

# A HOPE MEWSWORTHY

September 2021 Edition



"Crayons"

## WHAT ARE WE UP TO?

We have some very exciting news to share! A HOPE has been chosen as one of 15 finalists for the 2021 Impact 100 grant. 11 of the finalists will receive \$101,820. Receiving this grant would make a world of difference in funding the low-cost spay/neuter clinic we're building in Milton, Florida. Thank you to the women of Impact 100, for recognizing our mission and how important it is for animals and families in our community.

If you know anything about us, you know we're all about helping local pet owners access affordable spaying and neutering. In a few years, we'll have our own low-cost clinic, but for now, we have our bi-weekly transports to Operation Spay Bay in Panama City. Last month, 155 cats and 12 dogs were able to get fixed because of these transports.

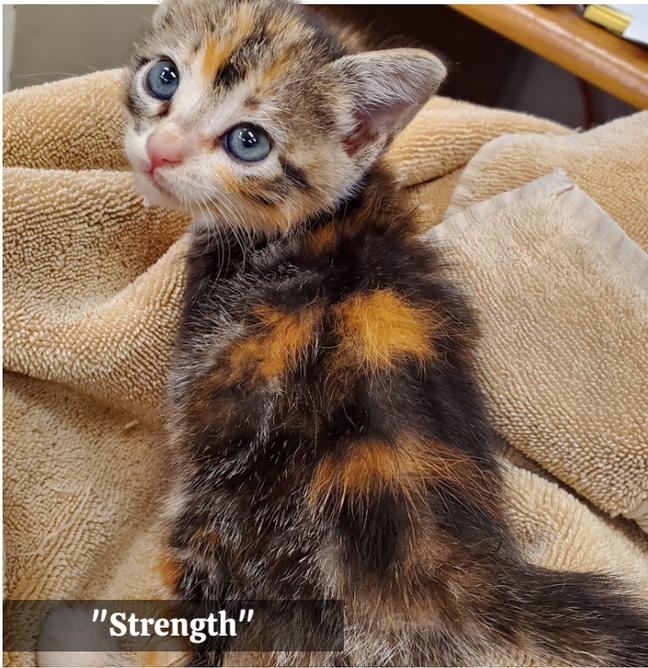


All tucked in for boarding the night before surgery



"Cooper" sporting his cone collar

Already this year, more than a thousand animals have come through our transport service! These transports make a huge difference in our community. They help families afford vetting, retain their pets, and prevent unwanted pregnancies in cats and dogs. Learn more about how our transports work and how to register for a low-cost spay or neuter for your pet at [www.ahope4src.com/vetaccess](http://www.ahope4src.com/vetaccess).



"Strength"

Unfortunately, the van we use for these transports is getting old. It currently has more than 120,000 miles on it, and we know it won't last forever. We don't want to wait until it breaks down on the side of the road with 75 animals in the back before we do something, so we're raising funds for a new van.

Want to help? Donate at [www.ahope4src.com/hopesheroes](http://www.ahope4src.com/hopesheroes) and designate your donation for the new van or contribute to this GoFundMe set up by one of our volunteers: <https://gofund.me/4066b20b>

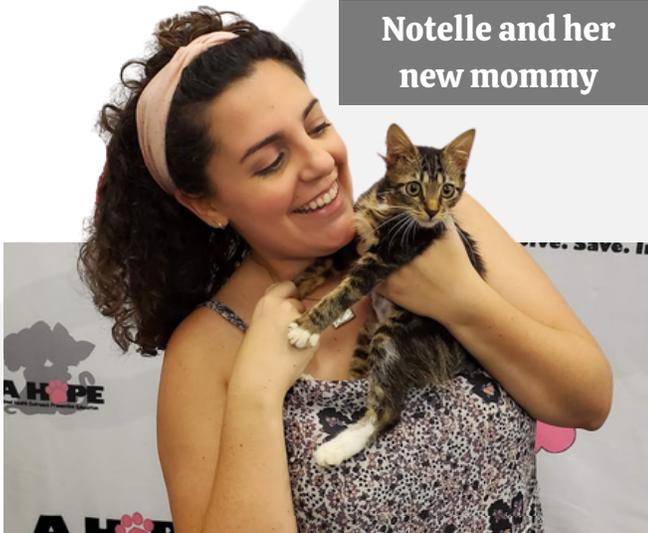
Our rescue and rehabilitation program has been busy this past month, too. In August, we took in 20 kittens, 11 adult cats, and 2 fancy rats. No matter what brought these animals to us, each one of them is now on the path to a home and a lifetime of happiness, love, and comfort.

