



To learn more about us visit:  
[www.shelteringhands.org](http://www.shelteringhands.org)

**Our Mission: Improving the lives of cats through humane care, spay/neuter, adoptions, education and support services.**

**Serving Marion and Levy Counties**

October . 2018  
Volume 2, Issue 3

## October is National Feral Cat Month

A feral cat is unsocialized. Feral cats are typically very fearful of people. They tend to be found living outdoors in groups known as colonies. The colony cats share a common food source and territory. The majority of feral colonies originate from stray or abandoned cats that have not been spayed or neutered.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission estimates the feral cat population in Florida at 6.3 to 9.6 million. Many people view feral cats as a nuisance. "The method of trapping and killing the cats doesn't solve the problem especially in this climate where they don't have to deal with harsh winters. If you simply take the cats, others will go into their space and take over those resources — it's like a vacuum effect," said Kathleen Fleck, a veterinarian and treasurer of Sheltering Hands.

Spaying and neutering feral cats and providing food and shelter, a colony care – giver plays an important role, giving feral cats the opportunity to live. In honor of National Feral Cat Month, we would like to thank our colony caregivers for their love and compassion.

## No Kill Equation for Marion County—Update

Marion County Animal Services is officially "No Kill!" this brings tears of joy, as well as a multitude of new challenges for Animal Services, our local animal organizations, and members of our community who find themselves In need of re-homing pets.

"No Kill" means Animal Services will, as do all legitimate private animal organizations, take in only animals for which they have space. This has drastically increased requests of our local rescues for assistance with re-homing pets. I can assure you, the combination of Animal Services having become "No Kill", and kitten season in full swing, has left all our local rescues beyond capacity. "No Kill" is absolutely a community effort, and will continue to require abundant community support. It requires financial support of the organizations engaged in this effort. it requires volunteers willing to assist with animal care, willing to participate in SNR (Shelter, Neuter & Return), TNR (Trap, Neuter & Return) and Low Cost Spay Neuter programs, fostering, transportation, building maintenance, records keeping...you name it! I assure you there are almost countless ways to utilize your time and talents in support of the "No Kill" effort; even if only for a couple hours a month. Please seriously consider doing so. And please understand, "No Kill" means no healthy animal will be euthanized. Any legitimate animal organization will humanely euthanize an animal whose medical condition makes doing so a necessity.



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### Our Programs

- Trap/Neuter and Return
- Senior for Senior
- Adoption
- Low Cost Spay or Neuter

### Cat Facts

**A group of cats is called a clowder, a male cat is called a tom, a female cat is called a molly or queen while young cats are called kittens.**

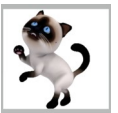
**Cats conserve energy by sleeping for an average of 13 to14 hours a day.**

# Sonata Update

In our April newsletter, we told Sonata’s story and fundraiser who was diagnosed with inner ear polyps . These polyps can affect balance or cause breathing problem. We are excited to share with you that Sonata has found both a benefactor and adopter all in one. Michael is an Asperger's disabled adult and used some of his saving for Sonata’s surgery. Michael loves animals especially cats. He and his family are exploring opening a non-profit sanctuary for disabled and special needs animals. Sonata’s surgery was successful and is happily at home with Michael.

## Cat Herder Needed? Become our Volunteer Coordinator

Sheltering Hands is looking for a volunteer coordinator to work closely with the Board of Directors and our staff. Responsibilities include identifying open positions, recruiting new volunteers, and answering questions. This volunteer position requires strong communication and people skills along with a love of cats. We anticipate that it will require about 5 hours a week and attending a Board Meeting once a quarter. The majority of your hours could be done from the comfort of your home. Due to the training involved, we would expect a minimum of a 6 month commitment to the position. Join our team and make a difference!!



