



Saving One Life at a Time

Acadiana Humane Mewsletter

Volume 1; Fourth Quarter 2021



Director's Message

Who are we, and what do we do? We're families and individuals of all ages who've devoted our time to volunteering to help others. Some foster homeless rescue pets or farm animals. Some transport animals to the vet and adoption appointments. Some work on processing pet applications. Some pick up donations of all kinds, sort them, and deliver them to where they're needed most. Others do social media, websites, organizing, and fundraising. Some spend their time helping others in the community with one of our many free programs. Are you looking to volunteer your skills and time? Please consider reaching out to us about volunteering.

While our rescue is based in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, we also have volunteers in Lafayette Parish, as well as in Texas. We've done the majority of our rescues and animal adoptions locally in Louisiana, but we have done rescues in Dallas. We've also done individual pet adoptions as far as California and Maryland, and one dog in Canada.

Our animal rescue's goal is saving one life at a time. But we need your help. Your support enables us to continue this goal of one animal, one person, one situation, one life, at a time. We are a small, all-volunteer local non-profit organization that reaches out as far and as strong as we can. But we can't do that without the support of our community. Our greatest need right now is monetary donations to help us pay off our current veterinary and vehicle debts. We appreciate donations of any size, no matter how big or how small. Everything adds up to help us continue our mission.

COVID-19 has severely hampered our rescue's ability to take in animals. Due to the pandemic we've had to change our methods of operation. We've been unable to have adoption events and in-person fundraiser events. The temporary lockdown caused many people financial strain, which in turn dropped donations drastically. It also severely slowed adoptions. Without donations to get the animals ready for adoption, they stay in our foster care system unable to be listed for adoption. Without adoptions, our foster homes are over capacity and unable to foster new rescues. Because of this, Acadiana Humane Society has been forced to be on an intake freeze to try to raise funds to get the current rescue pets ready and adopted. We've made a few exceptions for some emergencies. We have also agreed to take in some when they came with a foster home and partial sponsorship. But for the most part, our focus has been on online fundraising so we can get the animals already in our care seen and treated by our veterinarians as well as focusing on adopting out the ones that are ready.

Please consider helping Acadiana Humane Society help the homeless by donating to help us do more. Whether you make a one-time donation, or set up an automatic monthly donation, your support is critical to helping our organization continue. Thank you! Donation options at:

www.acadianahumane.org/catblogger/donate





Critter of the Quarter

Ghost lives up to his name. Like Jin Sakai of *Ghost of Tsushima*, this stealthy feline manages to slink his way back into the homes of Acadiana Humane Society's volunteers.

Okay, so he's not really THAT famous, nor is he the Ghost of legend, but his name is Ghost and he's slunk his way back to us. Unfortunately, this little cutie was found wandering around as a stray, was safely captured, and was brought to animal control. They did a cursory check to see if he was microchipped and the previous owner hadn't change the registration, leading him back to the rescue. He was definitely a former foster, but all records on him are missing and the pictures so old they're long gone: a true Ghost in the system.



This sweet boy needs a loving home and as the Critter of the Quarter his adoption fee is 25 percent off, meaning it's only \$75 to adopt him after filling out our pre-screening application and going through our review process.

Happy Tail

Our first Happy Tail begins with the handsome Bailey. Originally rescued as Daigle, Bailey found a loving home with his forever parent who loved him. Unfortunately, Bailey's human passed away and he was returned to our care mid-July. This sweet, handsome boy spent more time with his original foster dad until finding a new home-- quite quickly at that. Not long after Bailey's return to the care of the rescue, we received an application for him from a young couple ready to have a mellow and calm cat in their lives. Mrs. Victoria and Mr. Thomas have been excited to love on their new baby and Bailey now once against has parents to love.





Mewsings

EVERY feline pet parent instinctively understands “The Magic Sound.” You know the one: that near-choking noise as their tongue sticks out and they make a mad dash for your carpet. That’s a sound that can wake us up from our deepest slumbers, even those of us who sleep so hard we swear the walking dead would just shamble right past us.

There are other words/phrases that should be in every feline pet parent’s lexicon:

- Leggy
- Blip/blep
- Chatter
- Purr-y
- Purr Baby
- Purrito
- Gremlin
- Hairball
- Vampurr (those of you with long-fanged babies know this one)
- Toe beans
- "It's a trap"
- Furrbulence
- Cattitude
- Catting
- Zoomies
- Spoiled rotten
- Zesting (zoomies done purely for the joy of it)



Can you think of any that are in your lexicon regarding your fur baby?

The Catbox

Don’t leave your fur baby in the car!



If you aren’t in that vehicle, other than to pump gas or deal with a legitimate emergency, they shouldn’t be in that vehicle either.

It doesn’t take long for a pet to die in the summer heat, even if the windows are down. And truthfully, even without the summer heat it can still be quite damaging or lethal.

No one wants an emergency vet visit, especially when the situation could have been avoided. If your pet is with you then they should be with you at all times, whether it’s cool outside, the A/C is on, or not. Don’t take a chance with your pet’s health; everyone will thank you in the long run.

You won’t distress passersby, you won’t get your windows shattered by a worried person, nor will you be eating a vet bill or having a fiscally painful discussion with a police officer or SPCA.



In-fur-mational and Educational

This article has been guest-authored by one of this quarter's Platinum Sponsors: Lafayette Veterinary Care Center

Why Does Your Cat Howl or Vocalize?

Excessive howling (talking) can be quite worrisome as a cat caregiver. There are many reasons your cat may vocalize:

- Certain breeds, like the Siamese, are more likely to vocalize than other breeds.
- Some cats are deaf (often white cats with blue eyes) and may vocalize more since they can't hear the noise.
- In general, cats "talk" to humans far more than they do to each other. We have made them more vocal because it is what we respond to. Being more aware of their other methods of communication can help. Cats only talk when we aren't seeing what they are trying to convey to us.
- Medical problems that result in a cat to having a headache, such as high blood pressure, may cause a cat to vocalize more.

