

SPCA Rescue - Amazing Stories of Hope!

We are continuing to grow our network of shelters in the northeast and Canada. Building relationships with reputable organizations saves lives and helps us move toward our goal: Making Polk County a No Kill County by 2025.

Our first success story is Cooper - the dog on the front page. He took his first flight all the way to Ontario to land with his forever family thanks to American Bully Rescue of Ontario.

Next up is Pokey. A wonderful family was wrapping up spring break in southwest Florida, and volunteered to let her tag along on the ride back to the great white north.

Pokey is an adorable three-legged dog who was getting overlooked at SPCA. We gave her a greater shot at adoption by partnering with American Bully Rescue of Ontario.

She is now happy in a forever home and living life to the fullest.

After the first two successful transfers, we decided to go for more. Could we send more than one at a time?

A visiting partner with the New Hampshire Humane Society came to visit SPCA, and was willing to save not just one, but THREE of our pups.

First on the list is long-term resident Kane, who was here with us for just under a year. With a grey muzzle but lots of energy he was continually passed over for dogs who were a bit younger.

In addition to Kane, the New Hampshire Humane Society also accepted the wonderful dogs Nina and Scrappy.



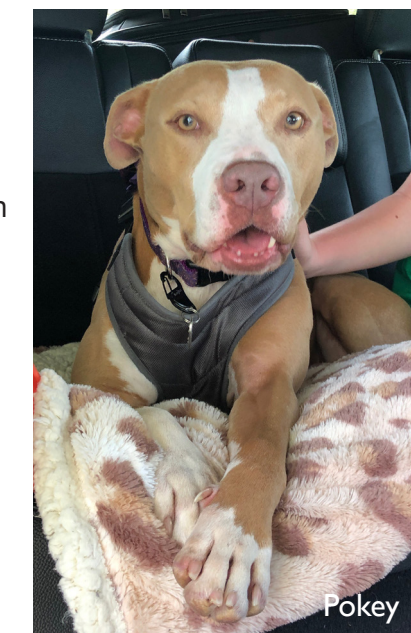
Nina with her new family

Nina is an 8 1/2 year old terrier mix. She was adopted from the Humane Society after just a couple hours of being on their adoption floor.

Scrappy is an adorable little bully mix with big ears and an even bigger heart.

None of these stories would be possible without our amazing teams. Kennel workers, volunteers, medical staff, and our rescue partners who work tirelessly to make sure we are always doing what is in the best interest of the animals.

This is only the beginning of our mission and we can't wait to share even more success stories! Cooper, Pokey, Kane, Nina, and Scrappy are happy today, and we hope many more will join them.



Pokey



Kane



Scrappy

On the Road with 72 Kittens and Moms!

One of SPCA Florida's goals is to transport cats and dogs to states that need more animals to keep up with the demands of their adopters.

Our first larger transport left with 72 kittens and nursing moms. The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA drove 13 hours to pick up their new wards. After a short night's rest, the team of four women assisted by collaborating partners quickly loaded up their new family members.

After a drive – straight through with stops only for fuel and to feed – they arrived safely at their destination. There they were greeted by eager fosters, waiting for the incoming families and orphans.



Good news for homeless pets in Polk County: A Mega Adoption Event will take place at the RP Funding Center on June 8. The event is hosted by SPCA Florida together with Polk County Animal Control, the Humane Society of Polk County, and many other organizations. 350 pets will be available for a reduced adoption fee of \$20. Sponsors of the Mega Adoption Event include the Petco Foundation working with BOBS by Skechers, the Petfinder Foundation, and Lakeland Automall.



MEGA

Pet Adoption Event

SPCA Florida is partnering with Veterinary Clinics throughout Polk County and Plant City, Polk County Animal Control, and Humane Society of Polk County for a Mega Adoption Event!

\$20 Adoptions



June 8, 2019 • 11 AM to 7 PM
RP Funding Center
701 W. Lime Street, Lakeland, FL 33815

FOSTER FAMILIES NEEDED!

Help us save the kittens! Take care of them in your home until they're old enough to be adopted. We supply everything you need.

www.spcaflorida.org/fostering



SPCA
FLORIDA



May 2019

pawsTALK

for the love of animals

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We need more Foster Families

If you're interested in opening your home to help animals, visit: spcaflorida.org/fostering or e-mail our team at: foster@spcaflorida.org

5850 Brannen Road S.
Lakeland, FL 33813
863-646-7722

Adoption Center
Mon. - Fri. 11am to 6pm
Sat. & Sun. 11am to 5pm
SPCA Reva McClurg
Animal Medical Center
Mon. - Sun. 8am to 6pm



www.spcaflorida.org



10 is the New 5

When it comes to age and senior pets, who's counting? Like humans, dogs and cats are living longer.

