

# A Home Until They Find A Home

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ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.  
603

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## From the President

Dear Members, Supporters and Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff members and particularly our homeless cats and dogs, I want to offer our heart felt gratitude for the support you continue to provide. You are the ones that make the Safe Animal Shelter possible and we truly appreciate it!

It becomes more and more obvious each year that there needs to be some action taken to reduce the severe overpopulation of unwanted cats and dogs. It breaks my heart to read statistics for the number of unwanted animals that are put down each year.

According to the **American Humane Association**, an estimated 9.6 million animals are euthanized in the United States every year. Out of 1,000 shelters an average of 64% were euthanized. 56% of dogs and 71% of cats that enter shelters are euthanized. 15% of dogs and 2% of cats were reunited with their owners. 25% of dogs and 24% of cats were adopted. The majority of these are euthanized at animal shelters, typically after a standard period of time (ranging from several days to several weeks for unclaimed stray animals).

Locally, I read a report reflecting 2007

statistics for the counties of Duval, Clay and St. Johns who reported a combined total of approximately 39,300 animal intakes and out of those approximately 29,800 animals were euthanized. That is an average of **76%** of animals taken in being euthanized. Highest in these three counties was Clay County with a euthanization rate of over 80%

Safe shelters and rescue groups have space limitations and can only save a small percentage of animals from being destined for euthanization at animal control facilities. At Safe, we are forced to turn away hundreds of animals every month due to space limitations and the overpopulation of homeless cats and dogs.

The average female cat can produce three litters every year with an average number of 4-6 kittens in each. In 7 years one female cat and her offspring theoretically can produce **420,000** cats? The average female dog can produce two litters every year with an average of 6-10 puppies in each. In 6 years one female dog and her offspring can theoretically produce **67,000** dogs.

This problem would not be nearly as severe if animal owners would be more responsible and have their pets spayed or neutered. Many owners just won't take the time and effort to take their pets to the vet. Many owners cannot

afford the cost of spaying or neutering. Realizing this ever growing problem, Safe Animal Shelter is making an effort to investigate the possibilities of a low or no cost spay/neuter program in Clay County.

There is such a program in Duval County administered through **First Coast No More Homeless Pets**. A program of this type requires a strong collaborative effort among animal control, safe shelters, rescue groups, and veterinarians to participate in the program. Funding is obviously necessary to supplement the reduced spay / neuter fees so we will be looking for possible grants and to supporters in the community to help make it possible to implement this program.

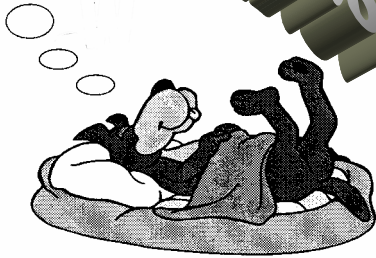
See page 4 for an article on what a St. Augustine Group has done with their spay/neuter program.

**Together, we can make a difference!**

## Mission Statement

The Safe Animal Shelter is a not-for-profit "no kill" shelter. Our mission is to provide a temporary home for lost, abandoned, and abused dogs and cats in our area until a good permanent home can be found, and to help reduce the pet over population in our area.

# Wish List



## EVERYDAY NEEDS...

**DRY FOOD:** Purina Kitten Chow, Cat Chow, Puppy Chow, Dog Chow

**CANNED FOOD:** Cats—Friskies Regular Ground Style (not sliced, diced, filets, or shredded): For Dogs: Ground Style for Mixing with Dry Food

**CAT LITTER:** Clay non clumping—we use 15-20 25# bags per week: Paws & Claws (green bag) at Tractor Supply, Special Kitty (red bag) at WalMart or Tidy Cat

**BLEACH, & LIQUID LAUNDRY DETERGENT**

**TRASH BAGS:** (13, 30, 45, 55 gal  
**PAPER TOWELS & TOILET PAPER**

## MUCH APPRECIATED

**Antibacterial Hand Soap & Lotion**

**Copy/Inkjet Paper:** 20#, 90+ bright

**HP INK :** #21, #22, #27 & #59

**GIFT CARDS:** Staples, WalMart, Office Depot, Publix, Winn Dixie

## ONE TIME NEED!

**Metal Supply Cabinet**

## OUR VETERINARIAN FRIENDS

If you need veterinary services for your new pet, we recommend using one of the following hospitals in Clay County. These veterinarians subsidize our mandatory spay/neuter program and offer discounts on services and medications necessary to care for animals in our shelter. Most of these hospitals also have a doctor who visits the shelter on a rotating basis to examine, diagnose and treat the animals.

