

A HOPE MEWSWORTHY

July 2021 Edition



"Attitude" on Intake Day

WHAT ARE WE UP TO?

The A HOPE family keeps growing...and growing...and growing! Kitten season 2021 is still in full swing, and we took in 52 (yes, 52!!) new cats and kittens last month alone. We also added 7 new members to our rat pack.

As you can imagine, foster space is pretty tight. Think you have what it takes to join the team? Learn more at www.ahope4src.com/fostering.

We're SO HAPPY to share that 67 of our cats and kittens and 3 of our rats found their forever homes in June. We'll miss their sweet faces, but we know they're having the time of their lives with their new families, and we wouldn't have it any other way.



Charlie (now Xander)
living his happily ever after



June Bowl Filler Sponsor
Enhanced Esthetics
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A HOPE is a lot more than a cat and rat rescue. Our main purpose is to provide resources to community members like you so you can step up and care for the needy animals of Santa Rosa County.

Our June Pet Food Pantry provided pet food, treats, and litter for 29 animals belonging to families willing to step up and care for their pets for life, with only a little help from us.

Through the Bowl Fillers program, we run in partnership with the West Florida Center for Council on Aging, we provided food, treats, toys, and litter for 23 companion animals in order to assist our senior citizens.

Bottle feeding class at the West Florida Center for the Council on Aging



Of course, we can't talk about our efforts to provide resources for the community without talking about our bi-weekly transports to Operation Spay Bay in Panama City. This is one of our most crucial services. Through these transports, hundreds of families in Santa Rosa County have access to low-cost spaying and neutering for their cats and dogs. The more animals in our community get fixed now, the fewer unexpected pregnancies and homeless kittens we'll have in the future.

Do you know the story behind the Bowl Fillers program? It all started when we learned that many senior citizens were feeding their Meals on Wheels meals to their pets. They took the food out of their own mouths to make sure their companions had enough to eat. If that's not love, we don't know what is.

We decided to help where we could. And we're always looking for sponsors to keep this program running! If you or your business would like to sponsor one month of Bowl Fillers, contact our Outreach Coordinator at ahopeoutreach@gmail.com for more information.



Transport night at the Paw Pad

Twice a month, we pack up dozens of animals (sometimes up to 100!) into a large passenger van and drive them to the nearest low-cost spay/neuter clinic, which happens to be 2.5 hours away.

In June, we had our two regular transports, plus one extra 100 Cat Spay Day. All in all, 193 cats and 11 dogs in just one month were able to get fixed because of this service.

You might be thinking, "Wouldn't it be easier if we had a low-cost clinic right here in Santa Rosa County?" We think so, too! So, we're building one. Learn more about the project and find out how you can help make this dream a reality at www.ahope4src.com/cliniccomingsoon.



"Headache" showing off his neuter

PUTTIN' FORE PAWS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

On June 18th, we threw our first annual Puttin' Fore Paws Charity Golf Tournament in partnership with the Santa Rosa Sheriff's Department. It was a knockout success!

Even though the day of the event was stormy, 35 teams with 140 players came out to help us raise \$28,000 towards our low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Santa Rosa County! Those funds will do so much good for the animals of this community, and we couldn't be more grateful. Plus, it's safe to say everyone had a blast!



This event would not have been possible without support from the Sheriff's Department and our generous sponsors:

Title Sponsor: The Leavenworth Team

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We also want to shout out the dedicated A HOPE volunteers who braved the weather to work the tournament. You all are the hands and feet of this organization! Thank you for your hard work!

Finally, we can't go without mentioning two very special individuals who gave invaluable insight that helped make this fundraiser such a huge success. Sheriff Bob Johnson and Tamie Peterson, your dedication to supporting us while we figured out how to pull this off is deeply appreciated.



Event Sponsors:
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SmartCop

And thanks to Plastic Engraving for providing the golf trophies!



Did you miss out on the fun of our first golf tournament? Don't worry! We'll be announcing the date for next year's tournament very soon! Keep an eye on our social media and our website at www.ahope4src.com/golf for the announcement and sign-up info.

Thanks to everyone who came out to support us this year, and we hope to see you again next time!

