



Saving One Life at a Time

**Acadiana Humane Mewsletter
Volume 3**



Fundraising Chairman’s Message

Perhaps the hardest job in a non-profit organization is to be the person who constantly secures operating funds. That’s not to say it’s a thankless job or miserable, it’s just challenging and hard; which honestly makes it rewarding when things pay off (no pun intended). However, COVID-19 has changed the landscape of fundraising efforts quite dramatically for all non-profits. For a small animal rescue like Acadiana Humane Society, it’s honestly a tough change that has been the single biggest blow over the last two years.



Funding was hard enough to secure, and with in-person events still impacted and volunteer staff health to consider, it became harder. It’s why you’ve seen a much bigger push in our social media presence. Why there are so many campaigns happening. And why you have the new Mewsletter. It’s our way of getting the word out, sharing the goings-on of the rescue, and giving individuals and businesses a chance to be sponsors and have your name on the back cover. This is especially true as we don’t have a trained grant writer, limiting our ability to seek funds outside of a “grassroots” type of outreach.

We need the funds to continue our life-saving mission and continuing to put loving pets into good homes. My wife and I are proud adopters from the rescue, and we know first-hand that the critters we help to save are among the sweetest out there. We love to see the rescue

thrive and we hope you’ll be able to help us continue that. Donate monthly, even if it’s a small amount. Become a sponsor to an animal or even call in the occasional payment to a vet bill. Or become a sponsor for the Mewsletter and get your name on that cover.

Can’t donate money but you can donate time? Reach me at ahsfundraisers@gmail.com so that we can see if you have the skillset for grant-writing, being an Adoption Coordinator (a role I double as), or being put in touch with the Director to help with other needs. Together, we can accomplish more than you’d think possible, and we’d certainly be thankful to have your assistance.

We Have Mew Hours!

To standardize our operation and give our volunteers more time to rest, recover, and be with family, we are changing our hours for all non-emergency/critical operations.



Sunday 2pm to 5pm

Monday & Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday & Thursday 10am to 5pm

Friday 10am to 4pm

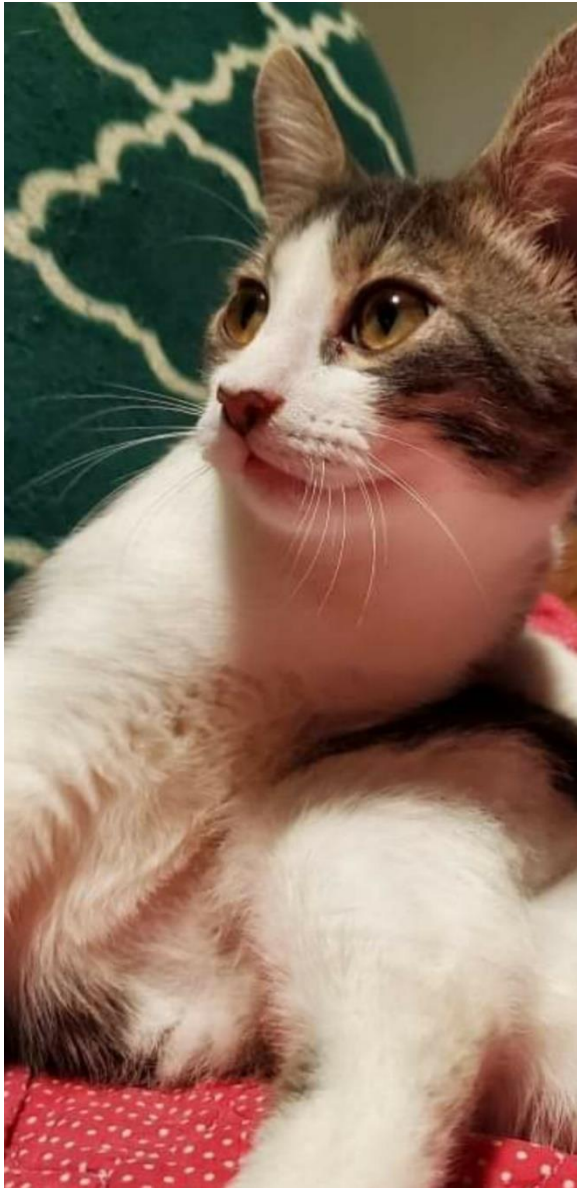
Saturday 11am to 4pm

We can still be reached at: ahspets@gmail.com, ahsfundraisers@gmail.com, or (337) 371-5477

