

Where You Lead, I will Follow

Such is the case of Stevie and Kileen. Both cats are from the same litter, and alike in many ways – with one exception: Stevie is blind.

Watching them play, you would never know. And, it's not always Kileen who leads. It's often Stevie! Nothing stops this boy. He climbs to the top of cat climbers, jumps onto chairs, and uses his whiskers to guide him.

Stevie is so independently brave that he could find a home without his brother. But, why? They make a great team, and both are searching for love. This duo can be found in Cattery A. Come visit them!



Lifetime Care for Cats

SPCA Florida offers the Gift of Life for Cats

What will happen to your fur family members should something happen to you? Will your family or friends welcome them?

Despite good intentions, the honest answer is probably no. Like Frosty (page 2), they may have an appointment to be euthanized. Thank goodness, SPCA Florida found a space and changed Frosty's fate. Not everyone is that lucky.

Plan now. Life Time Care costs nothing upfront. It's a plan to personally select the right family for your beloved cat(s). A home where your kitty will want for nothing, have regular veterinary care, and live a life filled with love.

For a free brochure call Shelley Thayer at 863-577-4605 or email Sthayer@spcaflorida.org.



New Donors - Double Your Donation!

Double Your Donation November and December and Save Twice as Many Lives

The Hedrick family, long-time animal advocates, has offered to **match** every **new** donor donation up to \$1,000 during the months of November and December.

The Gift of Giving has never been more generous. Please, encourage new donors to help us save twice as many homeless animals during the holidays. Visit www.spcaflorida.org to make a donation today.

SPCA
FLORIDA



November
2019

pawsTALK

for the love of animals

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Planned Giving

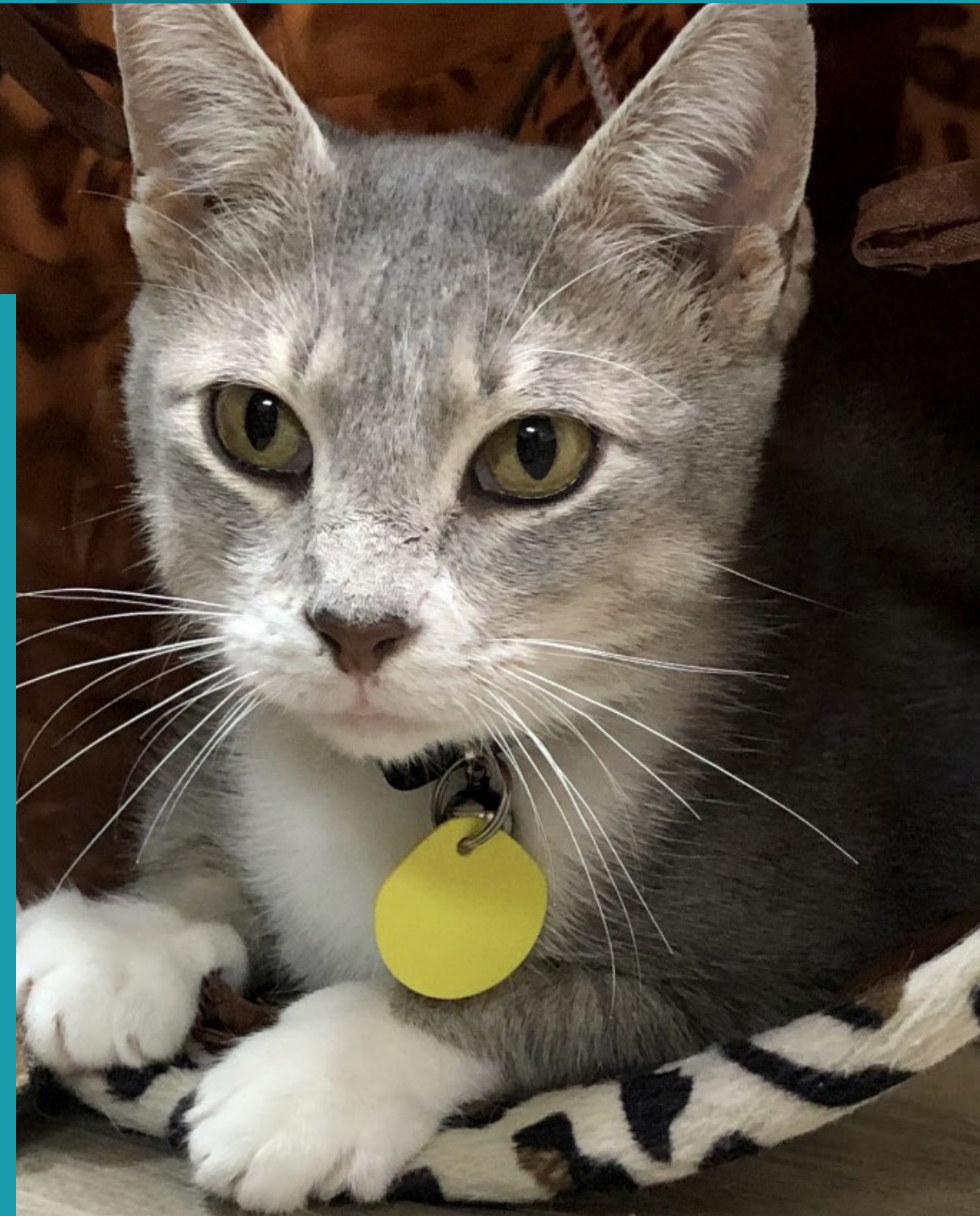
If you give when you live, you know where it goes. For a free Planned Giving Brochure, contact Christie Bunkley at 863-577-4607 or CBunkley@spcaflorida.org