## OUR VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO

Affiliated Veterinary Specialists ~ All Animal Clinic ~ Black Creek Veterinary Hospital ~ Clay County Animal Hospital ~ Clay County Humane Society ~ Clay-Duval Pet ER ~ Clay-Duval Mobile Veterinary Service, P. A. ~ Creekside Animal Hospital ~ Doctor's Inlet Animal Hospital ~ Fleming Island Pet Clinic ~ Green Cove Animal Hospital ~ Maverick Animal Clinic ~ Orange Park Animal Hospital ~ Plantation Animal Hospital ~ Russell Road Animal Hospital ~ Wells Road Veterinary Medical Center ~ Willowdale Veterinary Center

AND...SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE GROOMERS, WORKING HARD TOMAKE OUR DOGS LOOK BEAUTIFUL AND READY TO GO HOME!

Barks A-Lot, Inc. ~ Dapper Dog ~ Dog House Grooming ~ Heads Over Tails ~ Pampered Pooches ~ Perfect Pet Salon



## LOST OR FOUND A PET?



If you have lost or found a Cat or Dog you can call us to report it. We will be happy to search our lost or found logs to see if the animal you lost or found has been reported to us. If not, we will gather the information on the pet you lost or found and have it on record for future calls.

Each year we get dozens of lost and found animals back together with their owners & families. The service is free so don't hesitate to call.

## Children And Animals

By Don Wright

I met with Libby Coen and her Father Jon at the shelter on Saturday, 12/8/07. Libby presented me with goods and several checks written to Safe Animal Shelter by a variety of people honoring her 9th birthday in lieu of receiving gifts for herself.

I was told that her Father Jon added an extra \$40 to his check to bring the total donation to \$500. There were 11 or 12 checks amounting to \$400 plus a donation of \$100 worth of food and supplies for the total donation of \$500. Libby told me she selected Safe Animal Shelter for her donations since she loves animals and likes Safe Animal Shelter because we don't kill animals like they do at "the other place".

It impresses me immensely that there are children so passionate about animals they would rather help save homeless animals rather than receive something for themselves. There is no doubt in my mind that this is due to their parents having taught them compassion for helpless animals and the importance of our responsibility to them as pets and permanent members of our families.

Caring & responsible parents will influence their children to be the responsible pet owners of the future....



## ~ Responsible Pet Ownership ~

Of the more than 30 million puppies and kittens born in the United States each year, only one in 10 finds a permanent home. The rest die of accidents, starvation, disease, or end up in a shelter.

Right in our own community, dogs and cats are abandoned and euthanized every day at shelters. Spaying and neutering pets - so that they cannot have puppies and kittens - will help save lives. In fact, it costs taxpayers much more to keep an animal in a shelter for a day or two than it costs to spay or neuter the animal. Another way to save animals is to "adopt for life." Encourage people to train and care for their companion animals, so they won't give them up.

**Take care** of your companion animals, because they cannot speak for or take care of themselves.

**Spay and neuter** your companion animals (this can be done as early as four months of age). It will keep them from creating unwanted babies, plus sterilized pets are healthier, live longer and behave better.

Treat pets like **family members**. Let them live **indoors**. Keep a dog in a puppy-proofed, warm, safe room in the house if he is not yet trained.

Always keep an **ID tag** on your pet.

Stay with your animal when she or he is **outdoors**. Make sure your pets have water and shelter when they're out in the yard.

**Remember:** Don't keep dogs outside when you're not home, because they can escape, get hurt or disturb your neighbors. Don't chain up a pet; that is cruel and leads to aggressive behavior. Never be rough or teach dogs to be aggressive. Please don't let cats roam outdoors; indoor cats live nearly 3 times as long as outdoor cats. Keep animals away from antifreeze - it's poison. And don't leave pets in a parked car, because they can die from the heat.

