

♥ Happy ♥
Valentine's Day

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

CATS FOR ADOPTION

Leesburg Humane Society

Message from Debbie Butler, Executive Director

Greetings shelter friends and family.....

As we say good-bye to January, we say good riddance to the cold weather that it brought. I'm so thankful that we put heat in the kennels, so our dogs were warm and cozy. There was a short time last month when the dogs enjoyed the kennel doors being left open at night because the weather was beautiful. Hopefully it will happen again when springtime happens. The cats on the cat porch are nice and warm as well. Our wonderful (and quite handy) volunteer, Ed, put up winter plastic outside of the outside area for the cats that just don't want to go inside the building where the heat is. Cats will be cats, and we must make sure that they are comfortable and happy. When Ed heard about the cold weather coming, he raced over and got the project done. If you know anything about cats, they will never thank Ed, but we humans will!!

February is the month of love with Valentines Day being on the 14th. Here at the shelter, we celebrate love on a daily basis. The moment an animal comes through our door, they enter our hearts. We love it when we get updates after they get adopted. Before the days of social media, we usually never heard anything about them. It's great being able to keep up with them. I know that a lot of adopters don't want to come and visit with their pet because they fear that they will think they are being returned, and although being turned into a shelter is definitely a traumatic experience for any pet, over time, when they realize that they are safe, and loved they begin to love us back. When that happens, it fills our hearts with joy. As much as we want to find homes for all of them, we shed a tear when they leave us.

I would like to encourage all of you to share your love stories with us in the month of February. You can do that via Facebook or send us an email. Many of you have sent us updates about animals you have adopted, but how about your childhood pet that probably was your first love, or your first pet when you were starting a new family. I think everyone has had that "special one" that you never got over losing. A long-lost pet that you got reunited with. We can't help it; we are suckers for a good love story..... Deb



IRIS
8 YEAR OLD FEMALE



BABY
8 YEAR OLD FEMALE



JANGLE
9 YEAR OLD MALE



MOOCHIE
2 YEAR OLD MALE



Leesburg Humane Society

FOREVER HOME PET TRUST OFFICIALLY OPENS!

We are so excited to announce the official opening of our new program, Forever Home Pet Trust. We have been working on this plan for two years and could not be happier to see the project come to completion. We finally were able to move into the homes in mid-January and are so excited!

Three years ago, now Program Manager, Heidi Gaumet, came to the shelter with an idea that she and two of her coworkers in the Volunteer Department at hospice were working on. It began with seeing a need for a place where pets could live out their lives if their human companion passed away or became unable to care for their pets, i.e. going into Assisted Living. They saw this often with hospice patients who had pets that no one wanted after the patient passed and their department would try to rehome the pets.

While looking for land to house the program, they met with the Board of Directors at the shelter to ask if they would consider leasing them some land. Executive Director, Debbie Butler, fell in love with the idea and immediately knew it was something she wanted to offer as a program through the shelter. And from that moment, a new dream was born. Heidi was hired as the shelter's part-time Volunteer Coordinator and then her role grew to include Outreach, Events and running the Forever Home program.

The end result was the shelter purchasing the eight-acre property next to the shelter property and building two homes on the property: one to house dogs and one to house cats that come into the program. Debbie will reside in the home for dogs and Heidi will reside in the home for cats. Any pets taken into the program will live in the homes with staff to continue living a life to which they were accustomed.

The finishing touches are still in the works: outdoor enclosures for the pets to enjoy time outside safely and garages for the homes. Tours are available to anyone interested in seeing the property and homes, starting on February 17. Please contact us if you would like to schedule a visit.

Our biggest thank you goes to the Zambo family, who made a very generous donation to the shelter to be used for a special program. The shelter chose to use their donation for this program, and it could not have happened without their help. We cannot think of a better way to start off the New Year!

If you would like more information about the program, please contact Heidi at FHPT@leesburghumanesociety.org or 352-669-3348.



BROWNIE
8 MONTH OLD MALE



ROSE
8 MONTH OLD FEMALE



ALICE
7 MONTH OLD FEMALE



CAROL
7 MONTH OLD FEMALE

Leesburg Humane Society

Featured Dog - Max

Max is a happy, sweet, gentle giant senior who still full of so much life. But if you met him when he first came to our shelter back in September of 2024 you wouldn't recognize him. Max was brought into Sumter County as a stray. He was severely underweight, skin issues, and some testicle issues that needed to be resolved. Once he passed his window of stray hold he was transferred to us for some TLC. Max is now a healthy weight of 74 pounds! We estimate Max to be around 8 years old. He is an American Bulldog mix. A special low rider guy! He gets along well with other dogs smaller than him. He is completely potty trained and ready for a home to call his own.



