Adoption Center 2019

Cat Outcome Summary:

- Adoptions: 2285
- Return to Owner, Transfer to Rescue, etc: 324
- Euthanasia*: 137
- Other (DOA, deceased, etc): 256

Dog Outcome Summary:

- Adoptions: 1465
- Return to Owner, Transfer to Rescue, etc: 165
- Euthanasia*: 29
- Other (DOA, deceased, etc): 25

Cats Adopted or Transported: 2565
Dogs Adopted or Transported: 1558

Total Cat Intake: 3391
Total Dog Intake: 1717

Fun to Know:

SPCA Florida is powered by 79 staff members and 568 volunteers who donated 39,911 hours. In 2019, the Call Center received 74,015 calls. 746 adoptions were made from our off-site locations and 183 at the MEGA Adoption Event. We adopted out 168 dogs who tested positive for heartworms.

Saving the Animals of Polk County

Knowing the facts is the first step towards making decisions that will change the future. As a community, working together is the second step that will ensure successful outcomes and save additional lives.

National organizations have been tracking animal welfare statistics and outcomes of animals on a National, State, and Local level. As a result, today we can look strategically at Florida - and specifically Polk County - to determine our areas of critical need.

The resounding urgency to spay and neuter our cats and dogs is at the top of the list for Polk County. As the largest geographic county in Florida, we have thousands of incoming homeless animals, and currently maintain the highest euthanasia rate (as a county) in the state.

The shock of learning this information is now the force of a focused plan to become “no kill” by 2025.

“No kill” is obtained when 90% or more of the animals who go into Polk County animal shelters come out alive.

We identified cats and kittens at highest risk for euthanasia, followed by “bully” breeds such as Pit Bull type dogs, Rottweiler and Chow mixes, along with heartworm positive dogs. These animals have our greatest attention as we target our efforts to change their outcomes.

Working together as a community is a positive start. As of today, SPCA Florida is working with our local shelters, veterinary clinics, and businesses to begin the process for positive change. Now . . . all we need is you.

Thank you for joining our fight for homeless animals. Your financial support is lifesaving.

Shelley Thayer
Executive Director, SPCA Florida

* SPCA Florida is a No-Kill Organization and will only euthanize animals for medical reasons
SPCA Florida Programs

SPCA Florida invests in our community’s families, providing sustaining support to keep families together.

Food Assistance
We distribute over 4,600 pounds of food each month with SPCA Florida’s Food Assistance program. Distribution occurs on the last Sunday of each month, from 3 PM - 4:45 PM.

Polk County residents receiving public support of any type are eligible to receive food assistance. They must provide their award letter along with a valid photo Government issued ID at sign-up. At the end of the 12 visits, we re-evaluate the need for them to continue the program.

We distribute both dog and cat food and always welcome food donations.

Ani-Meals
The Ani-Meals program was created to provide food assistance to the elderly and homebound families of Polk County.

SPCA Florida partners with Meals on Wheels of Polk County, Mid-Florida Community Services, and Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE) to provide over 1,300 pounds of dog and cat food per month. Participants in this program must be a recipient of one of our partnered organizations.

Publicity Hounds
Publicity Hounds are official ambassadors for SPCA Florida. Our hounds visit various community locations, special events, and outdoor functions to promote the organization and educate the public.

SPCA Florida’s Medical Center
The Medical Center assists more than 350 families annually with lifesaving medical assistance for their pets. The average financial assistance is $225. Without this, many of these families would perish.

Transports to Save Lives
In 2019, SPCA Florida rescued over 3,000 kittens and puppies. In an effort to find homes for them, we drove 289 cats and kittens and 33 dogs to no-kill shelters in Canada, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Virginia. In 2020 we will double these efforts and add the states of Ohio and Illinois.

MEGA Adoptathon
SPCA Florida invited Polk County Animal Control and the Humane Society of Polk County to find homes for 300 dogs and cats at an 8-hour event. Over 1,000 animal lovers attended. In 2020, the goal is to find homes for more than 500 pets.

2019 Food Assistance:
Dog Food: 55,525 pounds
Cat Food: 13,953 pounds
Ani-Meals Clients Served: 975

Fun to Know:
In 2019, SPCA Florida’s Medical Center helped 17,833 patients. That is an average of 49 patients every day throughout the year.

During the year, foster parents cared for 185 animals with medical conditions. Overall, 2,375 cats and dogs stayed in loving foster homes.

Total - including the shelter side - SPCA Florida spayed or neutered 2,524 dogs and 5,095 cats.
To stop this, we must increase spay/neuter efforts. As the hundreds, and these precious lives that have barely begun are at the greatest risk of euthanasia. We work tirelessly to make the lives of unwanted animals matter. To do this, we need your support.

Polk County euthanizes more animals than any county in Florida, and sadly ranks #6 in the nation for euthanasia. In 2019, we helped improve those statistics by saving an additional 1,700 lives. And that’s just the beginning. Our goal is to save 90% or more by 2025 or sooner.

Save the Bully Breeds

After kittens, the “Bully Breeds” are next in line to be euthanized. We are transporting dogs to shelters in Canada where they aren’t stigmatized and have a better chance of finding loving families and forever homes.

Save the Heartworm Positive Dogs

At Polk County Animal Control and many shelters, these dogs are never given a chance to be adopted. We are working hard to raise more funds to treat more heartworm positive dogs, and give them a chance at forever homes.

Initiatives for the Future

SPCA Florida is a no-kill non-profit organization, dedicated to the well-being of every homeless, injured, and hungry animal. To end their suffering and give every homeless animal the respectful treatment they deserve, we must educate our colleagues, friends, family members, neighbors, and policy makers.

It starts with the awareness and understanding that each of us has a role in creating a community based on respectful treatment of animals.

It’s about seeing that change not only in our lifetime, but in the next five years. To end their suffering and give every homeless animal the respectful treatment they deserve, we must educate our colleagues, friends, family members, neighbors, and policy makers.

We must become a society in which we are proud to live, and an example for others to follow.

For the last 40 years, animal advocates, veterinarians, and shelter and rescue groups have worked tirelessly to champion for the thousands of homeless animals within our cities. We have a community problem, and as a community, we can solve it! We know what we need to do, and all we need is you.

Let’s make 2020 a banner year for life-saving efforts in Polk County!
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5850 Brannen Rd S, Lakeland FL 33813
Phone: 863-646-7722
Web: www.spcaflorida.org