



October 2024

## Quarterly Recap

This summer has been a busy one for the foster program, with 154 animals placed in foster care from July through September. We also worked with panleukopenia kittens developing a treatment plan which took longer than expected.

In addition to managing panleukopenia cases, the surgery team has been handling more specialized cases that require foster care afterward. These include a dog with a fractured leg that was splinted, an eye removal for a bunny, and our first rabbit leg amputation.

These changes have been a lot of work but also very exciting. We want to thank everyone who has helped with these special cases and shown such patience. Each of you is helping to shape this foster program into something bigger, which will allow us to assist even more animals in our community!

## Foster Spotlight

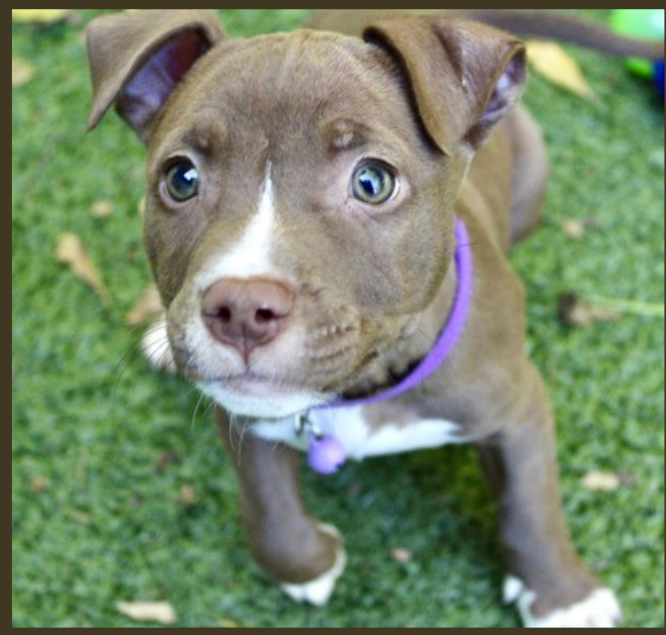
In the past few months, we've handled several special foster cases, including our first-ever bunny amputation. I had never seen a rabbit with an amputated leg before, but I can officially say I have now. This special case involves a bunny named Marlow, who is being fostered by our Community Programs Coordinator, Emily, during his recovery.

While we don't know the exact circumstances that led to Marlow's broken leg, we're happy to report that he's healing well and doing great!

Thankfully, Marlow's injury was to his front left leg, as hind leg amputations in bunnies can't be performed. Such a procedure would be inhumane, as it could lead to significant complications for them in the future.



Marlow enjoying time in his foster home.



# SPCA Tampa Bay Topics

## Vet Center Closure

As many of you are aware, our vet center in St. Petersburg has permanently closed. While this is unfortunate, we are excited to welcome new additions to our vet tech team, as well as a few more doctors at the shelter!

## Community Program Expansions

With the closure of our vet center, the organization now has more funds to allocate toward programs that continue to aid our community. SPCA TB has partnered with three local food pantries to provide pet food and supplies for those on government assistance. Additionally, the shelter is hosting monthly vaccine clinics to offer low-cost vaccinations to pets in our community. Our goal is to continue expanding the shelter's outreach programs to better serve our community and the animals that are apart of it.



## Vaccine Clinic for November

Our Community Programs team will be holding another low cost vaccine clinic in November! Space is limited for these clinics. You can sign up for alerts via our website to let you know when they will be. The next one will be focused on helping those that were impacted by the recent hurricane to get vaccines necessary for boarding their animal.

## Panleuk: What's that and What do we do?

### WHAT IS IT?

Panleukopenia, also known as Panleuk, is a highly contagious and potentially fatal disease caused by a virus that can severely affect kittens. This virus targets white blood cells, drastically reducing their count from thousands to hundreds per milliliter of blood, making affected kittens extremely vulnerable to other infections.

### WHERE IS IT?

The virus is present in all excretions of an infected cat, particularly in feces. This makes it highly transmissible, as cats groom themselves with their tongues and use the same area for elimination.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

The most common symptoms of Panleuk are vomiting, diarrhea, fever, loss of appetite, weight loss, and lethargy. These symptoms can sometimes be mistaken for an internal parasite infection or upper respiratory infection (URI), although they are often more severe.

### WHAT CAN WE DO?

Whenever a kitten starts having loose stool and we need to test for parasites, we may also run a Panleuk test. If your foster kittens tests positive for Panleuk, it can be managed, though there is no cure. Managing the virus is only possible with the help of a foster parent, as the litter cannot return to the shelter until the infection is resolved. If this happens to one of your foster litters, we will discuss the severity and figure out a plan if possible. Working with Panleuk kittens is not expected if you are unable to accommodate.



Goose and CiCi



Grady and Cassie



**We Beat Panleuk!**

Nymeria and Lupa



# Shelter Summer 2024

Now that summer is over and kitten season is winding down, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the amazing work you have all accomplished over the last several months. Whether you fostered animals that needed time to grow or supported those struggling with various medical issues, you did an incredible job! Here are some statistics and information to highlight your achievements.

## Kitten Season Statistics (April through September)

How many cats and kittens went out to foster this kitten season?  
187 cats and kittens went to foster from the beginning of April to the end of September.

What was the biggest litter of kittens in foster this kitten season?  
The biggest litter of kittens sent to foster was a litter of 6 kittens with mom and there were a few of those this summer.

How many kittens did foster parents get through URI this kitten season?  
96 kittens were resolved of URI thanks to the hard work and dedication of their foster parents.