“Until they all have a home”



Critter of the Quarter



Meet Luther, a playful and sweet cat looking for the purrfect family. He enjoys spending time with humans and getting attention. He's used to being around dogs, but he generally prefers to be the only cat around. Probably because he doesn't always like to share his toys! He especially loves playing with sparkly crinkle balls and catnip mice, and he also enjoys chasing a feather teaser.

If you're looking for a new addition to your family, won't you consider Luther?



Happy Tails



Kaidan is a very sweet but shy ginger tabby who was bottle fed as a young kitten by his foster parents. While his siblings got adopted while they were still kittens, Kaidan was five years old before he finally got his furrever home very recently. Originally, he was even going to be this Critter of the Quarter, in the hopes that the right someone would see him and decide to bring him home.

But as this issue of the Mewsletter was being written, a wonderful couple happened to take interest in Kaidan, and when they learned his birthday just so happened to be their wedding anniversary, they knew he was meant to be a part of their family! Finally this little sweetheart has a home to call his own.

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.





In-fur-mational and Educational

Guest contributor: Lafayette Veterinary Care Center

Ear Grooming for Your cat

Have you ever seen a cat lick their own ears? Although cats have a reputation for being fastidious groomers, their ears can be a bit of a challenge for them to keep clean. They can get ear infections from unpleasant ear mites, yeast, or bacteria. Allergies and ear polyps only increase a cat's risk for ear infections.

On the outside, your cat's ears should have no bald spots, redness, swelling, or sores. Inside of the ears, you should be able to see that the skin is all one color - a nice healthy pink. Your cat shouldn't have any visible ear wax, dirt, or insects trying to catch a ride. If you notice anything that should not be there or if your cat's ears are giving off an odor, it's time to see a vet. Get in the habit of looking inside your cat's ears whenever you get the opportunity and you'll be able to spot any abnormalities before they turn into problems.

Outdoor cats are especially prone to getting dirt and hitchhikers in their ears. If your cat likes to roam outside, he may need an ear cleaning more often. However, for most cats once per month is enough.

To Clean Your Cat's Ears

Prep your tools before bringing your cat into the mix. You can either add a bit of ear cleaning solution made for cats to a cotton ball or soft cloth, or you can use pre-moistened wipes. Avoid using cotton swabs as they can easily slip into your cat's ear canal and cause damage.

Sit with your cat in a comfortable position either on your lap or somewhere you both feel secure.

Use one hand to support your cat's head and the other to gently dab away any dirt, debris, or

excess ear wax. Try not to wipe, as this could cause the debris to scratch your cat's skin.

Stay outside of the ear canal and only clean what you can see. Probing into your cat's ear too far can cause damage or even an infection.



In-fur-mational and Educational Cont.

Guest Contributor: Lafayette Veterinary Care Clinic

Cat Owners Beware!

Pyrethrins and permethrins are flea-killing chemicals used in some flea (and flea + tick) collars, spot-ons, and shampoos for pets. Cats are particularly sensitive to the toxic effects of these compounds. Cats most often suffer toxicity when people use a dog product on their cat or when a cat rubs against or grooms a dog that has been treated with one of these chemicals. There are many safe and effective flea products specifically for cats, as well as dog products that are safer to use around cats. Your veterinarian can help in deciding what's best for your kitty and home situation.