## Puzzle Time— Search a Word

U C A S R E T U R N U L W U Z T E  
 V S V X J N S T R A Y M R L Z R W  
 Q I O V E R L A C N L S V U M A D  
 D F O H E E M K F O O O Y A L P X  
 S H X W K K K P H Q L F U R V Z C  
 C I P C C B L O Q R G O P B I X M  
 O N L A W Y W P G A Z G N I C H X  
 M L T T P S Y U Z L N E R Y J H O  
 M O T S V X X L E P E Z H U D C D  
 U C V P M D B A P Z T T J X T E E  
 N E U T E R F T A A T J R O U S K  
 I T E R N X N I B V I A B A T W G  
 T W R L K F T O Y E K E M P T W Y  
 Y X M Y A V L N W S R M L B H F D  
 L B D E N R J Q T D W Y T F D L D  
 I K V K T A E Q X Y F P C G X F W  
 Z Y T Z B H S F B W L J T Z F I V

Return	Trap	October
Over	Population	Colony
Community	Kitten	Cats
Feral	Neuter	Stray

## Needs List

- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels
- 8 gallon trash bags
- Tall kitchen trash bags
- Kitten food
- Cat food (IAMS or Purina One)
- Dawn Dishwashing Soap

## Up Coming Events

### All About Cats

Oct 20, 2018 11:00– 5:00pm  
 3500 SW College Road  
 Ocala, FL 34474

### PetSmart National Adoption Event—Ocala

Nov 9, 2018 11:00 - 6:00pm  
 Nov 10, 2018 9:00 - 6:00pm  
 Nov 11, 2018 10:00 - 3:00pm  
 3500 SW College Road  
 Ocala, FL 34474

### PetSmart National Adoption Event—Oxford

Nov 9, 2018 11:00 - 6:00pm  
 Nov 10, 2018 9:00 - 6:00pm  
 Nov 11, 2018 10:00 - 3:00pm  
 3667 Wedgewood Ln  
 The Villages, FL 32162

### Ocala Pride Fest 2018

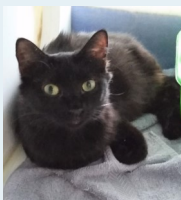
Oct 6, 2018 11:00– 7:00pm  
 Tuscawilla Park Historic District  
 829 NE Sanchez Ave  
 Ocala, Florida 34470

### Marion County Fair Animal Rescue Showcase

Oct 27, 2018—12:00pm—7:00pm  
 Oct 28, 2018—12:00pm—6:00pm  
 7730 E CR-25  
 Belleview, FL 34420

### Trilogy Bazaar Trilogy Ocala Preserve Clubhouse

Nov 10, 2018—10:00—3:00pm  
 3200 NW 55th Ave  
 Ocala, Florida 34482



Henny is available for adoption. Please contact Gail at 352-840-0663 Option 1. For more information

## Forever Home Wanted

Hi, my name is Muffin and I am looking for my forever home. I came to Sheltering Hands after my mom passed away. I am a little nervous in new places and will come out when I get comfortable. I am spunky and like to play with toy mice.

If you would like to meet Muffin, please contact Gail at 352-840-0663 Option 1.

Likes:  
Playing  
Treats  
Canned Food



*Muffin—Spayed Female  
Approximately, 5 years old*

## If Anything Happens to You, What Happens to Your Pet?

Care instructions are important to ensure your pets continue to receive the same great care that you provide for them now. Your plans should include

- **Caregivers**  
Identify people who are willing to provide short term, long term and permanent care in the event of an emergency. If you cannot find friends or relatives, utilize a pet sitter, rescue group or boarding facility.
- **Written Instructions**  
Outline instructions for your pet's care including any medical issues and special care. If you have multiple pets, are they a bonded pair and need to stay together? Make sure to include a copy of your pet's up to date medical records and the name of your veterinarian.
- **Funding**  
Estate planners, lawyers, and financial planners are just some the of the professionals that can help you set up a fund to take care of your pet's future needs. A guideline for funding amount would be the cost of your pet's current annual care times the number of years your pet is expected to live. The average cat's life expectancy is 12 to 20 years.