What Should You Do If Your Cat's Howling Excessively?

- Schedule an appointment for a physical examination with your veterinarian.
 - A blood panel, including a thyroid hormone level, plus urinalysis will be needed for cats over eight years old, since thyroid disease is often responsible for the howling (especially if it happens late at night).

- A blood pressure test should also be run because high blood pressure and howling are linked.
- If all physical causes for howling can be eliminated, the next thing to do is have your cat's veterinarian do a thorough behavioral evaluation. Consider taking a video of your cat's home behavior for this type of visit.

Suggestions for Your Home

- Spray or diffuse feline facial pheromone products such as Feliway in your home. These products often help lower anxiety in cats.
- Enrich your home environment with cat trees and other climbing structures and **make time for play!** Enrichment and routine playful interaction can help lower their stress level and decrease vocalization.
- Reward your cat with treats when he or she is quiet. This way your cat will learn that quiet times BRING GOOD THINGS.
- Walk away, without reacting, when your cat is howling to show that this behavior does not elicit the attention that he is seeking.



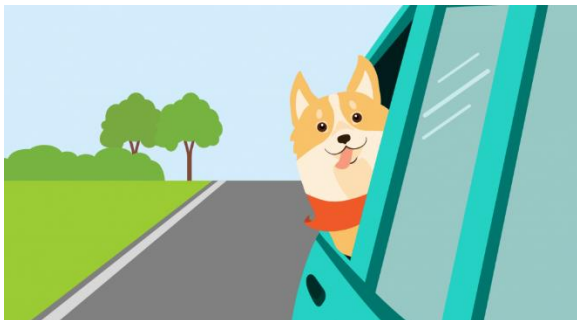
Catnip Corner

Okay, so we actually don't recommend that you put a cucumber behind your cat. Why? Yes, it's funny to see on YouTube, but you're actually stressing your fur baby. Want to see things get really funny though?

Get them figuratively high. Your pet's day vision is garbage compared to ours, but their night vision and sense of smell FAR outweigh ours. That powerful sense of smell is how you give your pet a safe, artificial high that can make them quite cute or funny.

For cats, just let them have at it with the catnip. Some aren't into it, but if they really like it then it's hilarious watching them. Those big eyes, lazy rolls, and odd sounds they rarely make are always a blast. If they aren't into catnip, you could always try Feliway since sometimes this normally calming substance can make them so chill you'd think they're high.

Dogs: that's easy. Take them for a car ride, open the window a bit, and let them sniff that fresh air. Their olfactory organs are so strong that the scents are just too good for them to pass up. Ever wonder why you always see a dog smiling on an open-window car ride? Yep.



Rounding Out 2021

The end of the year can be the hardest time for our rescue as funds are depleted, donations may slow down, and volunteers are exhausted. In spite of this, vet bills still need to be paid, pet food and supplies still need to be purchased, and the day-to-day operations still go on. Will you consider an end-of-the-year donation to help us continue? We are a 501c3 non-profit and can provide a donation receipt. What we need most are the following:

- Monetary donations for vet bills, vehicle upkeep and repairs, pet food, and supplies.
- Petco (or other) Gift cards for pet food & supplies, gas cards.
- Office & cleaning supplies, or gift cards for these items.
- Individuals, families, or groups to host an online or local fundraiser for Acadiana Humane Society. Ideas include, but aren't limited to:
 - Pet food & supply drive.
 - Lemon-aid stand.
 - Yard sale.
 - Collecting coins for a cause.
 - Birthday or Holiday parties where host requests gifts or donations for Acadiana Humane Society.



Quarter in Review

Each Mewsletter we'll let you know how the rescue did in the quarter before. Since this is our first issue of the Mewsletter we don't have much to show you yet.

However, we are still under an intake freeze and we have plenty of loving fur babies that need their Furever homes. Even if you can't adopt or are not ready to we could still use donations as we are always working to keep vet bills paid, animals sheltered, and bellies full.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to those of you who've continued to donate via regular monthly support, as well as to those who've donated as you could when we've posted Facebook fundraisers, or through our other social media requests for help. It is because of you, that we are still operating through these current events. Whether you donated \$5 occasionally as you can, or donate more on a regular basis, you're the foundation of our rescue, and the reason we're able to continue our mission. Thank you!

How Can you Adopt?

Adopt, don't shop.

Adoption saves lives and results in the happiest pets on the planet. They know what you've saved them from.

Our 501(c)(3) non-profit rescue organization is the perfect place to adopt from. Simply go to our website at:

acadianahumane.org/catblogger/

Download the pre-screening application, fill it out, and wait for us to process the application. Once your application is approved we move to a formal policy-review process and you eventually meet the newest member of your family.

Every adoption literally saves a life (maybe more) and we'd be happy to help you take that journey.

A big thank you to our sponsors who donated this quarter. Without your continued support the rescue cannot achieve its goal of saving the lives of pets who deserve good and loving homes.

Platinum Sponsors:



Mrs. Victoria and Mr. Thomas – Adopted Bailey

[Person(s) or businesses that donated \$150 or more for the quarter]

Gold Sponsors:

[Person(s) or businesses that donated \$50 or more for the quarter]

Silver Sponsors:

[Person(s) or businesses that donated \$30 or more for the quarter]

Bronze Sponsors:

[Person(s) or businesses that donated \$15 or more for the quarter]

For more information on how to become a sponsor, email us at ahspets@gmail.com or ahsfundraisers@gmail.com