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### SPCA Florida Corrects Kitten’s Chest Cavity

LAKELAND: Posey is her name, and she is a petite, grey and white, four month old kitten that came from another shelter needing an intense medical procedure.

Posey was born with pectus excavatum. Pectus Excavatum is a congenital chest wall deformity that is caused by growth abnormality of the cartilage that connects the ribs to the breastbone (sternum). This causes a depression of the sternum and the chest has a “sunken in” or “funnel chest” appearance.

SPCA Florida’s Shelter Veterinarian, Dr. Barton, was able to place a chest plate on Posey’s chest to help pull the sternum outward and prevent compression of the thoracic cavity. After weeks of healing and reconstructing, the chest plate was removed and Posey’s chest cavity is fully recovered and healed, allowing her to be an energetic kitten.

SPCA Florida Shelter Veterinarian, Dr. Robyn Barton, said “Pectus excavatum is a congenital condition in which the sternum and rib cartilage is misshapen and inverted causing a narrowing of the chest cavity. This results in shortness of breath and rapid breathing as the chest is unable to expand properly. Treatment of pectus excavatum is most successful between 3 weeks of age to 3 months of age as the sternum is mostly cartilage at that time and is pliable. Treatment is performed by anchoring the sternum to a hard plate that is worn on the outside of the chest cavity, almost like a shield of armor. The plate is left in place for about 4-6 weeks which allows time for the sternum and rib cartilage to take on a new shape. Posey presented to the SPCA when she was a little older than the desired age of treatment, but we were able to place the chest plate and achieve about 60% improvement in the shape of her ribcage and sternum. This has allowed her to breathe more easily and play without getting shortness of breath.”

SPCA Florida is excited to give Posey the chance to grow up to be a healthy, thriving kitten. Posey is currently up for adoption at SPCA Florida’s partner, the Orlando Cat Café.

SPCA Florida is asking for financial, foster, and adoption support. To help, go online at [www.spcaflorida.org](http://www.spcaflorida.org) and donate, foster or check out our available dogs and cats.

**About SPCA Florida -***Founded in 1979, SPCA Florida exists to eliminate animal suffering and engage the entire community in the welfare and well-being of animals. SPCA Florida will help and heal 20,000 dogs and cats through its SPCA Florida Animal Medical Center and provide direct care for 6,500 animals through its Adoption Center this year. Ani-Meals and Food Assistance Programs, provide food and medical care for animals of homebound families and families who need supplemental food for thousands of dogs and cats each year.*