Featured Cat - Mark

Meet Mark, a laid-back 3-year-old male cat who loves nothing more than lounging on the couch. He's a self-proclaimed couch potato and could spend hours basking in comfort, especially if it means a little extra love. While Mark may take his time adjusting to new surroundings, once he feels at home, he'll stake his claim on a cozy spot to call his own. With his unique mix of charm and personality, Mark enjoys a good head rub and isn't shy about rolling over for belly rubs, either. He's a sweet, gentle guy who just wants to be adored in his own time and way.



JONATHAN
8 YEAR OLD MALE



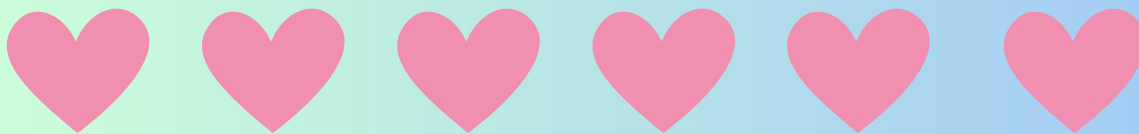
WALKER
8 YEAR OLD MALE



EBONY
7 YEAR OLD FEMALE



JAKE
6 YEAR OLD MALE



facebook

To see all the latest news at the shelter, please like and follow our Facebook Page. And tell friends and family! Thank you!

facebook.com/leesburghumanesociety

Leesburg Humane Society

Volunteer Spotlight - Courtney

Courtney is one of our dedicated volunteers, who visits the shelter weekly to spend time with the cats. We asked her to share a bit about herself and her experience at the shelter. We truly appreciate her openness and honesty about why she volunteers, as it is a very brave thing to share that may also help others. There is nothing more healing than the human/animal bond and Courtney is proof that animals have healing power. Her story also shows that all animals deserve a chance and love, even if they are not as friendly as some of the others. And that there are many ways to help a shelter and giving time as a volunteer is just as valuable as a donation. As you can see by the photo, the cats love her! We are grateful to have her as part of our volunteer family.

I adopted two cats from the shelter who I absolutely adore but they took a little while to warm up to me. I was told that I had picked the two most unfriendly cats I could have chosen. I'm a very patient person and I find that gently coaxing an animal into trusting me is the most rewarding thing in the world! Earning that trust is precious!



I love all animals, but I especially love cats. I adopted two because I think every cat needs a feline friend. I wanted to give money to the shelter because they do good work here and it's a no kill shelter, but I can't afford it, so I give my time instead. I have been diagnosed as having severe clinical depression which I am being treated for with medication that works well thankfully but I find that I tend to be more comfortable with animals than with people. When it comes to the animals at the shelter I love them all!



Contact Information

Leesburg Humane Society

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352-669-3312

adopt@leesburghumanesociety.org

Forever Home Pet Trust

41220 Emerald Island Road
Leesburg, FL 34788
352-669-3348

fhpt@leesburghumanesociety.org

Bargain Store

32445 County Road 473
Leesburg, FL 34788
352-742-2686



Volunteer Hours

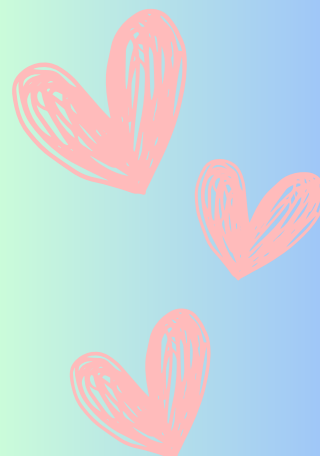
In January, shelter volunteers gave 180 hours.

Thank you!!

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Volunteer roles include dog walking/socializing, cat socializing, events, outreach, bargain store, and fostering.

Contact 352-669-3348 for more information



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marcia Turner, President
Patti Mosteller, Treasurer
Jennifer Hapner, Secretary
Debra Butler, Member
Linda Burfield, Member
Ronald Thompson, Member

Leesburg Humane Society

Adoption Stories

We had four puppies given to us back in August that were teeny tiny and only a few weeks old. Our staff bottle fed them and raised them from two pounds! They were strong little babies and now they each have found perfect homes! Enjoy the pictures of Arthur, Merlin, Lancelot and Queenie.



Congratulations to Sulley on finding his forever home. Sulley's new mom came in looking for a new furry friend after losing her previously adopted cat due to old age. Despite Sulley's typical shy demeanor, he happily claimed her as his new human and they had an instant bond. We wish Sulley the best of luck in his new home and can't wait to hear how he settles in.