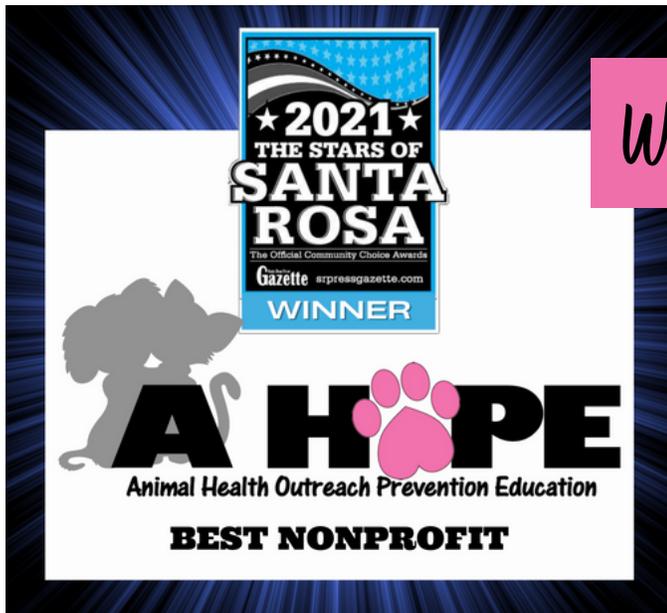


A HOPE MEWSWORTHY

October 2021 Edition



WHAT ARE WE UP TO?

First things first, we want to give a huge shout-out to all our followers and supporters. Thanks to your votes, we were named the Best Nonprofit in Santa Rosa Press Gazette's Stars of Santa Rosa awards! We're humbled by your support for our mission every day, and we hope you'll continue following our story in the future. As you'll see from the rest of this newsletter, we have many big and exciting things in store!

We also want to thank IMPACT 100 for making us a finalist in their grant competition this year. Winners were announced on October 17th. Congratulations to all the worthy organizations who received funding! Although we didn't win, this has still been an incredible opportunity to spread the word about our story and mission to build a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Santa Rosa County. And we will definitely try again next year! Learn more about the clinic project on our website at www.ahope4src.com/cliniccomingsoon.



What else do we have going on right now? We're getting ready for the most fun annual adoption event in town, A New Leash on Love! Come out and join the party on November 13th from 10am - 2pm at Bagdad Mill Site Park. We'll have food, vendors, games, and lots of adoptable animals from local rescues! The whole family is welcome, including your furbabies (as long as they can be on a leash). We can't wait to see you! To join us as a vendor or rescue, reach out to events@ahope4src.com.



Mindy

First, let's talk about the heart of our organization: our bi-weekly transports to Operation Spay Bay, the nearest low-cost spay/neuter clinic to Santa Rosa County. In September, we had two transports that made it possible for 87 cats and 10 dogs to get fixed. That includes pets owned by families in the community and TNR community cats. So far this year, we've transported 1,145 animals total!

Even with all these special happenings right now, we can't forget about our regular programs, including low-cost spaying and neutering, fostering and adoptions, and providing pet food for low-income families. Besides, every fixed animal, every adoption, and every bag of pet food given out is special to us!



Our transport van loaded up with kitties and pups!

Now, let's talk about needy animals finding homes! In September, our fosters took in 34 cats and 2 rats, saving them from whatever dire situation they were in. All these animals will be loved and taken care of for the rest of their lives, no matter where they came from!

Plus, 18 of our foster animals found their forever homes in September! Shout out to our amazing adopters for giving these little loves a future full of happiness, cuddles, and comfort.