Right now, we have a total of 41 animals in our care. We're only able to take animals in when we have the capacity to do so. Foster parents are the key to opening space. Adopters are the reason we can save so many!



Archie Andrews & David Beckham

Notelle and her new mommy



We're so grateful to our adopters, who give the animals we love a happy ending. We had 45 adoptions last month!

Every time you adopt an animal, you save two lives: The animal you bring home and the animal who takes their place in foster care. 45 adoptions means 45 new opportunities to save a life!

See all the animals we have available for adoption at [www.ahope4src.com/adoptions](http://www.ahope4src.com/adoptions).



**"Sol" taking her first sip of a new life**

Another huge part of our mission is helping families keep their pets. On the second Sunday of every month, our Pet Food Pantry hands out free dog and cat food to low-income families.

In August, we provided food for 13 dogs and 11 cats. That includes 335 pounds of dry food and 96 cans of wet food. We also gave out cat litter, puppy pads, treats, and toys.

Do you need assistance with pet food? Find out if you qualify for the Pet Food Pantry at [www.ahope4src.com/petpantry](http://www.ahope4src.com/petpantry).

Thank you to everyone who has donated food and supplies to our Pet Food Pantry! The community wouldn't have this service without you.

The Pantry is currently accepting donations of dog food, cat food, and litter. Any brand of food or litter will do. We appreciate anything you can give.

If you would like to donate, drop off your items any time at our facility at 5755 Washington St, Milton, 32570.



**"Momo" on his adoption day**

Our August Bowl Fillers provided food for our senior citizens' companion animals.

We run the Bowl Fillers program in partnership with the West Florida Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels. We provide the dog and cat food, and Meals on Wheels delivers it to the seniors along with their own meals. That way, everyone has plenty to eat.

Thank you so much to First United Methodist Church for sponsoring Bowl Fillers for the month of August!

Would your organization like to sponsor a month? Email our Outreach Coordinator at [ahopeoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:ahopeoutreach@gmail.com) and we'll get you signed up!



**August Bowl Fillers Sponsor  
First United Methodist Church**

# WHO HELPED?

## Volunteering at A HOPE looks like this...



*Setup, cleanup, and other tasks for our rescued animals*

## And this...



*Food preparation for animals in need*

## And also this...



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

Our volunteers do all those jobs and a whole lot more every day! Behind every adoption, pet fixed, and animal life saved, are countless hours of work. THANK YOU to all our volunteers!

We also have to thank our generous community for their support. We recently received a special donation from Robert and Margaret Byrnes through the Jewish Federation Foundation which allowed us to trap, fix, and return several local community cats. Thank you so much! And thank you to everyone who has donated money and supplies!



**Congratulations to our August Volunteer of the Month  
Nancy Way**

Ready to join our awesome team? We have a place for you and your skills! Right now, here's what we need volunteers for the most:

- Resource Help Desk Operators (from home)
- Grant Writers (from home)
- Daily Cleaning and Care of the Facility
- Kitten Foster Parents
- Early Morning Animal Loading

Find more information at  
[www.ahope4src.com/volunteer](http://www.ahope4src.com/volunteer)

## WHO'S LOOKING FOR FOREVER?



Meet Teddy! Teddy is a gorgeous medium hair cat who is 10 years young. Did we mention he's gorgeous? Just look at that face!