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

Adoption Center
Mon. - Fri. 11am to 6pm
Sat. & Sun. 11am to 5pm
SPCA Florida
Animal Hospital
Mon. - Sat. 8am to 6pm



www.spcaflorida.org



NEW: Lifetime Care for Cats!

Ensure they have a good life even if something happens to you.

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First Time Ever: Naming Rights!

Leave a Legacy of your family name, loved one, business, or favorite pet, in perpetuity.

Adoptions

- Cattery A \$30,000
- Cattery B \$25,000
- Cattery C \$20,000
- Cattery D \$15,000
- Puppy Room \$30,000
- Kennel \$35,000

Hospital

- Rainbow Bridge Room \$20,000
- Exam Room Two \$20,000
- Exam Room Three \$20,000
- Exam Room Four \$20,000
- Exam Room Five \$20,000
- Exam Room Six \$20,000
- Exam Room Seven \$20,000

Adoption Center Building
\$1,000,000

Signage includes: Overhead sign and plaque with photo of your story or message (up to 150 words)

Your legacy and name will live on, long after you are gone. And, the impact will help get Polk County to it's goal of "No Kill" status by 2025.

"No Kill" is when 90% or more of animals going into local shelters and Animal Control come out alive. SPCA Florida is a limited admission, No Kill Shelter.



Should you Declaw your DOG?

A dog's nails can cause painful scratches, scuff wooden floors, and dig holes in the backyard. Declawing your dog will remove the threat of hurting babies, small children, and the elderly. So why aren't we declawing our dogs? Because it is a cruel and inhumane procedure!

So why then, would we ever declaw cats?

Onychectomy, known as declawing, is an operation to surgically remove an animal's claws by means of amputation of the first digit of the toe. This alone should stop us.

According to Dr. Christianne Schelling, "Declawing is literally maiming a cat, a mistake that can lead to physical, emotional, and behavioral complications. It is erroneous to think that declawing a cat is a trivial procedure similar to trimming fingernails. A cat's claws are a vital part of its anatomy, essential to balance, mobility and survival." <http://www.catscratching.com/>

Potential complications of declawing include pain, post-surgical complications, joint stiffness, arthritis, litter box aversion, increased aggression, biting, and death. www.pawproject.org/

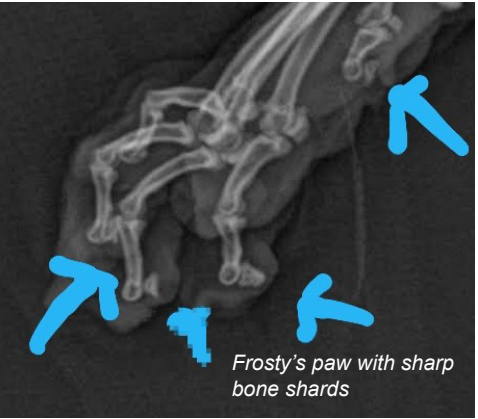
Frosty is a painful example of this archaic procedure. She was brought in by a neighbor when her owner could no longer care for her. Lashing out and angry, Frosty was placed in an office and given time to adjust. Unfortunately, she did not. When the neighbor was called, she informed us that Frosty had an appointment to be euthanized by his veterinarian. As a result, we asked that Frosty be turned over to us.