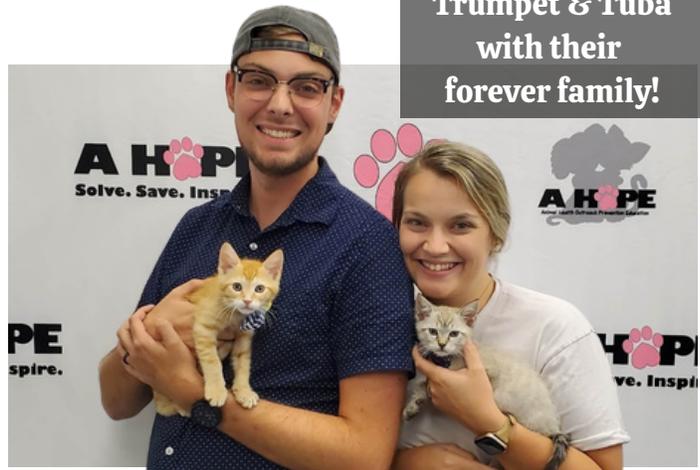


Veronica Lodge

Want to be a part of this life-saving work? We're currently looking for fosters! The more foster homes we have available, the more animals we can save. We won't lie, fostering isn't always easy, but it's always, always worth the work.

If you're interested in opening your home to the cutest kittens around, please apply at www.ahope4src.com/fostering or contact volunteer@ahope4src.com with questions.

Trumpet & Tuba with their forever family!





Piano says, "I didn't eat all the wet food, honest!"

Of course, we can't go without mentioning the Pet Food Pantry and Bowl Fillers, two programs through which we help families and their pets stay together through difficult times.

Through our Pet Food Pantry, held on the second Sunday of every month from 1 - 3 pm, we give out cat food, dog food, litter, treats, and other supplies to families who need it. The September pantry gave out 335 pounds of dog food, 190 pounds of cat food, 17 cans of wet dog food, and 37 cans of wet cat food. That adds up to 18 dogs and 28 cats who had enough to eat last month thanks to everyone who has donated to the pantry!

Do you need assistance feeding your pet? Visit our website at www.ahope4src.com/petpantry to find out how you can get started with the pantry. Note: October's Pet Food Pantry has already passed, and the next one will be on Sunday, November 14th.



How much pet food does it take to feed a community? A lot!

Would you like to donate items to the pantry? You can send them or drop them off any time at the "Paw Pad," our facility in Milton. Our address is 5755 Washington St, Milton, FL 32570. Thank you to all our generous donors!

Bowl Fillers is another life-saving program that helps community members get the pet food and supplies they need. This program, which we run in partnership with Meals on Wheels, provides pet food for homebound senior citizens with companion animals. Thanks to our September Bowl Fillers sponsor, Webster Family Dentistry, last month's program helped four families, which included five dogs and five cats. Each family received food, a treat, and a toy. Thank you to our sponsor!



September Bowl Fillers Sponsor:
Webster Family Dentistry
5371 Glover Ln, Milton, FL 32570
(850) 623-0379

We're currently on the lookout for monthly Bowl Fillers sponsors for 2022. If you might be interested, please contact ahopeoutreach@gmail.com.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Volunteering at A HOPE looks like this...



Setup, cleanup, and other tasks for our rescued animals

And this...



Preparing community animals for transport

And also this...



Paperwork, data entry, and filing to keep us on schedule

None of our programs could happen without volunteers behind the curtain pouring their hearts and souls into every aspect of this work. From fostering the neediest animals to cleaning and organizing our facility to keeping our followers updated through social media, there are a million jobs that make this organization what it is. Thank you to all our volunteers, who put in a total of 1,910 hours last month!

We're always looking for new members to add to the team! The more people we have, the more we can do for this community. If you want to get involved, we have a place for you, whoever you are. We even have many volunteer opportunities you can do from your own home and on your own schedule. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@ahope4src.com to find your place in our family!



**Congratulations to our
September Volunteer of the Month:
Atilo MontesdeOca-Downes**

Where we need people most right now:

- Kitten Foster Parents
- Van Drivers to Panama City (every other Tuesday)
- Early Morning Animal Loading (every other Tuesday)
- Resource Help Desk Operators (from home)
- Grant Writers (from home)
- Posting on Social Media (from home)
- Care of our Animals Boarded at PetSmart in Pace
- Daily Cleaning and Care of the Facility

Find more information at
www.ahope4src.com/volunteer



**Fostering with us will
bring a smile to your face!**

If you've ever considered fostering with us, now is a great time to jump in! We're currently in a position where we've had to turn animals away due to lack of space.

That's where you come in! New fosters = more opportunities to save lives. Fostering the needy kittens we take in might be stressful at times, but it is so incredibly rewarding. You can't imagine the feeling of knowing a life is still in this world because of you. That's something you have to experience for yourself!

