WAGS & Whiskers

YOUR HUMANE SOCIETY SPCA

SPRING 2023

A SWEET LIL' OLE LADY NAMED EDNA

The moment our eyes fell upon this little bedraggled creature with the cheesy smile (thanks to her huge tusk-like underbite), we fell in love and knew she needed us desperately. Sadly, Edna was a train wreck; likely abandoned on the streets for some time. This small senior pup was bald, partially blind, malnourished and walked with a mal-aligned broken leg that had healed poorly on its own. Edna also had breath that could kill a dragon due to a mouth full of rotting infected teeth. Yet, despite all this, her joy and gratitude were always present with everyone she met.

Once Edna began getting the care she needed to thrive, she revisited her lost puppyhood, running and playing constantly. Thanks to our supporters, Edna was afforded three months of much-needed medical care and began her journey to healing in a loving foster home. She had also required extensive dental extractions, including those tiny tusks. As a former hungry "street dog," it was a challenge to break her habit of scrounging for any food her tiny nose led her to, but ultimately, she was reformed!

She loved snuggling in plush sweaters while her hair regrew, cuddling with caregivers, and sunbathing. **Soon after, we found Edna a loving forever family who took all her worries away.**

YOUR HUMANE SOCIETY SPCA

YOUR Humane Society SPCA's mission is to support the health and well-being of animals in Sumter County, Florida, and to educate and assist the people who care for them.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Office:
Mon. - Fri. 8:00am - 4:00pm,
Sat. 9:00am - 4:00pm

Kennel Pet Viewing:
Mon. - Sat. 9:00am - 3:00pm
(appointments requested)

Kibbles (Pet Food Pantry):
Sat. 10:00am – 2:00pm

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

2022 **Oct:** Wendy Miller
Nov: Rich DeSalvo
Dec: Pauline Garber

2023 **Jan:** Sharon Parks
Feb: Terry Raley
Mar: De Raynes
Apr: Jean Welch

The Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc., dba/YOUR Humane Society SPCA is registered with the IRS under EIN # 59-2999283.
Your gift is very much appreciated and may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained by reaching us at YOUR Humane Society SPCA, PO Box 67, 994 CR 529A, Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538, 352-793-9117 or www.hsspca.org. If you are a resident of the state of Florida, you may obtain financial information directly from the state agency: FLORIDA – A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352 (800-HELP-FLA) WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING www.fdacs.gov/ConsumerServices. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Florida Registration CH4452.

Join us on:

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

On behalf of our Board, I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their support in 2022, a milestone year. While we were celebrating our 40 years of serving Sumter County, we were also analyzing our nonprofit from a growing business perspective and how we will prepare to further lead in animal welfare in our next 40 years. I am positive we will make huge strides in animal care, adoptions and our programs that serve our community.

If you haven't been to the shelter recently, you haven't seen our office buildings that will be in place this year. This much-needed investment will more than double our current administrative space, providing a conference room for meetings, our education programs, and offices for our employees to better serve our many visitors. We can't wait to move into the new space once the prep work of utilities is all completed, as this will allow us to shift some of our existing areas and re-purpose them into more effective spaces we have been needing.

We have been taking a critical look at the shelter and preparing to make the changes necessary to improve our services, our animal care, and our day-to-day operations. We can't wait to share these improvements with you and hope you will be as excited as we are. I invite you to come and see our progress.

Thank you for your continued commitment to saving pets in need! **Because of you, the future is bright for animals in our community.**

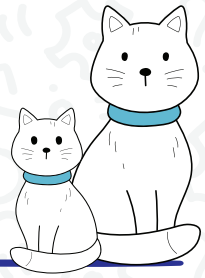
Hope Wilson
Chairman of the Board

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

Along with so many pet owners and shelters across our country, we closed out 2022 with economic challenges and concerns. Yet because of YOUR support, there are many achievements to celebrate!

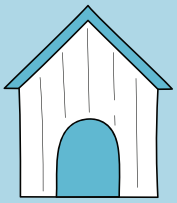
597
Intake
Dogs: 184
Cats: 409
Small Mammals: 4

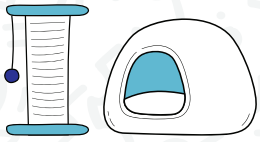
513
Adoptions
Dogs: 184
Cats: 327
Small Mammals: 2



Through our "Kibbles" Free Pet Food Pantry, we dished out dry and canned pet food to **73** qualifying Sumter families with **227** dogs and cats in order to keep those pets with their families rather than them facing separation.