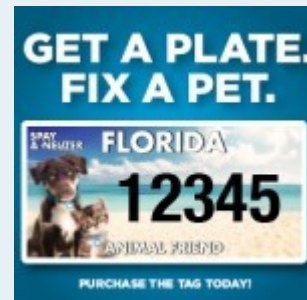
Preparing for the unexpected will guarantee the well being of your pet.

Sheltering Hands is not a law firm and does not provide legal advice. Nothing contained in our literature should be construed as legal advice.

**Did you know the Sheltering Hands Gift Shop is open every Saturday from 12pm—4pm.? The shop has many great items for sale at amazing low prices. Christmas is coming soon, stop by to get a present for your favorite cat or cat lover! All proceeds benefit Sheltering Hands.**

## Florida Animal Friends

Help end pet overpopulation and purchase a Florida Animal Friend License Plate today!



## Chewy.com

For every new customer purchase through this site, Chewy will donate \$20 to Sheltering Hands, Inc

<https://www.chewy.com/rp/4793>



Fresh Step

For every 10,000 points Sheltering Hands receives, we get 23 boxes of free litter

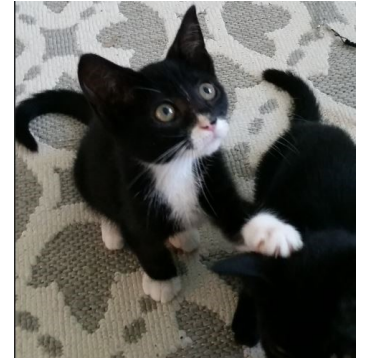
Select us as your favorite charity and shop at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gina at 352-840-0663 Option 5.

# Your Call is Important to Us!

Have you tried to call us or email us? Then wait, call or email us again and still no response from us. **We are sorry.** Your calls and emails are very important to us. We would like to provide some insight into the daily operation of Sheltering Hands. Did you know that we only have 1 full time employee and 2 part time employees? Unlike a normal office, our operator is a CenturyLink phone butler that diverts calls to the proper person's mobile phone for action. On average, we receive 75 calls a day and about 300 emails. In addition, our staff and volunteers, spend about 6-8 hours a day caring for the cats in our care at our facility and at PetSmart in Ocala, cleaning the surgical center, preparing surgery packs, making appointments for low cost spay and neuter and our community cats program, doing laundry, maintenance of the building and grounds, review pre-adoption forms, delivering cats, meeting with prospective pet parents, and ordering supplies. Our facility spays/neuters an average of 75 cats a week.



We ask for your patience when you call or email. Remind us that we may have spoken to you before. Most importantly, if you have a few hours to spare, please VOLUNTEER! Help us, help them!

## Litter Box Problems??

Has your cat started to eliminate outside of its litter box? Here are some common causes:

- Brand of litter was changed
- Litter has scented deodorants or additives
- Litter box needs to be cleaned more frequently
- Litter box is moved to a noisy area of home
- The litter box needs to be replaced. It may be too small or an enclosed box has too many unpleasant odors for your cat.
- Cat was frightened near the litter box
- Cat is experiencing a medical issue

If the problem persists, clean the area thoroughly with an odor neutralizer. Place food in a container near the area. Cats typically will not soil near their food. Take your cat to a veterinarian for an exam and tests will rule out any existing medical issues.

## Search a Word—Answer

Celebrate Feral Cat Month



Return  
Over  
Community  
Feral

Trap  
Population  
Kitten  
Neuter

October  
Colony  
Cats  
Stray



PO Box 843  
Williston, FL 32696

This is a change or correction to my name or address information.

Your contributions support our spay/neuter/return program and provide us needed supplies to care for cats who are awaiting adoption. **THANK YOU!** For online donations: visit [ShelteringHands.org](http://ShelteringHands.org) and select the **DONATE** button.

\$25  \$50  \$75  \$100  \$200  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize you to charge my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to become a monthly contributor.

Visa  Mastercard  Check Enclosed

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/yy) CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_