Keep a **leash** on your dog when you're not in a fenced area. You'll avoid bites and fights. And clean up after your dog - it's easy.

**Train** your pets so that they will be good in the house - and good with people. Children rely on teachers, and so do pets! Read books about training and talk to experts. After overpopulation, the second biggest reason pets wind up in shelters is that people don't take the time to train them. One study showed that 96% of people who gave up dogs had no obedience training.

**Exercise** your pets every day; they need to work off their energy just like kids. Get **safe toys** for them. And spend time with them!

## Introducing a New Cat to Your Home

**Feline behaviorist Pam Johnson-Bennett says:** Although some cats really do better being the only cat in the household, if you do a proper introduction, you stand a good chance of the two cats becoming friends. When you bring in the new cat, you must set him up in a room for a week or so. This way the new guy has time to get his bearings and become familiar with the territory. It also gives you time to introduce the newcomer to your resident cat "one sense at a time." By this, I mean that they will first smell each other before they ever see each other. Since your resident cat's first job will be to protect her territory, you can't just toss the two cats in together or you'll make her very defensive. By using scent first, you can slowly get her used to the presence of the other cat. Start this by rubbing the new guy down with a sock and then placing the sock in your resident cat's territory & vice versa.

As you slowly introduce them, keep things positive by using treats. You have to give them a reason to like each other, so positive distraction with treats and toys is a big help.

It's important that each cat have her own litter box and feeding station at first. You must make sure that your resident cat never feels that any of her territory is being reduced.

As for personality, it certainly is a good idea to pick a cat that will complement your cat's disposition. But keep in mind that the most important thing is how you do the introduction. If you take great pains to match up complementary personalities and then rush through the introductory phase, it'll be a recipe for disaster.

Keep your furry family members **healthy**. Have them vaccinated against rabies and other diseases. Go to the vet every year - preventing illness costs less than treating it! Plus illness can cause behavioral problems.

**Watch** your furry friends - if they seem scared or angry, take them to a quiet place. Dogs don't know how to cry, so a frightened dog's instinct is to bite. Never leave a young child alone with a dog.

**Feed** your pets good, healthy food. Always make sure they have clean **water** to drink.

**Keep** your companion animals for life.

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"A pet's love is the only true love money can buy! And... it lasts for a lifetime."



## SPAY / NEUTER PROJECT CASE STUDY

Article By Becky Cummins - Safe Animal Shelter

**Goliath and BeBe's World** is a no-kill organization which has been in existence for a number of years in St. Augustine. Recently, a donor came forward and asked "What is the most important way I can make a lasting impact in the lives of the animals in our community?"

Shortly after this meeting, the board went back to the donor with the answer: "A low cost spay/neuter program whose only requirement is that a dog or cat needs to be spayed or neutered." This donor immediately wrote out a check and thus started a low cost spay/neuter program in St. John's County. Started only in October 2007, the program is already a success and supporting itself from the initial grant donation and others in the community who have become aware of this simple but important fact. Several vets have signed on to perform the low cost surgeries plus give a rabies vaccination.

Isn't this something we'd like to see happening in Clay County? The greatest problem we have always been facing is pet overpopulation and the high cost of spay/neuter. Intakes at Clay County Animal Control continues to be about 9,000 a year with no reduction. I believe that a low cost spay/neuter program for Clay County will be the best way to reduce the overpopulation problem and the intake rate at animal control.

To make this happen, we need your support! A separate spay/neuter program account will be set up on the Safe Animal Shelter's accounting books for donations in support of low cost spay/neuter in Clay County. We will then enlist veterinarians to work with us by accepting a low cost payment for spay/neuter plus rabies vaccination. The program will be advertised and people can call us to purchase a low cost spay/neuter certificate. From there, the person will make an appointment with one of the participating vets.

I hope you will give this program idea your consideration and make an important decision to help get more animals spay/neutered in our county! We'll keep you posted on the progress in our next newsletter.

If you would like to make a donation towards a program in Clay County, you can use the "Special Donation" section on page 8 and enter "Spay/Neuter Program" as the Project. Thanks for your consideration.

### Animal Intake

Safe Animal Shelter is a private and limited intake facility. Intakes are by appointment only with prior approval by the Shelter Manager.

