

# Leesburg Humane Society

## Message from Debbie Butler, Executive Director

Greetings shelter family and friends

I really didn't think that it could get any hotter, but I was proven wrong. This month has been stifling and rainless. The dogs at the shelter love the sprinklers that are on in the dog yards all day long. They not only love to run in them, but it also keeps the ground somewhat cooler for their feet. We do have areas that are sand, so the sprinklers help keep it cool. We do have AC in the kennels for night-time when we can close all of the doors and keep in the cool. They get a good night's sleep on their Kuranda beds and comfy blankets. Even though the summer months tend to be a slower time for us in terms of adoptions, we still have found homes for several of our dogs. "Floppy", a female mixed breed lady, came to us from a "somewhat" hoarding situation. We have taken several animals from this person and I don't think they intentionally mistreated the dogs, I think it is just a cultural difference. She ended up being pregnant, unbeknownst to us, and gave birth to six puppies. We were able to find wonderful homes for all of them. Mom is still here, and she isn't fond of humans. Hopefully we can change her opinion, and she can find a wonderful home. We had the pleasure of finding homes for two different yorkies, from different homes, with similar circumstances. It wasn't difficult because they were precious and highly sought after. Two large dogs which are not so highly sought after, also found homes. Both were Anatolian Shepherd mixes and went to places that have wide open spaces for them to run. It's sometimes difficult to find the right home for large breed dogs, but it is possible.

The cats at the shelter are pampered and don't break a sweat no matter what the temperature is. They can snuggle in their beds and soak up the AC that keeps them cool. They do, however, like to go out on their "lanais" and lay in the sun at any given time. There are several that do that continuously. They prefer the heat, I think. It's hard to know what makes a cat happy other than having human servants. We found several new "servants" for kittens this month, eight to be exact, and we always love to see our adult cats get home. Sally, Benji, Candy and Joe are all adults and they are off to live their best lives with their new families. This has been a very fruitful kitten season and we still have many kittens that need homes, so pass the word, or come and claim a kitten yourself. They are like potato chips, you can't just have one !

Life on our new Forever Home Property is wonderful and busy. The property is looking more and more like a home and not a job site. We have been working so hard at landscaping and mowing, even in the heat. It is definitely a labor of love and our hard work is starting to show. The grass is growing and we are settling into our homes with our pets. It takes a lot of work to live in a home with several pets and keep it harmonious. Animals all have their own personalities and attention requirements. Finding out what works takes dedication and much love and patience. We have both and more. We can't wait to see what the future holds for the Forever Home Pet Trust program.

I hope to see our "snowbirds" return in a month or so, coming back to volunteer. We can always use more hands on deck at the shelter to do the things that our hard working staff need help with. Ed and Denny have been manning the lawnmowers all summer to keep the property looking good and keeping it safe for the dog walkers as they walk the property. Ed does so much more than mow, but he's so humble, that I'm sure he doesn't want me to mention it.

I hope you all don't melt in the heat and we can all look forward to our week of fall weather.... As always, Deb



**CATALINA**  
1 YEAR OLD FEMALE



**JANGLE**  
9 YEAR OLD MALE



**IRIS**  
9 YEAR OLD FEMALE



**MICKEY**  
9 YEAR OLD MALE

# Leesburg Humane Society

## Meet the Staff

### Heidi Gaumet, Program Manager



Heidi has been working with the Leesburg Humane Society for almost four years. In 2021, she and two co-workers from her job in hospice, came to the shelter to talk to Debbie and the Board of Directors about her idea for a permanent place for pets if their human companion passed away. Fast forward to today and this idea became the shelter's Forever Home Pet Trust program.

She started as a part-time Volunteer Coordinator, still working in hospice until the Forever Home property was completed and along the way became Program Manager, overseeing volunteer programs outreach & events and the Forever Home Pet Trust program.

Heidi is originally from Long Island, New York and has lived many different places including California, North Carolina and Germany and eventually ended up back in New York. She moved to Florida in 2017 after her mother passed away, to move into her house and become the caregiver for her mother's two cats.

Her previous work experience includes two animal shelters, where she was also Program Manager, Volunteer Coordinator for two different hospices, Office Manager of veterinary practices and running her own business as a Professional Organizer. She also currently holds a part-time position with Orlando Health as a Pet Therapy Coordinator.

In her spare time, she volunteers for the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey as an Aviary Cleaner, Eagle Watch Volunteer and is part of the Rescue Team, for which she rescues injured birds of prey. She also loves wildlife photography and advocating for Florida wildlife.

She lives on the Forever Home Pet Trust property in the house that will care for cats in the program, with her kitty family, which includes two paraplegic cats. She is grateful to Debbie sharing her vision for the Forever Home program and seeing her vision come to reality through the shelter.



WYATT  
6 MONTH OLD MALE



CRISTEL  
4 MONTH OLD FEMALE



COOLIO  
3 MONTH OLD MALE



WINKY  
3 MONTH OLD MALE

# Leesburg Humane Society

## Featured Dog - Sugar

Sugar is a 4-month-old Black Mouthed Cur Mix. She came in with her brother Spice, who has already found a home and she is still waiting for a new family to call her own.