Volunteers hard at work on intake day



WHO HELPED?

Did you know A HOPE is 100% run by volunteers? From the president to the van drivers to the people who answer your questions at the help desk, every member of this organization is here because they care about the animals of this community. We LOVE our volunteers, and we're so proud to have each and every one of you on our team. Thank you for putting your heart into this mission every single day!

If you've never volunteered with us before, you can't possibly imagine how much work goes into our many life-saving programs. Even most of those who work here have only seen the half of it (or less!) because there is sooo much work to go around.

Can you guess how many hours our volunteers put in during June? **2,744!** And that's only counting the hours they remembered to document!



Some volunteers foster our animals in their homes, some clean and organize equipment at the Paw Pad, some work on our website and social media pages, and so, so much more. Every job is absolutely vital to our mission's success, no matter how "small" it might seem.

Have you ever wondered how you can help the suffering animals you see us post pictures of all the time? Join our team! Whatever your skillset, there is a place for you, and we need you! Sign up at www.ahope4src.com/volunteer.



Congratulations to our June Volunteer of the Month:

Linda Caron

WHO'S LOOKING FOR FOREVER?



Casper

This month, we want to spotlight one of our crunchy muffins, Casper!

Casper is a beautiful white cat who came to us from the shelter with ringworm. He's about 5 months old, and he's the sweetest, snuggliest, loviest boy around! His foster mom says he was shy when he first moved in, but now he's learning (and loving) to play!

Casper's best friend is Stretch Marks, another crunchy muffin kitten who lives with him in his foster home. Their kennels were even next to each other back when they were at the shelter!

Their foster mom says they loooooove cuddling together. When Stretch Marks came back from the vet after getting fixed, Casper gave her a full-body bath to welcome her home and help her feel (and smell) better.




"Casper" hanging out with his best friend "Stretch Marks"



Casper used to have a small bump on his tongue which got removed. The bump may come back one day, but it's nothing to worry about. A little bump could never stop this sweet boy from giving tons of kisses and snuggles. We're just excited his ringworm and tongue bump are both healed!

Would you like to welcome Casper (and maybe his friend Stretch Marks) into your family?

Apply for adoption at www.ahope4src.com/meetme.



Furley Temple

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Greatest donation needs right now:

- Tidy Cats clumping and non-clumping litter
- Folding playpens of any size
- 1cc slip tip syringes
- Kitten toys

You can find these supplies and other items we need on our website at www.ahope4src.com/donate. You can send or drop off any donations at the Paw Pad at 5755 Washington St, Milton, FL 32570.

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

HOPE'S HEROES

A huge THANK YOU to our June donors:

Lawrence Perry
Jebbye Lemons
Donna Fite
Ms. Gay
Maribeth Brossart
Holly & Jay Shands
Linda Caron
Lona Thrasher

Randy Shipman
Lauren Thompson
Bridget Knight
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Become a monthly donor at
www.ahope4src.com/hopesheroes



TAIL ME ABOUT IT!

Summer asks: I have an older cat, and I recently got a new kitten. My older cat keeps getting into the kitten's food and eating a lot of it. My kitten does the same thing with the adult cat food. Is it ok for them to eat each other's food? What can I do to keep them out of the wrong food bowl?

Your instinct to keep your cat and kitten out of each other's food is right. There are a couple of issues with adult cats eating kitten food and vice versa.

Kitten food is high in calories to give kittens' little bodies the extra energy they need to grow and develop. If an adult cat eats all those extra calories every day, they'll become overweight, which can lead to serious health problems.

Adult cat food doesn't have anything in it that will harm your kitten, but it lacks the nutrients that kittens need for the first year of their lives. A kitten who eats adult cat food and ignores their kitten food will miss out on those nutrients.

So, if they get a little nibble of each other's food, no harm done. But you don't want eating out of each other's bowls to become a habit.

To prevent them eating each other's food regularly, try feeding your cat and kitten in separate rooms. You should also pick up their food when they're done eating. This will be easier if you feed them several smaller portions that they'll eat faster throughout the day instead of one or two larger portions that will sit out for a long time before the cats finish them.



**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!**