### Our Adoption Approval Policy

Applications for adoption are required for all animals and are subject to approval based on the information provided on the application form. Missing or incorrect information will automatically cause the application to be denied.

Our policy is to ensure a proper "fit" between the selected animals and applicants considering past pet history, living environment, working hours, etc. Applications can take 2 or more working days to process.

We will take more than one application on an animal. Applications are not considered on a "first-come" basis but on what we judge to be the best home for the animal being applied for based on the information provided on the application form.

Only approved applicants will be contacted regarding their application.

Adoption fees include all shots current to the animal's age and their spay or neuter. Canine adoptions include a micro chip.

Fees are subject to change without notice.

### Safe Animal Shelter History

The Safe Animal Shelter has operated as a "no kill" facility in Clay County since 1991 when it was formed to take over the animal shelter from the Clay County Humane Society when they made the decision to be strictly a low cost veterinary service and discontinue services as an animal shelter.

At Safe Animal Shelter, no animal is ever euthanized due to lack of space - only if it is suffering from a terminal medical condition or when quality of life is an issue. Over the years, Safe has placed literally thousands of dogs, cats, puppies and kittens into loving permanent homes.

*"A Home Until They Find A Home"*

## ~ Some Of Our Long Term Residents ~

*Are You Aware that Adoption Fees may be reduced for adopting long term Dogs or Cats?*

*Did You Know that if you choose to adopt two Cats at the same time the adoption fee for the additional Cat will be reduced?*

**Princess** was abandoned 6/28/2000 at an age of about 3 years and has been at the shelter over 7. She was adopted 9/30/05 and returned March 21, 2007. She never did like anyone touching her on the rear part of her body, yet loves to be petted and scratched on her head and often waits patiently waiting to get her turn with a little attention.



**Spring** was born in March 2004 and is 4 years old. She came in as a kitten May 10, 2004 as an extremely shy and elusive kitten. Through much affection and attention from volunteers she has become socialized to the point of almost begging to be petted and scratched. She would do best in a home without small children and with a family that has the patience to earn her trust and love.



**Big Jim** is our "Special Needs" Canine resident. He came to us 5 years ago on January 20, 2003 as a stray, semi-feral puppy. Our staff and volunteers have been working with him and he is just learning to trust people. He is not aggressive; he just needs someone willing to invest time continuing to earn his trust. Please give Big Jim a chance at a good life outside a shelter.



**Lily** is a pretty Calico that was brought to us as a stray on 1/14/2004 and has been there ever since (4+ years). She is around 7 years old and has simply never found that person or family person to take her into their home. Are you aware that 99% of all Calico's are females?



**Twyla** is an extra large girl with an enormous personality to match! She is a silver and white tabby with pretty green eyes. She has been at the shelter for over 3 years (since Feb. 2005) and would love to go home with someone! Because of her size, she would be suited well for an "only cat" home but does get along with other cats.



**McKee** was surrendered to us as a 4 month old puppy by his owner 3/17/2007. This loving boy is in heavenly bliss when he can lay in your lap on his back and be hugged and kissed and have his belly rubbed. He makes it a little difficult for you to get up! He loves to play with other dogs and is a very smart dog.



**Jolly** is a Male Shepherd / Jack Russell mix that was rescued from animal control 12/18/2006 and is about 18 months old. He came in as a puppy and weighs about 25 lbs (as of 1/15/2008) and has been at the shelter for a year (15 months). He is very playful and good with kids and other dogs. He's shown here "showing off" his recent portrait!



### HERE IN THIS HOUSE...

I will never know the loneliness I hear in the barks of the other dogs 'out there'. I can sleep soundly, assured that when I wake my world will not have changed. I will never know hunger, or the fear of not knowing if I'll eat. I will not shiver in the cold, or grow weary from the heat. I will feel the sun's heat, and the rain's coolness, and be allowed to smell all that can reach my nose. My fur will shine, and never be dirty or matted.

#### Here in this house...

There will be an effort to communicate with me on my level. I will be talked to and, even if I don't understand, I can enjoy the warmth of the words. I will be given a name so that I may know who I am among many. My name will be used in joy, and I will love the sound of it!