According to The American Kennel Club, dogs have extended their life span.

- Small dogs live 12 – 15 years, up to 17 years of age
- Medium dogs live 11 – 13 years, up to 15 years of age
- Large dogs live 10 – 12 years, up to 15 years of age

Some breeds live as long as 18 years.

According to Cathealth.com, indoor cats often reach 14 - 16 years of age, with many passing 20.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, a Texas-born cat lived for 38 years and 3 days!

So why adopt a senior pet?

They . . .

- Are most at risk for not getting adopted
- Have manners, and established personalities
- Are less destructive
- Can focus and learn
- Are grateful for your kindness

Lastly, senior pets fit well with all ages, from children to adults.

They enjoy a nap, a cuddle, are typically quieter, and they don't insist that you repeatedly throw the ball or walk a marathon.

Most of all, they think there is nothing better than you.

Please consider enjoying life with a senior pet.



“No Kill Kitten Season” - Still a Dream

We made it nearly four months into our goal of a No Kill Kitten Season for Polk County. We took in public-found moms with litters and orphan kittens 7 days a week. And, Polk County Animal Control dropped off litters to us daily. After 6:00 PM we met PCAC officers on a call-by-call basis to pick up bottle babies until 11:00 PM at night.

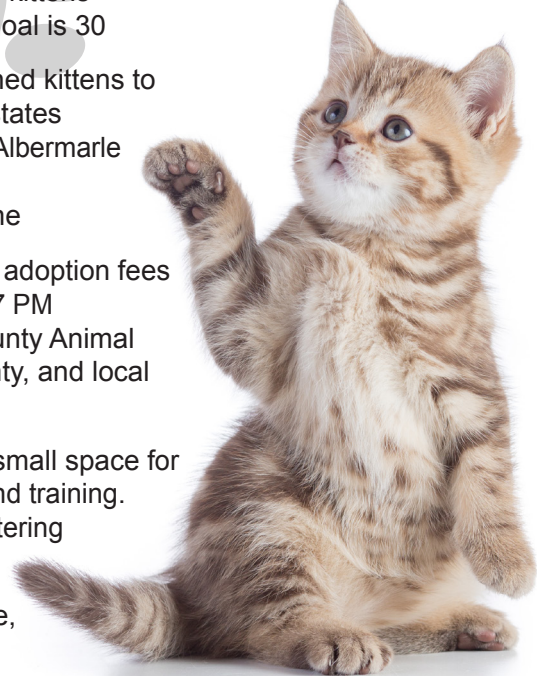
Over 400 playful babies were living in loving foster homes, while another 100 kittens awaited pick-up from newly trained fosters who arrived daily. Then May hit, and with it, nearly 100 kittens per delivery from Polk County Animal Control.

The numbers were and are... staggering. And, it has given this dedicated, bottle feeding crew new insight into our county's animal crisis.

Here's what we are doing:

- Purchasing kitten cages to house litters of kittens
 - We have 16 new “condo” cages. Our goal is 30
- Transporting moms with litters and orphaned kittens to approved no-kill shelters in five northern states
 - The first transport left to Charlottesville-Albermarle SPCA in April with 72 moms and kittens
 - Our next transport is scheduled for June
- Planning a Mega Adoption Event with \$20 adoption fees
 - June 8 at RP Funding Center, 11 AM to 7 PM
 - Participating partners include Polk County Animal Control, Humane Society of Polk County, and local Veterinary Clinics and Hospitals
- Signing up Fosters to provide love and a small space for one to eight weeks. We provide supplies and training.
 - Apply online at www.spcaflorida.org/fostering or e-mail foster@spcaflorida.org
- Signing up volunteers to feed, clean, bathe, and nurture small kittens. Contact us!
- Partnering with local Veterinary Clinics/Hospitals to help spay and neuter kittens. See list at www.spcaflorida.org/partners

We can't fix this problem overnight, but we can make inroads, save more lives, and educate everyone about the urgent need to spay and neuter personal pets and strays. Together, we can make Polk County No Kill by 2025.



Keep them Together

Keeping mom and babies together is critical for healthy, happy kittens. It also improves their chances of going into a foster home. Please help us find mom. It is lifesaving.