Learn more and apply to become a foster at www.ahope4src.com/fostering. If you have any questions that aren't answered on our website, contact volunteer@ahope4src.com.

FOSTER TESTIMONIALS

We asked some of our awesome foster parents why they do what they do and why *you* should do it, too. Here's what they had to say...

"Because being addicted to drugs is frowned upon while being addicted to saving lives is looked up to. Other people should foster because getting high off antidepressants is the new thing. Everybody's doing it. Peer pressure. Kittens; my drug of choice."

"It helps me get my kitten fix without becoming a hoarder ;)"

"Knowing that you can forever change the life of such an innocent vulnerable being by sharing your love is the best feeling in the world."

"Who doesn't love kittens? Cats eh, but to be able to always have kittens around is the best. Oh, and saving lives is pretty rewarding too."

"Because kittens make me happy! Saving a life makes me feel like a hero!"

"Who could resist smiling while fostering such sweet kittens!! It's the best thing knowing they will have the best life cause A HOPE saved them."

WHO'S LOOKING FOR FOREVER?

Meet the Music Crew!

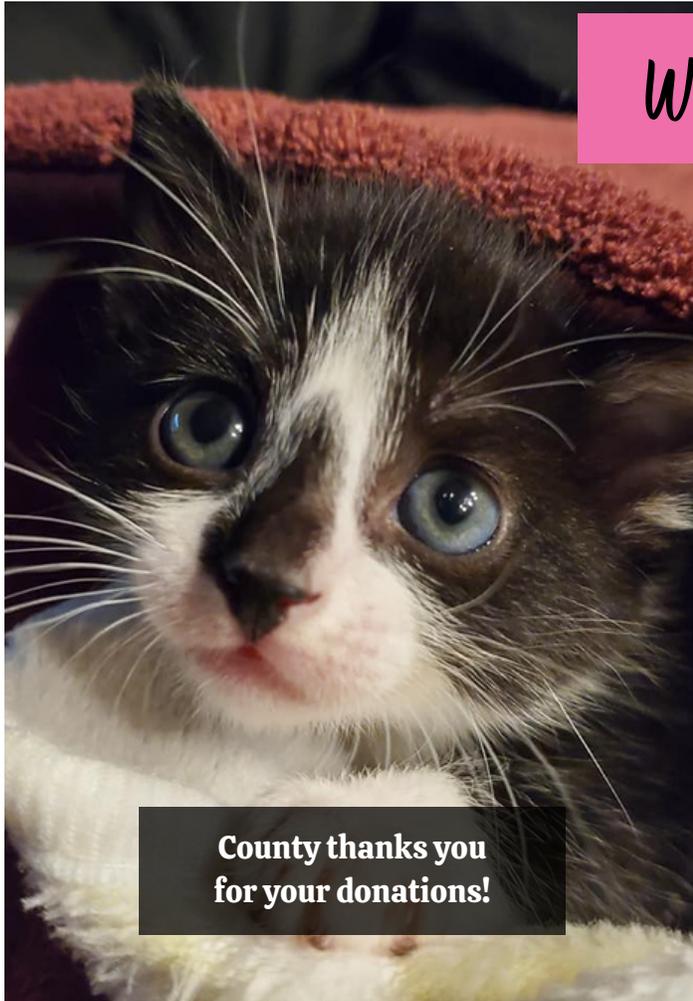


Meet the Music Crew! These 10 kittens came from two feral moms who were in our care for a while named Princess and Callie. The moms stayed with us while their babies were still nursing, but now these cuties are all grown up and are eating, playing, and making mischief like big kids. Both moms have been spayed, vaccinated, ear-tipped, and returned to their outdoor homes. But their kittens are on the hunt for new homes and forever families! According to their foster mom, each one of the Music Crew is super friendly, playful, and adorable (as you can see). And there's one in just about every color you could want!

Adoption applications are already open for many of the kittens pictured above, while the rest are waiting to get a little bit bigger before they're ready to meet their potential new families. All 10 of them are just under 2 months old.

