Unprecedented times

We prepared for COVID in 2020, never anticipating even greater challenges in 2021. The request to limit spay and neuter last year resulted in overwhelming increases of births of unwanted litters, filling our shelter hospital every day with over 175 sick puppies and kittens, and another 175 healthy adults awaiting homes.

Pet adoptions increased dramatically by 70% between March 2020 and March 2021, according to Petfinder.com. And while finding homes is our mission, the demand it placed on the veterinary world has impacted SPCA Florida’s Medical Center along with veterinary hospitals across the country.

Backlash from the pandemic continues, and while we charge forward harder than ever... more than ever, we need and appreciate your support! Thank you for helping us through some very difficult days.

Shelley Thayer, Executive Director

Medical Center Appointments

SPCA Florida’s Medical Center will temporarily not be able to answer live phone calls. We will retrieve all voice mails as quickly as possible and call every client back within 24-72 hours. We understand this delay may cause an inconvenience, for which we are sincerely sorry.

Until we are fully staffed, we encourage clients to use our app “Pet Page” to make an appointment, or fill out the form at www.spcamedical.org/appointment

For non-urgent requests or general Medical Center inquiries, you may e-mail us at clinic@spcaflorida.org

In This Issue

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• A Scrap Book from Summer
• Online Medical Center Appointments
• A word from our Executive Director
• Best Veterinarian
• Silver Paws, the 2021 Auction for Animals
• Win a Dream Vacation or $5,000 Cash

See all prizes and get your tickets at www.spcaflorida.org/silverpaws or call 863-577-4600.

Drawing will be at the 2021 Auction for Animals, 11/13. Need not be present to win.

Win a Dream Vacation or $5,000 Cash!
Have you thought about fostering, but aren’t sure? Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions.

Will I need a lot of supplies to be a foster?
SPCA Florida provides all supplies needed. You just add love and care.

Does fostering require a lot of space?
Not usually. We advise placing the foster in a secure and secluded location where they can get acclimated to their new environment a little at a time. It can be a guest room, a walk-in closet, or even a large bathroom.

Does fostering take a lot of time?
The time requirement depends on the pet. Bottle babies for instance are a significant time commitment while an adult cat or dog requires less supervision. Discuss with the Foster Department before taking the pet home, to make sure your schedule will work for that particular foster’s needs.

Can I decide which animals to foster?
Foster families get access to SPCA Florida’s Foster Website with listings of available animals. The listings show details such as whether medication is required, how long the foster stay is expected to be, and if there are any special requests. From here, you can register your interest to foster a specific pet or litter.

Isn’t it hard to give them back?
Bringing the foster pets back and seeing them being adopted by other families can be challenging. But that cat or dog will be alive and heading off to a bright new future thanks to you. Letting them go means you can take in and help another one. Also, not every pet is a perfect match for you and your family, and seeing them go to a happy home, knowing you made it possible, is a wonderful reward.

How do I become a foster parent?
Go to www.spcaflorida.org/fostering and click on “Apply.” This will take you to our foster parent orientation with a link to the foster parent application.

Gratefully worked in a Surgery Trailer and dreamed of a Surgery Center.

All pets in the Adoption Center were spayed or neutered in a borrowed trailer. Our plan to build a $600,000 Surgery Center addition will save 2,000 additional lives next year, AND free up the Surgery Trailer for an additional 2,000 spays and neuters. In one year, we will end the suffering of approximately 4,000 dogs and cats, and eliminate the senseless euthanasia of unwanted litters.

We are raising needed funds now. Please call Shelley Thayer at 863-577-4605 or e-mail SThayer@spcaflorida.org if you can help.

Compiled a Wish List

Urgently Needed Items
- Kitten and Puppy Formula
- Cat and Dog Toys
- Small Cat Beds
- Friskies Pate Wet Food
- Periodontal kit, $375
- Spay/Neuter Instrument Pack, $500
- Dental X-ray Equipment, $15,488
- Name a Room $15,000 - $35,000

Hired a Contractor

Miller Construction will build a 2,200 square foot remodel and addition for pharmacy, hospital, surgery, and dental care. Did you know that 27.8% to 53% of dogs and cats who arrive need dental care? The Surgery Center will allow us to provide that service.

Found Loving Homes

Roger, who had a dangerous case of pneumonia, ear infection, puffy paws, and a bullet in his leg, healed and found a wonderful family.

Learned CPR for Dogs and Cats. They like to put everything in their mouths...

Fostered 1,295 puppies and kittens with more in sight!

Hospitalized and treated over 175 sick animals on any given day

We also taught 40 Lincoln Memorial and Ross University Senior Veterinary Students the Basics of Surgery and Medical Care
And, we provided Emergency Compassionate Care to low-income families, made possible through kind individual donors

Transformed our Dog Walking Trail
Captrust employees spent weekends clearing a 1/4 mile wooded walking trail and training pens to provide increased enrichment and cooler temperatures for adoptable dogs.

Housed Cats in foster homes, offices, cages, open spaces, and off-site locations in an effort to save more lives.

Housed Dogs with cozy donated beds, blankets, and peanut butter ice cubes that volunteers made for hot summer days.

We packaged and distributed food to fill many hungry tummies through our Food Assistance Program, and set up food stations for colony cats. Houses to keep their food dry were built and donated by New Day Custom Creations.

Where did the days go? This summer we...

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