

Leesburg Humane Society

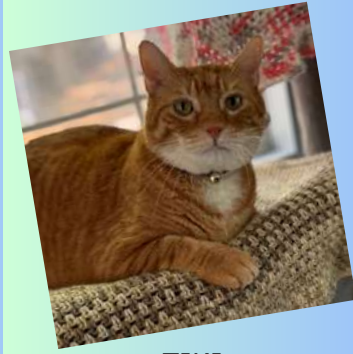
Message from Debbie Butler, Executive Director

Greetings shelter friends and family.....

It's hard to believe that half of the year is gone already. It goes so fast when life is busy and there is so much to do. Here at the shelter it is always a constant whirlwind. It is ever changing and evolving. One new addition is a second "special needs" cabin for our cats. Ed worked his magic and turned a shed into a beautiful living space for our cats that need a quieter space for whatever reason. The first cottage was such a success that we knew that we needed a second one. The plan for the future is to have our cats all living in small quarters like this. It is such a good thing for them not to be caged unless necessary and live in small groups according to age and so forth. Being in a shelter is hard enough for animals that have been in a home that making them as comfortable as possible is the least that we can do for them.

Summer is historically a slow time for us and it stays kind of quiet in the hottest months. Many of our volunteers are away for the summer or at least part of it. People in general seem to be busier in the summer, meaning not as many adoptions happen. We use this time to do projects that we aren't able to do when we are busy with events and adopting animals out. We concentrate on making things better for our animals and sometimes that is just spending time with them. We always need more volunteers to do things that as employees, we don't get the time to do. It takes a village to make the shelter successful because there are so many dimensions to it. Some may think that "just petting cats" is not important, but it is invaluable. You can't put a price on that. The same is said for taking a dog for a walk or playing ball.

That all being said, enjoy your summer and if you have time to spare, join our volunteer team and pet a cat or walk a dog as always, Deb



TIKI
6 YEAR OLD MALE



DI-DI
2 YEAR OLD FEMALE



KIKI
12 YEAR OLD FEMALE



HOLLY
4 YEAR OLD FEMALE



Leesburg Humane Society

Meet the Staff

Debbie Butler, Executive Director



KEDI

3 MONTH OLD MALE



LIZZY

3 MONTH OLD FEMALE



ALFALFA

3 MONTH OLD MALE



TIMBERA

3 MONTH OLD FEMALE

Debbie started working at the Leesburg Humane Society in 2004. She started just like everyone does, cleaning the cat porch. She left a career in nursing and didn't quite know what she wanted to do. She was a young, but a typical empty nester figuring out life solo.

Her love for animals and a chance meeting sent her to the shelter. The work was difficult but exactly what she needed. At the same time, she also returned to school to become a Vet Tech. She moved to providing all medical needs for the cats and dogs. As much as she loves cats, her first love is for dogs. That led her to work in the kennels.

Debbie says, "I look back on it now and I think that was the happiest part of my life. We had many more dogs then. There were two or three dogs in each kennel and all the hallways were lined with metal crates that had dogs in them. The work was challenging, to say the least. My love for doing it kept me going most of the time. As time passed the heat in the summer was just getting to me and I said that the summer that I was working would probably be my last. I started considering other options, but I couldn't think of anyplace that would fulfill the part of me the way this shelter did. The manager at the time had some health issues that she had been struggling with for some time. She asked me if I would be interested in taking over her job. Of course, I was thrilled to be able to stay at the place that gave me such joy and not have to be working in the summer heat as much. The rest is history, as they say. There were many trials and tribulations in this 20-year span, as I'm sure many of you that know me have heard me talk about because there is much heartache and suffering in shelter work. The good outweighs the bad and the help that we can do for animals that are unwanted or uncared for, makes it all worthwhile."

Debbie now lives in one of the houses on the property next to the shelter which houses our Forever Home Pet Trust Program, and she is now living her dream. Being able to give someone the peace of mind that their animal will be cared for when they are gone, fills her heart even more. Dogs in the program will live out their lives with her family.

Debbie says, "My life, my family and my dreams live on Emerald Island Road"

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Featured Dog - Mr. Charlie

Mr Charlie is a 2 year old Anatolian Shepard. He is good with other dogs and walks well on a leash. He was on a farm as a working dog, mostly keeping chickens and ducks safe. He would do well as a working dog because he is a high energy guy.



Kittens!

We have a lot of kittens at the shelter so if you are looking for a new friend or two, come in to see us!



Contact Information

Leesburg Humane Society

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Leesburg, FL 34788

352-669-3312

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Forever Home Pet Trust

41220 Emerald Island Road

Leesburg, FL 34788

352-669-3348

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Bargain Store

32445 County Road 473

Leesburg, FL 34788

352-742-2686



JAKE
7 YEAR OLD MALE



BELLA
2 YEAR OLD FEMALE



SIESTA
13 YEAR OLD FEMALE



MOLLY
9 YEAR OLD FEMALE

facebook

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

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Leesburg Humane Society

Volunteer Spotlight - Angela

Eleven years ago I retired after 25 years as a software programmer/analyst with a defense contractor for the U.S. Navy. My husband and I sold our house in New Jersey and moved down to The Villages full-time.

I had a few friends who had moved down before us. One of my friends, Karen, was already volunteering weekly at the Leesburg Humane Society. She was so enthusiastic and told me how well the animals were cared for and that it was a no-kill shelter. She enjoyed it so much that it didn't take much to convince me to start coming weekly with her even though it was a 40 minute drive from my home. We drove together and walked dogs for many years. Every summer, my husband and I headed back to New Jersey to spend time with 4 of our 5 married children and 9 of our 10 grandchildren who still resided in New Jersey. I missed the shelter so much. I couldn't wait to find out who was adopted and to walk the old and new dogs. Recently, Karen and her husband sold their house down here and moved back to New Jersey to be close to their children and grandchildren full-time.

Within the past year, I have decided to volunteer with the cats for a change. The kittens receive love and socializing and give me so much more in return. They always make me smile and laugh. I also visit with the teenage cats, the special cats in the cottages and the many friendly adult cats in the main cattery. It is so relaxing to sit with the cats.

I have never left the shelter without my heart feeling full. We volunteers make a difference. We get the best part of animal care – spending time with them, cuddling them, and just enjoying them. Every adoption makes everyone's day at the shelter. They truly care and love all the animals under their care. The shelter has expanded and evolved over the years to the amazing place it is today. All who work there are truly special, caring, and hardworking people.

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.



Volunteer Hours

In June, shelter volunteers gave 136 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

Adoptions