The best thing about having so many kittens available is that you can mix and match! As always, we recommend taking home two kittens instead of just one, since single kittens can get lonely and develop negative behaviors, such as yowling all hours of the day and night or destroying things.

Are you ready to welcome a couple of cuties into your family? You can learn more about the members of the Music Crew with open applications at www.ahope4src.com/meetme and the ones who aren't quite ready yet at www.ahope4src.com/comingsoon. What are you waiting for? The cutest kittens in town want to meet you!



County thanks you
for your donations!

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Our greatest need at the moment is money! We have two big fundraisers right now:

- Construction costs for our low-cost spay/neuter clinic
- Money to buy a new van for our transports to Operation Spay Bay

On top of that, there's the cost of caring for our animals in foster and keeping the lights on at our facility.

If you would like to donate, you can do so at www.ahope4src.com/hopesheroes.

We appreciate **everything** you give in order for us to continue our mission!

HOPE'S HEROES

A huge THANK YOU to our September donors:

Jacque & Julie Lebeau
Robert & Margaret Byrnes
Jon & Tricia Green
Robin Gilmore
Jebbye Lemons
Donna Fite
Ms. Gay
Nancy Anderson

Lona Thrasher
Bridget Knight
Christy Carlson
Linda Caron
Katie Johnson
Linda Maguire
Deborah Lewis
Jenna Merritt
Holly & Jay Shands

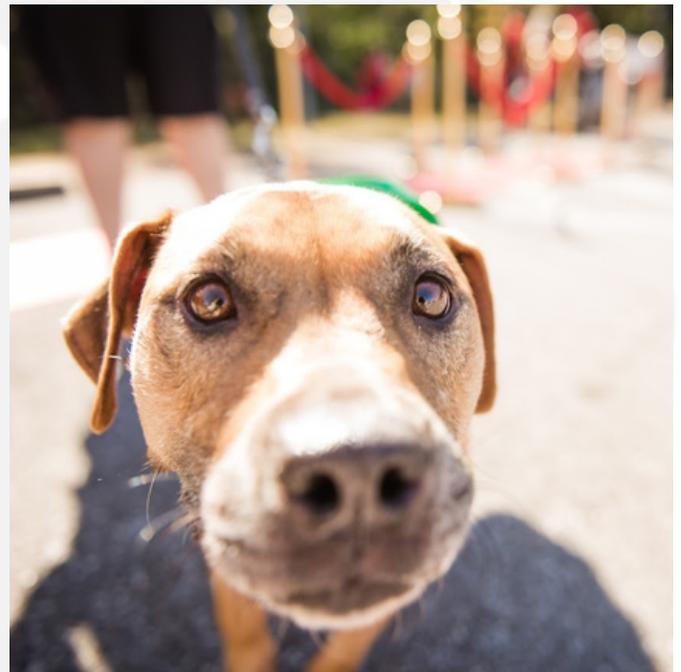
Kerry Anne Schultz
Maureen Brescia
Mary Causey
Mary Bohannon
Cynthia Fulford
Paige Cary
Karan Llewellyn
Virginia Bowman

Don't see your name on this list? You can add it by becoming a monthly donor here:
www.ahope4src.com/hopesheroes

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October 19th:** Spay/neuter registration
 - Location: Online at www.ahope4src.com/reserveaspot
 - Time: 12:00pm (Noon)
- **October 23rd:** Kitten Yoga
 - Location: URU Yoga by the airport in Pensacola
 - Time: 11:00am - 12:00 pm
 - Sign up: www.uruyoga.com/uru-event-schedule/
- **October 31st:** Barktober Fest
 - Location: Community Maritime Park in Pensacola
 - Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm
- **November 2nd:** Spay/neuter registration
 - Location: Online at www.ahope4src.com/reserveaspot
 - Time: 12:00pm (Noon)
- **November 13th:** A New Leash on Love
 - Location: Bagdad Mill Site Park
 - Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm
 - Learn more: <https://fb.me/e/1Z81J84xv>
- **November 14th:** Pet Food Pantry
 - Location: 5755 Washington Street, Milton
 - Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm
 - Learn more: www.ahope4src.com/petpantry
- **November 16th:** Spay/neuter registration
 - Location: Online at www.ahope4src.com/reserveaspot
 - Time: 12:00pm (Noon)

Friends from last year's
A New Leash on Love event...