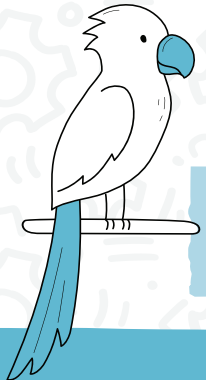
We achieved a **94%** Live Release Rate which was also thanks to our adoption partners showcasing our cats and kittens year-round at PetSmart (3667 Wedgewood Lane) and Petsense (1088 Canal St.). Together they helped place **226** of our felines with loving families!





82 adoptions were thanks to our partner, the BISSELL Pet Foundation, and their "Empty the Shelters" reduced-fee adoption events which provide grants for each adoption.

Our "Big Fix" Spay/Neuter Voucher program had **423** vouchers **(368 cats & 55 dogs)** redeemed in our effort to reduce the over population of homeless pets in Sumter County.



We won the **Association for Animal Welfare Advancement Shelter Showdown** thanks to our staff/volunteers who created our video entry and to our voters. We were awarded **$1000** and admission to the AAWA Fall Conference!

Athletes For Animals also awarded us **$1000** in grant support for heartworm treatment of dogs of low-income Sumter families.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hope Wilson
Chairman
Doug Durkie
Vice Chairman
Maureen McCosker
Treasurer
Grover Stewart
Secretary

SENIOR STAFF

Cheryl Courtright
Interim Shelter Director
Nikki Healy
Shelter Operations Manager
Lianna Vallejo Diaz
Lead Animal Caregiver

petfinder FOUNDATION

Thank you to the **Petfinder Foundation** for awarding us two grants in 2022! Their Dog Field Trips Grant funded safe transport supplies for our shelter's dogs to experience "Doggy Day Out" field trips that allow them enriching respites from shelter life with volunteers at local parks, restaurants, and stores where they may meet prospective adopters. They also awarded us with a grant through Bar Dog Wine and GF Pet Products providing cooling products from neck bands and vests to ice bowls and water bottles to keep our animals comfy in Florida's intense heat.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit our website calendar & Facebook page for the latest updates.

April: Nat'l. Volunteer Appreciation Month & Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month

04/01 Little Shop of Horrors, SMASH Prod., Savannah Ctr., The Vlgs., 3PM & 7PM
04/21 Vlgs. Dog Adoption & Info, Mulberry Grove Rec. Ctr., 11AM-1PM
04/26 Ashland Ladies Social Club Presentation, 12PM

May: Nat'l. Pet Microchip Month & Animal Disaster Prep Day (May 8)

05/05 Vlgs. Hurricane Safety Expo, Savannah Ctr., The Vlgs., 10AM-2PM
05/14 YHSSPCA 41st Anniversary
05/19 Vlgs. Dog Adoption & Info, Rohan Rec. Ctr., 11AM-1PM

June: Nat'l. Adopt a Shelter Cat Month & National Foster a Pet Month

06/10 "Paws for the Cause" Pet Carnival, Home2 Suites by Hilton, 7500 Penrose Pl., Wildwood, 10AM-2PM
06/16 Vlgs. Dog Adoption & Info, Seabreeze Rec. Ctr., 11AM-1PM

July: National Lost Pet Prevention Month (Register at Petco Love Lost)

07/15 Cruise In "Christmas in July," Spanish Springs Towne Sq., The Vlgs., 4-9PM
07/21 Vlgs. Dog Adoption & Info, Homestead Rec. Ctr., 11AM-1PM

August: Nat'l. Make a Will Month (Plus prepare your pet trust)

08/18 Vlgs. Dog Adoption & Info, Riverbend Rec. Ctr., 11AM-1PM

September: Responsible Dog Ownership Month

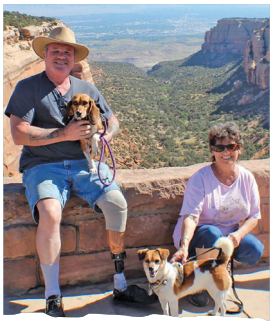
09/14 Lady Lake Business 2 Business Expo
09/15 Vlgs. Dog Adoption & Info, Paradise Rec. Ctr., 11AM-1PM

IN DESERVED RECOGNITION

Sheri Evans

Chairman, Hope Wilson (L), presented Sheri Evans with an engraved gift thanking her "for her devotion to animal welfare, cruelty prevention and for being an integral part of our 40-year history." As our volunteer, she handled the responsibility of protecting all of Sumter's animals for 14 years, along with serving on our Board of Directors, being a foster home, humane educator, and adopter!

Linda and Ronnie Graves



Another pair of tremendous supporters who we recognize are Linda and Ronnie Graves. They have been instrumental in helping set the framework to shape our organization in our fledgling years, from Board roles, to securing our five-acre property, contributing building spaces, initiating our online presence, fostering, adopting, and so much more in recent times! They have impacted animal welfare nationwide with their contributions to disaster response methods which ultimately became a national standard.