She is very sweet and playful. The staff has been working with her on walking with a leash and teaching her to sit. She is a good student and is learning slowly but surely.



## Featured Cat - Tonto

Tonto is a 10+ year old cat that is declawed and he needs a soft place to land. He was brought to the shelter by a good samaritan that had been feeding him as a stray that showed up at her house. She had a suspicion that one of her elderly neighbors that had recently moved due to debilitating medical issues, had lost him in the shuffle of hospital stays and eventually being moved. She noticed that he was declawed and was worried about him being outside, fending for himself. Her circumstances didn't allow her to take him herself, so she called the shelter. We took him and after finding a microchip, we found out that her suspicions were correct and his owner could not be contacted. We also found out that he was an older gentleman that had lived a pretty good life up until now. He is very sweet and just wants some love and attention in his golden years. He is healthy, other than being a bit scruffy and thin from the outdoor life because we don't think it really suited him.



**THUMPER**  
2 YEAR OLD MALE



**FLOPPY**  
1 YEAR OLD FEMALE



**KING**  
12 YEAR OLD MALE



**JONATHAN**  
7 YEAR OLD MALE

# Leesburg Humane Society

## Volunteer Spotlight - Maureen

I'm a retired registered nurse from New York. I've always loved animals and although I have a cat, I sometimes miss having a dog in my life.

It's a treat to go to the Leesburg Humane Society and spend time walking the dogs. I always hope they get adopted to an ideal situation, but I never leave there feeling sad because I know they are happy and well taken care of. As a bonus, I put in about half of my daily steps walking the beautiful grounds there! And I don't even notice! It's a Win/Win situation!

We love our volunteers! Our cats and dogs get much needed socialization from volunteer visits, which helps them experience different people and get some extra love.



## Upcoming Events

We will have tables at these upcoming events. Stop by to say hello!

### SouthState Bank Donation Drive

August 22 11am - 1pm

903 W. North Boulevard, Leesburg

We will be at the bank with adoptable dogs. The bank is holding a donation drive for the shelter for the month of August

### Purrfect Paws & Claws Veterinary Hospital Ribbon Cutting

August 27 9:30am - 1:00pm

33025 Professional Drive, Leesburg

### Petsmart

We will have adoptable dogs at PetSmart once or twice a month. Look for upcoming dates on our website and in future newsletters. The Villages

## Volunteers Needed



We are in need of volunteers at our shelter and Bargain Store. If you are interested in joining our volunteer family, please contact [volunteer@leesburghumanesociety.org](mailto:volunteer@leesburghumanesociety.org) or call 352-669-3348.



## Volunteer Hours

In July, shelter volunteers gave 160 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  
Debra Butler, Member  
Linda Burfield, Member  
Ronald Thompson, Member

# Leesburg Humane Society



## Leesburg Humane Society's Forever Home Pet Trust Virtual Presentations

What Will Happen to Your Pet if  
Something Happens to You?

This remote presentation is ideal for anyone who lives out of our area. Learn about our program from the comfort of your home!

In person presentations are also available for groups.

- This program is available to any pet parent located in the US.
- Provides a permanent location for pets to live out their lives in homes with resident staff members if something happens to their human companion.
- Learn more about how the program works, funding options and advanced planning for your pet.

Contact us to schedule a date that works for you. Once the date is scheduled, you will be sent a link to join the meeting.

FHPT@leesburghumanesociety.org  
352-669-3348



Thank you to Tractor Supply of Leesburg for donating food to our shelter.



## Contact Information

### Leesburg Humane Society

41250 Emerald Island Road

Leesburg, FL 34788

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

## Leesburg Humane Society Donation Pick Up Runs

Do you have items you would like to donate to the shelter or bargain store but don't have time to drop them off?

We offer pickup of donations at scheduled stops throughout The Villages where you can meet us with your donations. Please contact us to let us know which location works for you and we will send you the time to meet us.

### Support our shelter by donating any of the following items:

Frequently Used Items (full list available upon request)  
cat/dog food, dog/cat beds, cat trees, toys, cleaning supplies, etc.

### Items that can be sold at our bargain store:

clothing, household, garden, books, handbags/accessories, decorative, etc. (no large furniture)

All sales at our bargain store help to fund shelter operations

### Pickup Dates & Locations

**\*\*Pickup Time Will Be Given When You Reserve a Date & Location\*\***

Upcoming Dates: August 6, September 3, October 1

Hacienda Recreation Center

Springdale Neighborhood Pool

Lake Sumter Landing

Walmart Neighborhood Market, Heald Way

Rohan Recreation Center

Everglades Recreation Center

Ezell Recreation Center

### Contact for more information:

volunteer@leesburghumanesociety.org 352-669-3348

# Leesburg Humane Society

## Adoptions



**ENJOY THE  
SUMMER**