#### Here in this house...

I will never be a substitute for anything I am not. I will never be used to improve peoples' images of themselves. I will be loved

because I am who I am, not someone's idea of who I should be. I will never suffer for someone's anger, impatience, or stupidity. I will be taught all the things I need to know to be loved by all. If I do not learn my lessons well, they will look to my teacher for blame.

#### Here in this house...

I can trust arms that hold, hands that touch... knowing that, no matter what they do, they do it for the good of me. If I am ill, I will be doctored. If scared, I will be calmed. If sad, I will be cheered. No matter what I look like, I will be considered beautiful and known to be of value. I will never be cast out because I am too old, too ill, too unruly, or not cute enough. My life is a responsibility, and not an afterthought. I will learn that humans can almost, sometimes, be as kind and as fair as dogs.

#### Here in this house...

I will belong. I will be home.

(author unknown)

## Memorial and Appreciation Fund

We thank those people who have contributed to our work with recent donations IN LOVING MEMORY AND IN HONOR AND APPRECIATION OF the following beloved family members and friends:

### In Loving Memory and In Honor of:

Barbara Scott by Nancy Ryan ♥ Bubbles Louann by Britton ♥ Charlie - My Loyal Poodle & Best Friend Clayton Henderson ♥ Kerry, Andy, & Fran Keyes Whitney Keyes ♥ Libby Coen's 9th Birthday by Anonymous, Ashraf & Jackie Andrawis, Caroline & Michael Petrey, Dale & Pamela Wilson, David & Catherine Weiss, Debbie & John Berlin, Fred Davis, Jon & Ann Tabor, Jon Coen, Judibelle Roman-Riviera ♥ Mike & Jen Ryan by Nancy Ryan ♥ My Beloved Cat Ray-Gun by Gail Marion ♥ My Brothers, Jim Rogers (& Girlfriend Sharon), John Rogers (& Fiancée Pam) by Donna Rogers ♥ Richard & Lorrie Briggs by Linda & Roger Zeigler ♥ Trudy Breidenbach's 90th Birthday by Whitney & Michael Keyes & Family ♥ April Powell by Jenny Smith ♥ Baxter Rogers 5-5-06 by Melinda Rogers ♥ Daniel Mercier by Meredith & Alan Hager ♥ Deborah Lee by Mary A. Roog, Marylee & John Sopt, Mike & Janet Berg, Patricia A. Anderson, Sevda & Kirby Kleingartner ♥ Elmo Dixie Lee by Frances Irvine ♥ Kathleen Reich by Margaret Suldrich ♥ Lee A. Dumas, Port Orange, FL. by James & Virginia Wendell, Mary Ann Padgett ♥ Mayor Farmer by Joseph & Janice Manuz ♥ Michelle Williams by Earl Shipp ♥ Peggy Yaden by Evelyn & William Baldwin, Jean & Orlin Payne, Mike & Cecily Hardin, Tina McFarlin ♥ Richard 'Dick' Loper - 11/23/2007 by Rob & Jane Williams ♥ Dave & Nancy Sieruta by Tung Nguyen ♥ Nancy Marie Dyne by Sarah Etter

## MAJOR DONORS (\$500 or More)

Bruce Johnson, L. J. Irvine, Pampered Pets, Swisher International, Karen Miller, Patrick Finnegan, Jacksonville Greyhound Racing, Inc., Whitey's Fish Camp, Barbara Valentine, Susan Lawson, David Dahl, Joyce Smith, K. C. Jones, Larry & Nancy Zimmer, Maggie Keller, Wal-Mart Store # 1225

