningside Animal Hospital.

Our Trainer Nadine Austin.

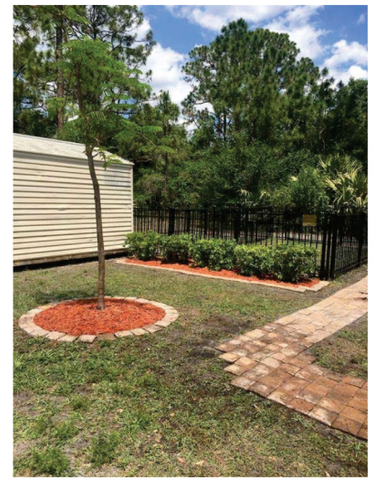
WAVW Radio 92.7, TC Palm & Hometown News.

Partners and Supporters including PetSmart, Walmart, Publix, Target, Ace Hardware, Pet Supplies Plus, Captured Memories Photography & North Shore Animal League America.

Our volunteers, staff, donors, sponsors, adopters, fosters, Guardian Angels, and friends.

We couldn't do what we do without you.

Becoming an Eagle Scout is a challenging endeavor



Not only must a young man earn 21 merit badges by the time he is 18 years old, but he must also complete a project designed to help a community organization in need. Recently, Dogs & Cats Forever was the recipient of an Eagle Scout project that focused on much-needed maintenance, repairs, and improvements at the shelter. Life Scout Bryan Fogg of St. Lucie Troop 422 explained his choice, saying, “I have a passion for helping animals, and I had volunteered there previously.” Bryan enlisted the help of six other Boy Scouts and two scout leaders from his troop, and both of his parents for the two-day project, completed at the end of April. “The project included refinishing a fenced in area that they use as a meet and greet area for dogs up for adoption, and I used the remaining money I raised to order dog food and treats that are much needed there,” said Bryan.

Bryan Fogg's Eagle project was to build a new small dog play yard at Dogs & Cats Forever's Fort Pierce shelter. (Photo on back) “We repainted the fence, laid a path along the front and side of the enclosure, planted a tree, as well as some bushes surrounding the area, as well doing as a general trash clean up of the whole property,” Bryan added. Brian said that after his project is reviewed by the board, he hopes to be awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

Shelter Manager Debbie Barton praised Brian for his efforts, saying,“He was a pleasure to work with, and the dogs love their new play yard.” Bryan, who has adopted two dogs from Dogs & Cats, said that he was happy to help the no-kill shelter. “Being non-profit they completely rely on adoption fees and donations,” said Bryan. “If I can help them a little more by informing people in our community about how they can help, that would be amazing.”

Attention bargain-hunters:

Find furniture, clothing, household items, jewelry, collectibles and many other items at Dogs & Cats Thrift Store, 1762 Bayshore Blvd., Port St. Lucie. Every penny goes toward caring for our shelter pets. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10am-4pm Call 772-879-6002 for more info.

Volunteers welcome! Help out at our Main Shelter, Thrift Store or Adoption Centers at PetSmart Tradition and PetSmart Vero. Call 772 489 5454 for details.

We also take donations for the Thrift Store. Just stop by and drop them off....Who knows you may find something there that will tickle your fancy.

We thank all of our dedicated volunteers working at the Thrift Store.

Happenings....

Christmas House 2017

cat food donation from Purina

6,000+ cans of food from PetSmart

North Shore Animal League America Kitten Bowl Party

Charity Poker seven nights a week

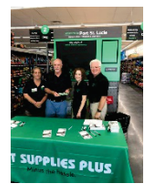
North Shore Animal League America Tour for Life

Winn-Dixie $400 Donation

Bingo at Tin Roof B&G

$300 donation Buckeye Sports Pub

"Dyer Difference" Award



$1000 Gift Card from Pet Supplies Plus

NSLA World Adoptathon

Cactus Moon Dance Club Donation

Bingo Fundraiser at Santa Lucia River Club

Dogs & Cats Forever Inc.

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 880043
PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34988

WWW.DOGSANDCATSFOREVER.COM

St. Lucie's No-Kill Shelter