You can always see what
events we have coming up on
our website at
www.ahope4src.com/events!

TAIL ME ABOUT IT!

Delilah asks: "How old does an animal have to be to get the rabies vaccine?"

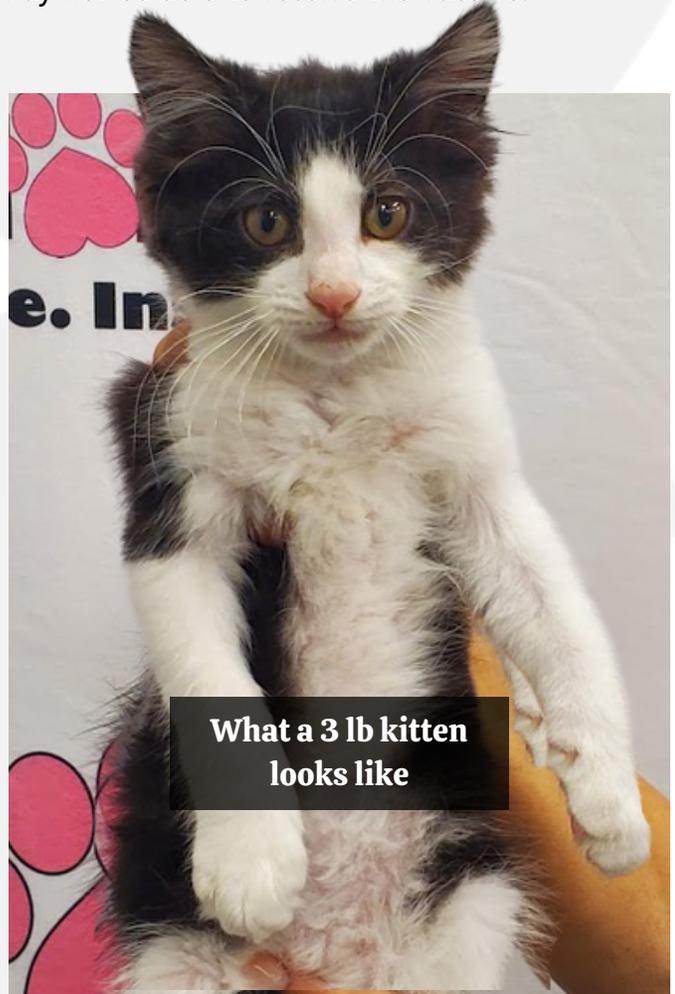
Most veterinarians won't give a kitten or puppy their rabies vaccine until the animal is 12 - 16 weeks (3 - 4 months) old. Kittens and puppies are protected by maternal antibodies (transferred to them from their mom) for the first 3 months of life while their immune systems develop. If they receive the rabies vaccine during this time, they could have a negative reaction.

In some cases, vets can give the rabies vaccine at 2 months old with a booster at 9 months old (then annually from that point on). If an animal receives the vaccine even one day late, they have to start all over again with the booster.

Once your pet is old enough, it's important that you get them vaccinated against rabies right away. Most importantly, the rabies vaccine is necessary to protect your pet's health. But it's also required by law. Florida law states that any owned dog or cat over the age of four months old must get a rabies vaccine from a licensed veterinarian.

The law also requires that your pet continues to receive the rabies vaccination every 12 months (or every 3 years if they received a 3-year vaccine). Your pet's vaccine is considered outdated if they go even one day past the anniversary of their last vaccination without getting a new one. If you fail to comply with the law, you could face legal penalties.

We require that all animals registered for our spay/neuter transports either have an up-to-date rabies vaccination or receive their vaccine while at Operation Spay Bay. For this reason, animals can only come on our transports if they are at least 3 months old and weigh at least 3 pounds. If they're any younger or smaller than that, they may not be able to receive the vaccine.



What a 3 lb kitten looks like

**Do you have questions?
We want to answer them!
Send any inquiries to
ahopenews@gmail.com, and maybe we'll
answer yours in next month's Tail Me
About It!**