## SUPPORTING DONORS (\$100-\$499)

Suzanne Fowler, Mary Mackey, Ellen Tancrede, Massage Envy, Natalie Morales, Earl Shipp, James & Virginia Wendell, Clayton Henderson, A. L. Carpenter, Lakeside Jr. High School Life Choices Class, Kathryn Dugger, Toni Pledger, Dale Powell, Douglas Wilford, Vicki Garrett, Jennifer Nau, A. Louise Cooney, Fred & Laura Asensio, Gail Arrowsmith, K & G Construction, Inc., Seafood Sales & Service, Shelley Brown, David & Tena Grisham, Natalie Morales, Susan G. Dawes, Anonymous, Donald Fiaretti, Melanie Gaucher, Whitney Keyes, Carol L'Hote, D. B. Chase, Melinda Rogers, Keltner Properties LLC, Vernon Cunningham, R.L. & G.H. Rich, Jr., Mary & William Frazier, Rosemary Drummond, Lisa Betley, Penney Kunze, Holly Rich, Marilyn Bain, Butler Family Foundation, Sue Ann LaByer, Jeffrey Eakle, Loretta V. Pavlick, Natalie Morales, Lillian Horan, Margaret Suldrich, Alesha Scheurman, Gail Marion, Fred Davis, Jon Coen, Anonymous, Robin Bryan, Cindy Depadua, Ridgeview High School, Just Friends Harry & Sally, Kathleen Trainor-Yates, Dianna Boatman, Dane Leslie, Arthur & Susan Ames, Penney Kunze, Sandra L. Schroeer

See page 8 for a Donation Form to submit with your gift.

Our mission is to provide a temporary home for lost, abandoned, and abused dogs and cats in our area until a good permanent home can be found.

President	Don Wright
V. President	Stacey Schomburger
Secretary	Lorna Gross
Treasurer	Becky Cummins
Director	Marty Cheek
Director	Patricia O'brien

Shelter Manager: Lara Hudson  
Asst. Manager: Laura Bardroff

#### Hours of Operation

Mon.~Tue.~Wed.~Fri.~Sat. 11am-5 pm

Closed on Thursday & Sunday

#### PLEASE!

ANIMAL INTAKE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. OUR SPACE IS VERY LIMITED AND ALWAYS CROWDED!

Safe Animal Shelter is attempting to develop a mailing list to help keep our supporters abreast of shelter activities, upcoming events, and periodic newsletters.

If you are interested in joining our mailing list, then go to our website at [www.safeanimalshelter.com](http://www.safeanimalshelter.com)

Scroll down to find the "Join Our Mailing List" box. We will add you to future emails and you will be able to unsubscribe at any time.

## MONTHLY PLEDGE DONORS

A. L. Carpenter, A. Louise Cooney, Dorothy Copeland, Mary Gildenhorn, Thomas Jackson, Sue Ann LaByer, Lewis Strandburg, Tricia Tunstall, Arlene Yahre

100% of each donation goes directly to the care of our animals. No part is retained by any solicitor. We are a Florida registered non-profit corporation. Registration number 20-07-012291-56c

Most of the residents at the shelter are rescued animals. Lost, abandoned, or abused, they are able to find good homes and begin a new life through the Safe Animal Shelter - thanks to people in our community who care about them.

A woman came into the shelter on January 23". She said "I've picked up a dog that was running loose in the street. I was afraid he was going to get hit. Can you take him?"

I followed the woman out to the car. "He smells really bad. My car reeks!" she apologized. She opened her back seat door, and I peered inside. Before my eyes could focus, I was being licked in the face to the "thump, thump, thump" rhythm of a tail beating the seat. The smell was overwhelming. He was a 50 pound, black and white, mixed breed bundle of matted stink. I looped a leash around his big head, and he let me lead him out of the car as if we were going to play at the beach, tail going full blast blur by now.

"Wow, he smells so bad, what is that? We'll take him."

While the woman filled out the intake paperwork, I led him back to medical evaluation room. By now we were best friends, such a good spirit. His fur was matted with mud and old hair and he was thin. His teeth were clean, he seemed young, maybe a year or two old.

I told him to stop licking, so I can look him over. What was that smell? He had a collar and it was blackened with filth and matted far, sticky, black "goo" that had hardened. What was this I asked him?. Was it a battery of some sort? IT was a **shock collar!**

A shock collar is a "training device" used to deliver an electric charge through contact points attached to a dog collar. It is used to control undesirable behavior, such as barking. It operates under the premise that when the dog barks, the vibration triggers a charge that immediately punishes the behavior. It is quite controversial. This particular collar had been delivering charges so often that the hair and skin had been worn away leaving four distinct wounds on the dog's neck.

One ping pong ball sized lesion was gaping open, puss filled, acrid, hamburger. I wish people could see this, smell this. I carefully placed the collar in a baggie just in case an owner appeared. A kennel attendant held the dog, which we named Harlequin, while I cut away the scabby hair surrounding the largest wound. We cleaned, bathed, fed and vaccinated Harlequin. He never showed any signs of aggression or fear, a friendly, regal soul. His tail never stopped wagging.

