



TAILS FROM WAGS & WHISKERS

SUMMER 2021

BLUE FOUND A
LOVING HOME
THANKS
TO YOUR
SUPPORT

PAGE 6



PET ALLIANCE
of Greater Orlando



ONE AGENCY THREE LOCATIONS

ORLANDO LOCATION:

2727 Conroy Road
Orlando, FL 32839
(407) 351-7722

SANFORD LOCATION:

2800 County Home Road
Sanford, FL 32773
(407) 351-7722

ALAFAYA CLINIC:

12050 E. Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32826
(407) 351-7722

PetAllianceOrlando.org

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A Letter From Steve



Imagine what Dorothy experienced when going outside after the tornado as she stepped into the technicolor world of Oz. As a child, that scene filled me with wonderment and anxiety ... knowing the future was right outside that door.

Like many people and organizations, Pet Alliance has navigated the past 18 months of the pandemic storm with cautious optimism, anxiety, and a healthy dose of patience and humor. We now begin to re-enter the world more appreciative of simple kindness, and look back on some of the things we learned during this journey.

We discovered our dogs and cats love the new appointment-based system. Therefore, we are keeping it. Yes, future adopters, you will need to schedule an appointment to visit our cats and dogs residing in one of our two shelters. And here's why: their stress levels were greatly reduced this year which required fewer trips to medical isolation. And our adoptions have remained consistent. We learned that people milling about the shelter and tapping on the kennels didn't lead to more adoptions — just more people in the shelters. Of course, walk-ins are welcome as available. Additionally, you are welcome to visit one of our 10 off-site partner locations where appointments are not required.

In our veterinary clinics, we have welcomed people back into the clinic lobby with their pets. Cats, as a general rule, hate going to the vet. Dogs, well, they like anything that involves spending time with their human. We know that pets tend to be less anxious if their owner is near them. However, we know many of you preferred the ability to drop off, so we will continue offering that service. People like choices, so we plan to continue to offer flexibility and options.

Throughout the entire pandemic, community support for your neighbors with pets was unwavering. We were able to distribute tens of thousands of pounds of pet food and provide vaccines to pets in need because you showed up by the truckloads. Every time we had a call out for food, you all delivered ... enabling pets to remain with their owners.

Most importantly, pets have stayed with their owners too! We have not seen any increase in surrenders post COVID. We have seen firsthand that in Orlando when we say "there is no place like home ..." we mean it!

Thank you to all of our donors, volunteers, and partners. We value your support, kindness, and patience.

Stephen Bardy
Executive Director

ORLANDO'S CUTEST PET PHOTO CONTEST

The winning dog and cat
will be featured on

QUANTUM LEAP WINERY'S

**My Best Friend
Rescue Red Wine!**



Quantum Leap Winery has again joined forces with Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando for the **8th annual My Best Friend Wine Label Contest!** Proceeds from the photo contest and sales of the wine benefit Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando and its work to provide shelter and care for dogs and cats in need.

Enter July 1 - July 31, 2021

PetAllianceOrlando.org/wine



FURBALL RETURNS • SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 6, 2021
Four Seasons Resort Orlando



After putting the Furball on pause in 2020, we are ready for the event to return even better than ever! Please join us for a fun and fabulous night to support Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando! Guests will be able to hang out in our popular Cuddle Lounge, enjoy a fantastic auction and dinner program and then wrap up the night at a lively after party. Stay tuned for more details!

To purchase a table or tickets, please visit: petallianceorlando.org/furball

If you would like to donate an auction item or if you have any questions, please contact Special Events Manager Amanda Henry at ahenry@petallianceorlando.org.



Whisker's Workforce Cats Want To Work For You!

Healthy feral felines that cannot thrive living as a house pet are looking for opportunities to help your business thrive! **Whisker's Workforce (WW)** cats are better suited to live in barns, warehouses, wineries, and plant nurseries and earn their keep by controlling the rodent and pest population. While not as cuddly as your typical house cat, Whisker's Workforce cats want to work for you and be allowed to live a quality life in lieu of being euthanized. All they ask in return is for you to provide food, water, and shelter.

Are they spayed or neutered?

Yes. All WW cats come spayed or neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and treated for worms and fleas.

What will be my responsibilities?

Daily food and water must be provided, and any future medical care needed. Caretakers also agree to confine the cat in an escape-free enclosure for 2-4 weeks for the cat to acclimate to the new environment.

Can I come look at or select my WW cats?

When you are scheduled to adopt, PAGO will select cats for you based on

which cats are the most eager to enter a cat carrier for us.

Are there any other requirements?

The cats require shelter in a permanent building or structure like a barn, shed, stable, or garage in a suitable rural area where they will be safe. The property should be at least .5 miles away from busy roads.

Interested in bringing a working Whisker's Workforce cat to your business? Please contact Community Outreach Manager, Cathy Houde, at choude@petalliance.org.





GET A PLATE. FIX A PET.

PURCHASE THE TAG TODAY!



Florida Animal Friend

Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando was one of 27 organizations that received funding from Florida Animal Friends this past year. This is made possible through the sales of the Florida Animal Friends spay/neuter license plates at the Florida DMV.

The funding will be used to support Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando's Community Cat Initiative and TNR program. Since it began in 2018, 6,643 cats have been spayed and neutered by our staff veterinarians. We

have provided education and outreach to residents throughout Central Florida in an effort to minimize the number of homeless kittens born in the wild. We are also happy to report that we are starting to see a decrease in the number of kittens being brought to our shelters — so we know the program is starting to work!

Help support Pet Alliance and other animal welfare organizations throughout Florida by purchasing your Florida Animal Friends license plate today!