The first thing we noticed was that Frosty was not mobile. She barely moved outside her bed, and when she did walk, she did so on her front legs versus her paws.

Radiographs revealed sharp bone shards in her paws making it painful to step down, so she was compensating.

Frosty underwent reconstructive surgery on both front paws at SPCA Florida's Animal Hospital. Within two days, although baring numerous stitches, she stood on her feet and began to purr. Ten days later she was still purring, and exploring everyone's offices and surroundings.

Frosty became a beautiful and sweet lap cat, and found a forever home.



The number one reason people give up their cats is for urination outside the box.

Declawed cats with paw sensitivity issues may find it painful to use the litter box. Declawed cats are often associated with

this problem, and some animal shelters are no longer admitting declawed cats into their systems.

Another side effect of declawing cats is biting. Left without claws for physical stretching, play, scratching, or defense, cats may take up a secondary form of resistance or aggression and use their teeth.

Scratching is not a behavioral problem, but a natural and necessary physical function. It removes the dead outer sheaths of the nail and is a vital exercise that stretches and strengthens the upper body

Cats should never be declawed as a preventative measure to scratching. The majority of cats, given proper scratching posts, will use them. Even if a cat does develop an undesirable scratching habit, it is one of the easiest behaviors to correct.

Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) opposes surgical procedures performed on a companion animal solely for the cosmetic preference or convenience of the caregiver. This includes declawing or tendonectomy of cats.

The Humane Society of the United States, ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society, American Humane Association, SPCA Florida, and leading animal shelters across the country agree that alternatives are needed to declawing cats. Veterinarians and clinics in 33 U.S. states agree, and declawing cats is unlawful in 24 countries, including

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales.

And, New York is the first state to ban declawing. Currently, Florida Senator Lauren Book, has proposed Senate Bill 48, that mimics NY's bill, to impose disciplinary action and fine veterinarians who declaw cats when not medically necessary.

Simple Tips to prevent a lifetime of problems for yourself and your cat.

- Trim nails often (start young, use a "towel wrap" to reduce stress)
- Provide vertical and horizontal scratching posts
- Use double sided sticky tape on furniture when training
- Apply SoftPaws
- Plug in Pheromones (Feliway) or use Calming Collars
- Provide emery scratching boards
- Train your cat – yes, cats are smart!

For more information, go to www.SPCAFlorida.org. Click on Resources, Declawing Cats, or contact Executive Director Shelley Thayer at Sthayer@spcaflorida.org

Blind and Deaf Senior Looking for Love

Henry was curled up and trembling under a tree, far enough from civilization that the only word to conjure up was "dumped".

When he felt the large warm hands wrap around him, he could not imagine what would happen next, so he stayed very quiet and still. It felt good to be carried and he leaned into the hand that was stroking his face and patting his back. And, when he was placed onto the seat, he put his head on the man's lap and closed his eyes.

When Henry woke, he was at SPCA Florida and was being touched by many different hands. He could see some shadows and he liked walking into the sunshine to feel the grass under his feet. But when the touching stopped and darkness set in, he began to cry. The days wore on and Henry felt better. He ate good food, had a warm bath, but although he was happy, he hated being alone at night.

Then one day, he was picked up and held and held. He walked into the sun, rolled onto his back, and loved the tummy rubs. He even got kisses!

Henry took another ride, but this time, he was not left under a tree. He was placed in a soft bed, had good food to eat, and when the darkness set in, he was held until he fell asleep.

We cannot thank Henry's retired adopter enough for giving him the home and love he needed. SPCA Florida promotes senior dogs and cats, and during the month of December, all senior dogs and cats are \$40.00 each, in the hope that they will spend the holidays in a loving home.