Mewsings

Cats are incredibly vocal creatures. Most of us are familiar with meows, growls hisses, and purrs, but there are many other sounds a cat might make. And, some of them are rather cute! Cats may chirp, squeak, trill, bubble purr, or even “churr” (a chirp-purr hybrid) if they are extra happy. They chatter at birds because they know they can’t get at them through the window. And there is the “cat activation” sound when they are awakened from a good sleep- hard to describe, but truly endearing. Though, of course, waking your cat just to hear this is kind of mean.

They also do many cute things. Snurling is that long, deep kneading session they do when they’re getting ready for a long catnap. Walking or lying on our books and keyboards to refocus our attention on them. Bunting- rubbing their heads against our faces- to put their scent on us and claim us or combine scents to create a “family scent.”

Cats are simply adorable, loving animals. One just has to learn to read their love language.



The Catbox

Every year around Easter, we like to give Easter baskets, especially to children. Usually they are filled with things like candy or small toys. However, a few people will decide to put a baby rabbit, duckling, or perhaps colored chick in that basket.

Please stop to consider a few things before you do this. It is a sad fact that far too many of these animals wind up homeless after Easter. They all require special care and considerations, and not everyone can meet these needs. All of these animals can live up to or more than 10 years. All are social, so thrive better with more than one. All require special diets and housing and specialized veterinary care, all of which may be hard to obtain. Rabbits and ducks both have fragile bones and are prone to heat stress. Rabbits have weak hearts and can be frightened into heart attacks. Some areas may have ordinances against these animals, either due to their “farm animal” classification, or due to rodent policies.

And dyed chicks....do not stay dyed! After one or two molts, the dye wears off and they reassume their natural colors. Though the dye itself is supposed to be non-toxic, the dyeing process can be stressful, especially to the chick’s sensitive respiratory system. If done by injecting dye into the egg, this leaves a hole, increasing risks of infection to the unhatched chick. All of these risks, for a few weeks of color.

Any of these animals can be great companions, but it is essential to do your research and be certain you can and are willing to take proper care of them for their lifetimes. If so, consider adopting one from your local rescue/adoption center (many will rescue all sorts of animals!) If not, perhaps a basket full of chocolate bunnies and marshmallow chicks would be better.



Special Feature: Sophia’s Fundraiser

Guest Contributor: Sophia G.

Hello, my name is Sophia. I go to L. Leo Judice Elementary School. I am so proud to say that I raised \$435 plus a large collection of dog and cat food, toys, beds, blankets, and more! I could not have done it without the staff, parents, and students at my school who all helped me to make my fundraiser successful with all their donations. Some other people I'd like to thank are my family members who helped me a lot by getting the word out. And the last person I'd like to thank is Sue Rabeaux, who was my wonderful contact person. I wanted to do this fundraiser because there are animals that don't have a home, and don't have the best living conditions. So, helping those animals is important to me.

The Acadiana Humane Society depends on donations from our community. Without people donating, they wouldn't be able to shelter homeless animals. I'm so proud of everyone that helped me make my fundraiser successful!

The following pictures are used with the parents’ permission.

So many lovely donations!



Sophia and Ginny





Special Feature Continued: Cane’s Fundraiser

This past Holiday season, Raising Cane's in Opelousas approached us to be the recipient of their annual plush puppy sales. Each plushie sold resulted in \$4 that the Rescue received. After the Holiday dust had settled, we were asked when we wanted to grab our \$884 donation. Those valuable funds were used to help pay vet bills and save money for daily needs and critical emergencies. Thank you so much to Matt Soileau, the amazing Raising Cane's in Opelousas, and everyone who purchased a plush puppy or helped us get the word out.

The awesome crew of Raising Cane’s Opelousas



The following pictures are used with Raising Cane’s permission.

The big check



The cute plushes



AHS volunteer staff happily receiving the check



“Until they all have a home”

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:

- ❖ The staff, students, and parents at L. Leo Judice Elementary School



Gold Sponsors:

- ❖ Michelle T.



Silver Sponsors:

[Person(s) or businesses that donated \$20 or more for the quarter]

Bronze Sponsors:

[Person(s) or businesses that donated \$10 or more for the quarter]

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