Paws in the Park Raises \$111,259!

It was a day for the dogs (and the occasional cat), as thousands of pet people came out to support Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando's 28th Annual Paws in the Park on Saturday, May 8, at Lake Eola Park. It was a fun day for everyone who joined us! Dogs had the chance to zoom around the Reed Nissan Lure Course and play games at the UrgentVet Doggie Fun Zone. Pet owners had a chance to shop our fabulous vendor marketplace and learn some new pet tips from the experts at Zesty Paws. The most exciting portion of the day was the Pet Costume Contest! Contestants pulled out all the stops to create some of the most inventive and unique costumes we've ever seen! Check out photos of our winners!



**Superheroes:
Cody**



**Wild Card & Best
of Show: Tasha
and Georgia**



**Favorite Food:
Quigley and Chip**



**Bingeable TV-Shows:
Leia**

"Tails" of Joy!

Santos

There always seems to be one kitten who stands out as the first to ring in the start of kitten season each year. We never know who it will be, or what condition they will arrive in, but they always usher in behind them an eruption of kittens brought to the shelters in need of care.

Sweet Santos was the calm before the storm. He arrived at the Orlando shelter in February 2021 at just one month old, incredibly underweight for his age and sick with a severe upper respiratory infection and swollen eyes. To help give Santos much needed relief breathing, staff repurposed a feral cat carrier and transformed it into a nebulizer treatment "sauna box."

For the first several weeks, he would receive multiple nebulizer treatments each day, topical antibiotic for his eyes, and all the love and encouragement we could muster to get him to keep fighting. We took Santos' recovery day by day, often meeting with Shelter Veterinarian, Dr. Andersen, several times a week to adjust his treatment as needed — helping this tiny kitten grow ever so slowly.

Watching Santos get better over 10 weeks in our care was a true transformation from start to finish. You wouldn't recognize him now from the kitten who was first turned in to Pet Alliance. He's still small for his age, but the four-month-old is just like any other kitten at the shelter now who plays, cuddles, and finds their forever home. We're happy to report that he was adopted in April 2021 by a loving family who couldn't wait to bring him home — finally!



Before



After



Blue

Little Blue is a bundle of energy and joy. That was not the case when he first showed up at our Orlando shelter. He had broken his leg in several places and was nursing an infection from being hit by a car. Luckily, Dr. Andersen knew immediately that she could help this 8-week old puppy.

First, Dr. Andersen addressed the infection and helped heal the breaks in his legs. He quickly became a staff favorite with his big beautiful eyes, shiny coat and the most adorable little grns and barks that he uses to "talk" to you. If it weren't for our donors, we would not be able to rescue dogs like Blue. Now fully recovered, Blue found a loving home with one of the Shelter Medical Staff who helped him heal and fostered him. He now is a full member of the family!



7 STEPS TO GETTING YOUR PET HURRICANE READY

The time to prepare your pets for hurricane season is now — before the storm! The 2021 Atlantic Hurricane season is predicted to have more activity than normal, so it's important that you and your pets are ready to weather the storms. **Here is your to-do list:**

- 1 Place two ID tags on your pet's collar.** Include a temporary tag with the phone number of a friend or relative who lives outside your immediate area, as well as a tag with your contact information.
- 2 Microchip your pet.** Make sure their chip registration is updated. Visit petchip.info to locate microchip registries.
- 3 Prepare a Travel Kit for your pet.** Make sure you pack enough food, bottled water, and needed prescriptions to last at least a week. Include carriers, bowls, towels, bathing supplies, flea/tick control, and leashes.
- 4 Update vaccinations.** Create a record file for each pet. Include your pet's vaccination records as they are needed for most pet-friendly evacuation shelters.
- 5 Carry a picture of you and your pet together.** A picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in case of a lost pet. Add species, breed, age, sex, color, and distinguishing characteristics.
- 6 Have travel carriers handy for evacuation.** Make your pet's carrier or crate a fun and safe space by placing treats, toys and meals in it on a routine basis.
- 7 Most public evacuation shelters do not accept pets.** Know ahead of time where your pet-friendly accommodations are whether it's a shelter, hotel, etc. Visit gopetfriendly.com to locate hotels or call 3-1-1 to inquire about pet-friendly shelters in Orange County.

Lemonade Stand

Would you believe us if we told you that a simple lemonade stand fundraised over \$1,200? What about over \$5,000?

Over the last several years, the Kasten sisters Lula (15) and Vivi (13) have taken community canvassing to new heights with their annual lemonade stand to raise funds and awareness of Pet Alliance in their community. Over the last three years, they have donated over \$5,000 from their stand at the Arnold Palmer Spring Invitational and this year the girls raised a record-breaking \$2,055 in just one weekend.

If it's too cold for lemonade? No problem for Lula and Vivi. In 2019, during the historic polar vortex, they produced an ingenious rebrand of their lemonade stand into a hot cocoa refuge for frigid Floridians.

But Lula and Vivi have done more than just create fundraising opportunities for the Pet Alliance to fill the time these last few years as they wait to be old enough to volunteer at the shelter. Since they were young, the sisters have been passionate about animal welfare. Lula and Vivi spent many summers with Pet Alliance at Summer camp, learning more about the animal care field and began volunteering as part of the Cat Condo Care team for offsite locations.

These ladies are some of the most altruistic young people Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando has ever encountered. They're kind and think deeply and creatively about helping Orlando's most vulnerable pets.

They were asked a simple question when they dropped off their donations, "Why do you contribute without fail every year?" Their answer was simple, "We love the Pet Alliance."

Pets really do bring out the best in all of us — and at any age. Thank you, girls!



January 2019



March 2019



2020



2021