“Can we try? Please.”

Those were the words said to Dr. Dorian Lara when “King” was brought into SPCA Florida's Medical Center with severe injuries on February 13.

King, a former long-term resident of SPCA Florida, found his home only to venture out through an open door a few weeks later. He managed to return to his new family, but with major injuries. He was brought to SPCA Florida's clinic with literally hours left to live.

He was extremely dehydrated, in severe shock, had large wounds that were infected, and a fractured tibia (shin bone).

Due to the poor prognosis, severity of injuries, and the cost of care and surgeries required, King was going to be euthanized. But that was not his fate. Two anonymous donors heard about his plight and offered funds to help pay for his care.

At that stage, there was no certainty he would make it through the night, but the surgical department began an aggressive effort to save him.

King received fluids, antibiotics, and complex surgical procedures to stabilize, clean, and begin repairs that included a custom splint to fit his leg.

He recovered from the first surgery, but his troubles were far from over.

King needed to be hospitalized with daily bandage changes, a feeding tube (when he stopped eating), aggressive IV fluid therapy, a blood transfusion, and countless blood draws to



monitor his kidneys and blood cell counts. The veterinary team ordered a special IV catheter to be placed in King's jugular vein, to make his stay easier and avoid the discomfort of frequent blood draws.

King's drive to live was incredibly strong, and despite a few “hold your breath” moments, he got better every day.



Volunteers and staff visited him and petted him several times every day to keep his spirits up, and he rewarded them with lifting his head and purring.

His wounds finally closed and he could be discharged to his loving family less than three weeks after arriving at SPCA Florida's clinic. But, he still had a fractured leg, which had remained in a custom splint throughout the procedures.

X-rays showed the bone ends could not align properly, and the leg would never heal correctly. At this point in time, attempting surgery would not have been in King's best interest. He needed time to heal, and recover.

After some recuperation time, King was brought back to

SPCA, and his fracture could finally be repaired using orthopedic equipment paid for by amazing donors at the 2018 Auction for Animals event.

At the time of writing this article, King is still recovering. Time will tell if he can regain full movement in his leg. However, he is using the leg well and is in good spirits.

King is truly an inspiration and a testament to an amazing staff, volunteers, and caring donors, who refused to give up on this boy who wanted to live.



IRA Charitable Rollover



Did you know...

- For those 70 1/2 or older, you can gift up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA or 401(k) to SPCA Florida (donated amounts are excluded from gross income and count toward your required minimum distribution).
- Rollovers must go directly from your IRA to SPCA Florida. Simply instruct your IRA administrator to make a direct charitable distribution from your IRA to SPCA Florida. Our tax ID # is 59-1939655.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Lisa Marquette, Development Manager.

E-mail: lmарquette@spcaflorida.org
Phone: 863-577-4607

Did You Know?

SPCA Florida is a no-kill shelter and our goal is to make all of Polk County no-kill by 2025. Our county ranks number one in Florida for most animals euthanized, and is among the worst in the country. We can change this, together!



SPCA Florida Programs

SPCA Florida's Programs include Food Assistance, Ani-Meals and the Publicity Hound Group. These programs were created to aid our community.

Food Assistance

We distribute over 2,000 pounds of food each month with SPCA Florida's Food Assistance program. Distribution occurs on the second Wednesday and the last Sunday of each month from 3pm – 4:45pm. Polk County residents receiving public assistance of any type are eligible to receive food assistance. They need to provide their award letter and a valid photo Government issued ID at sign-up. Once they sign-up, they are eligible for 12 visits. At the end of the 12 visits, we will reevaluate the need for them to continue the program. We distribute both dog and cat food and are always in need of dry cat food donations.

Ani-Meals

The Ani-Meals program was created to provide food assistance to the elderly and homebound families of Polk County. We partner with Meals on Wheels of Polk County, Mid-Florida Community Services and Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE) to provide over 1,500 pounds of dog and cat food per month to their beloved pets. Participants in this program must be a recipient of one of our partnered organizations.

Publicity Hounds

Publicity Hounds are the official ambassadors for SPCA Florida. Our hounds visit various community locations, special events and outdoor functions to promote our organization and educate the people that we meet. We also receive requests from other community businesses and non-profit organizations to attend their events and interact with their guests. Our teams play a very important role in distributing promotional information to the community and spreading our mission far and wide. We currently have 12 teams that attend events and pet therapy visits within Polk County.