Harlequin stayed with us for a little over a month. He gained about 10 pounds, and his wounds healed without complications. The last friends he made at the shelter was the loving family who adopted him on February 29. He now lives with two wonderful children and a large, black lab named Boo.

For more information on shock collars please visit: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) or [www.videosift.com](http://www.videosift.com) and search for "dog shock collar".

## FELINE TLC CORNER

Visit the shelter on any given day and you are sure to be impressed by several of the little souls who reside in the cattery eager to make your acquaintance. Each one possesses his or her own special way of making an impression on you and is worthy of adoption. It might be a gentle nudge of the head, a contented purr or a swish of a tail around your legs.

I am confident that each of these particularly social kitties, in time, will eventually make that connection with the "purrfect" family and so leave behind the shelter life once and for all.

Take a second look and you will also notice a few "special" cats observing you from the safety and comfort of a bed or hideaway, but still admiring you. They are much too shy to make the first approach but yearning ever the same for human affection. I like to refer to them as "TLC Cats", each in need of *extra* tender, loving care. Some have been at the shelter for a very long time while others only a few months. My concern is always the same. How long will each one wait before that special someone comes along and walks past the "friendly door greeting kitty" and chooses one that has remained patiently overlooked in the shadow of the perky, extroverted felines for far too long.

We will never know exactly what negative experiences they might have had in their lives before coming to the shelter that could have contributed to their shy introverted behavior. But most importantly, each one still has the amazing capacity to trust and love.

A quiet, calm and nurturing home with lots of love, dedication and support is all that is needed for one of these special cats to flourish. I am speaking from experience as several of my own feline family members were once considered unadoptable.

Maybe you are a single person with a quiet home or perhaps a retired couple looking to make a big difference in the quality of a cat's life. If so, this could be a perfect opportunity for you. I can assure you it is an intensely bonding and extremely rewarding experience.

If you are interested in meeting one of the special cats, I would be honored to introduce you! Please contact Marty Cheek at the shelter or at home. (904) 625-7241

Remember, a little Tender + Loving + Care = Trust ... Loyalty ... Companionship!

## "Cruisin For Critters!"



Due to the current economical crunch, the increased costs for holding a tournament, the competition for attracting players considering the many Golf Tournaments being held this year, the Board of Directors has opted to try something a little different. With the growing popularity of motorcycle events we've received many suggestions over the past couple of years about having a special motorcycle ride to benefit Safe Animal Shelter. We are planning for an escorted ride to be held in early August which will be titled "**Cruising for Critters**". As we get further along in our planning for this event, details will be made available on our website at [www.safeanimalshelter.com](http://www.safeanimalshelter.com) where you can also add yourself to our mailing list.

# Safe Animal Shelter— Donation Form

Your donations will help secure the future of the animals in our care at Safe Animal Shelter. Please make checks payable to: Safe Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 65597, Orange Park, FL 32065. All donations are tax deductible. Select from the following:

**Special Donation:** Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

**Monthly Pledge:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ # Payments: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership: YES, I Want to Become a Member!**

Join the Safe Animal Shelter! Your membership entitles you to participate in our general meetings normally held on the second Wednesday of each Quarter and shows your concern for the goals and objectives of the Shelter. You will receive our newsletters and can vote for your candidate for officers of the Board of Directors. Dues are **\$25 annually per person** and your membership will be valid for one year from the date your membership dues are received.

**Type Payment:** Check  Visa  Master Card

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ Sec Code\* \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(\* Sec Code is the last 3 digits of the number in the signature box on back of your credit card.)

For Monthly Pledges—Your signature authorizes Safe Animal Shelter to submit monthly charges for the number of payments specified or until you request us to discontinue your monthly pledge.

You can also pay with an automatic payment that you set up yourself with your bank.

**Honorarium:** I would like this pledge to be (choose one):

In Memory  In Honor  Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Acknowledgement To: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

The Safe Animal Shelter is a charitable 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code. Every contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. 100% of the contribution goes directly to the care of the animals at Safe Animal Shelter. No outside solicitor is paid for any part of this contribution. We are a Florida registered corporation. Our Florida registration number is 20-070012291-85c.