

# Annual Report 2018



# Adoption Center 2018

## Cat Outcome Summary:

Adoptions	89%
Return to Owner, Transfer to Rescue, etc	2%
Euthanasia*	4%
Other (DOA, deceased, etc)	5%

## Dog Outcome Summary:

Adoptions	89%
Return to Owner, Transfer to Rescue, etc	9%
Euthanasia*	1%
Other (DOA, deceased, etc)	1%

## Fun to Know:

SPCA Florida is powered by 85 staff members and 546 volunteers who donated 34,507 hours.

In 2018, the Call Center received 23,930 calls.

656 adoptions were made from our off-site locations.

We adopted out 34 cats who tested positive for FIV, and 144 dogs who tested positive for heartworms.

Total Cat Intake: 2103

Total Dog Intake: 1800

Cats Adopted: 1909

Dogs Adopted: 1663



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

# Saving the Animals of Polk County

**Knowing the facts is the first step towards making decisions that will change the future.**

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 county in Florida, with 16.1% of our 708,000\* residents living at poverty level, we are listed as the number one county for euthanasia of homeless animals.

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 kittens at highest risk for euthanasia, followed by cats, then “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



*\*US Census Bureau*



# SPCA Florida Programs

**SPCA Florida's Programs include Food Assistance, Ani-Meals, and the Publicity Hounds Group.**

## 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 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. Once they have signed-up, they are eligible for 12 visits. 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 1,500 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.

We also receive requests from other community businesses and non-profit organizations to attend their events and interact with their guests.

Our teams play an important role in spreading our mission far and wide. We currently have 12 teams that attend events as well as pet therapy visits within Polk County.



## 2018 Food Assistance:

Dog Food: 11,807 pounds

Cat Food: 2,149 pounds

Ani-Meals Clients Served: 921

# Medical Center 2018

## Cat Spay/Neuter Surgeries:

Owned Female Cats	651
Owned Male Cats	532
Adoption Center Female Cats	564
Adoption Center Male Cats	477
Female Community Cats	906
Male Community Cats	820

## Dog Spay/Neuter Surgeries:

Owned Female Dogs	965
Owned Male Dogs	820
Adoption Center Female Dogs	331
Adoption Center Male Dogs	273

## Fun to Know:

In 2018, SPCA Florida's Medical Center helped 18,218 patients. That is an average of 50 patients every day throughout the year.

During the year, foster parents cared for 225 animals with medical conditions. Overall, 1,352 cats and dogs stayed in loving foster homes.

Specialty Surgeries: 521

Cat Spay/Neuter Surgeries: 3950

Dog Spay/Neuter Surgeries: 2380



# Initiatives for the Future

**SPCA Florida is a no-kill shelter. Our long-term goal is to make all of Polk County no-kill by 2025.**

## The sordid reality

Polk County ranks number one in Florida for most animals euthanized, and the county's percentage is among the worst in the entire nation. Kittens are the group at highest risk of euthanasia.

## No-Kill Kitten Seasons

Every summer, Polk County experiences a tremendous amount of kitten births. They arrive at Polk County Animal Control and SPCA Florida in the hundreds, and these precious lives that have barely begun are at the greatest risk of euthanasia.

To stop this, we must increase spay/neuter efforts in the county to decrease the numbers of kittens born.

We work for no-kill kitten seasons through

increased collaboration between Polk County Animal Control, Humane Society of Polk County, local veterinary clinics, and shelters across the United States. The dream can become reality - if everyone works together.

## 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.





# 2018 in Numbers

## Adoption Center

### Cat Intake

Owner/Guardian Surrender	1235
Return	123
Service In	12
Stray Intake	320
Transferred In	413
<b>Total Cat Intake</b>	<b>2103</b>

### Cat Outcome

Adopted	1909
Return to Owner	30
Transferred/Service Out	14
Euthanasia	79
Other (DOA, Escaped, Deceased)	102
<b>Total Cat Outcome</b>	<b>2134</b>

Average Length of Stay, Cats	12 days
FIV Positive Cats Adopted	34

## Medical Center

### Cat Spay/Neuter Surgeries

Owned Female Cats	651
Owned Male Cats	532
Adoption Center Female Cats	564
Adoption Center Male Cats	477
Female Community Cats	906
Male Community Cats	820
<b>Total Cats</b>	<b>3950</b>

## Foster Program

Foster for Medical Conditions	225
Pregnant or Nursing Kittens	127
Socialization	35
Too Young to be in Shelter	940
Trial Periods	17
Special Needs	8
<b>Total Foster Program</b>	<b>1352</b>

## Volunteer Program

Volunteer Applications	548
Attendees in Orientation Classes	397
Active Volunteers	546
Total Volunteers Hours	34507
Top Volunteer Hours	1100
Value of Donated Hours	\$805,057

### Hours Donated Off-Campus

Tiger Concessions	381
Sun and Fun	322
Pet Therapy	300
Off-Site Adoptions	1481
Off-Site Cat Cleaner	596
Cat Cafe	1470
Miscellaneous	325

### Dog Intake

Owner/Guardian Surrender	678
Return	233
Service In	4
Stray Intake	197
Transferred In	688
<b>Total Dog Intake</b>	<b>1800</b>

### Dog Outcome

Adopted	1663
Return to Owner	75
Transferred/Service Out	86
Euthanasia	18
Other (DOA, Escaped, Deceased)	15
<b>Total Dog Outcome</b>	<b>1858</b>

Average Length of Stay, Dogs	10 days
Heartworm Positive Dogs Adopted	144

### Dog Spay/Neuter Surgeries

Owned Female Dogs	965
Owned Male Dogs	820
Adoption Center Female Dogs	331
Adoption Center Male Dogs	273
<b>Total Dogs</b>	<b>2389</b>

<b>Other - Special Surgeries</b>	<b>521</b>
----------------------------------	------------

## Call Center

Total Calls	23930
Calls Answered	14380
Calls to VoiceMail	2906
Incomplete Calls	6644

### Hours Donated to Major Events

Walk for Animals	127
Auction for Animals	326

### Hours Donated On-Campus

Administration Office	214
Ani-Meals	106
Critter Camp	711
Donation Drive	233
Off-Site Transport	146
Volunteer Training	742
Miscellaneous	26928

# Working for a No-Kill County by 2025

SPCA Florida is at a critical point in shaping the future of animal welfare in Polk County.

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.

These animals matter deeply to us, and the stand we take to protect them speaks volumes about the humane and socially conscious community we hope to be.

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.

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.

By working together we will create long term positive outcomes for all animals, while nurturing the human-animal bond.

# SPCA Florida Board of Directors

Karen Mitchell - President  
Marion Smith - Vice President  
Julie Davis - Treasurer  
Stacy Walsh - Secretary  
Dawn Diaz - Board Member  
Marty Wilkey - Board Member  
Mary Stephens - Board Member  
Ramona Blankinship - Board Member  
Rick Johnson - Board Member



5850 Brannen Rd S, Lakeland FL 33813  
Phone: 863-646-7722  
Web: [www.spcafloida.org](http://www.spcafloida.org)