Teddy is a relaxed couch potato who likes to lay around all day, sometimes right on top of you! He's friendly with other cats and dogs in his foster home, but he prefers to keep to himself. He gets along with kids, too, as long as he gets time and space to chill out when he needs to.

Teddy had a bit of a rocky life, from living in the shelter for four years to being adopted and then returned numerous times prior to landing here with us. He's looking for a loving home he can enjoy for the rest of his days...Could that be you?

Teddy's foster mom says, "Teddy is doing well. He's a lazy kitty. He likes soft beds and pets (when he demands them). His favorite spots to sleep are on my head or on my husband's back."



Teddy has a condition called hyperthyroidism. He has suffered some hair loss due to the condition, but he's currently doing well on a strict diet of Hill's Science Diet Y/D Thyroid Care food. Sorry, Teddy, no treats or scraps of human food for you!

Could you give this senior kitty all the love and attention he wants, plus a safe space to be alone sometimes? You could be Teddy's perfect fit!

Apply for adoption now at  
[www.ahope4src.com/takehome](http://www.ahope4src.com/takehome).





## WHAT DO WE NEED?

Greatest donation needs right now:

- Scratching pads
- Clumping cat litter
- Microfleece blankets

You can find these supplies and other items we need on our website at [www.ahope4src.com/donate](http://www.ahope4src.com/donate).

You can send or drop off any donations at the Paw Pad at 5755 Washington St, Milton, FL 32570.

If you would like to donate cash, you can do so at [www.ahope4src.com/hopesheroes](http://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 August donors:

Robin Gilmore  
Donna Fite  
Ms. Gay  
Mary Ann Bishop  
Holly & Jay Shands  
Steve Deola  
Lona Thrasher  
Bridget Knight  
Russell Messick

Jon & Tricia Green  
Melissa Brown Aldridge  
Lisa Higdon  
Christy Carlson  
Cynthia Howell  
Katie Johnson  
Linda Maguire  
Deborah Lewis  
Paige Cary

Mrs. Jenna  
Virginia Bowman  
Kerry Anne Schultz  
Pamela Peters  
Maureen Brescia  
Mary Causey  
Cynthia Fulford  
Elizabeth Edmondson  
Lawrence Perry

**Don't see your name on this list? You can add it here:**  
[www.ahope4src.com/hopesheroes](http://www.ahope4src.com/hopesheroes)

# TAIL ME ABOUT IT!

## Valerie asks: "What's wrong with declawing a cat?"

Declawing can have negative effects on a cat's health and behavior. Removing the claws can make cats uncomfortable and anxious. In some cases, a declawed cat may resort to biting because they don't have their claws to use in defense anymore. Other times, declawed cats have trouble using the litter box due to residual pain and discomfort as they age.

Don't think of declawing as an easy quick-fix for your cat's scratching habits. Declawing is a surgery, not a simple nail trim, and it should be treated as a serious procedure. When a cat is declawed, the last bone of each toe is amputated, changing the whole shape of the cat's foot.

Instead of declawing, teach your cat to use scratching posts and pads as an alternative to your furniture. Scratching is a natural and healthy behavior in cats, and you can encourage the behavior without sacrificing your furniture. Make sure your cat feels comfortable while they carry out the natural instinct to file their nails and share their paw-based scent glands with positive behavior modifications and appropriate scratching equipment.

Trimming your cat's nails every few weeks is another good way to minimize damage from scratching. Find a video on how to trim a cat's nails on our YouTube channel!



You're not a monster if you've ever had a cat declawed. It isn't the end of the world. Some cats recover from the procedure quickly and go on with their normal lives afterward. We understand there are complicated situations when you might have to make a choice between declawing your cat or giving them up, so we just want to support an informed decision.

If it's simply a choice of whether to declaw a cat or not, the healthiest and safest answer is definitely not to declaw.

**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!**