A Blind Dog Finds His Purrfect Match

Popeye — 9-years old

> **Popeye isn't the only one in the family who had to overcome challenges.**

Popeye Found His Forever Home **Because of You!**

"POPEYE BRINGS US JOY beyond our expectations!" Like many adoption stories begin, Betts fell in love with Popeye as soon as she saw him. Popeye, however, is special; more specifically, he has *special needs*.

Popeye came to the SPCA shelter completely blind. One eye had complete loss of vision and the other eye had been removed. He needed a home with someone who would love him and help him with his disability. Betts wondered to herself if she would be the right fit and called her husband for reassurance. But who could say no to a sweet, scruffy dog like Popeye? The decision was made and Popeye went home that same day.

It didn't take long for Popeye to learn his way around the house and make friends with his two dog-siblings, Rodney and Duke. Betts was amazed by his ability to learn where the dog treats are kept, when dinnertime is and where the door is to go outside. "He does not let one single thing go by him," Betts told us. For a dog with a disability, Popeye easily overcame each challenge he faced.

Popeye isn't the only one in the family who had to overcome challenges. "My husband, Jim, is severely disabled," Betts tells us. "He isn't able to do very much and spends a lot of time in bed." Since Betts brought Popeye home, he and Jim spend hours together every day, enjoying each other's company. "He waits at [Jim's] door for me to let him in to sleep with him every night," says Betts describing the two's relationship. "We had the other pets before Jim had his stroke"… "But to Popeye, he was just another guy with a disability."

Popeye continues to go through life, not letting anything get in his way. "I hope other people decide to adopt special needs dogs, because they do so much for a family," Betts said. Each year, the SPCA Tampa Bay shelter cares for more than 8,000 animals, including many special needs pets. Without you, they would not be able to find their perfect family. **They need you to be their matchmakers so they can love and be loved in return.**

As soon as Betts saw Popeye's picture on our Facebook page, she knew he was the dog for her.

Your Support of Free Adoptions Spawned Events Nationwide

WHO KNEW that an adoption event sponsored by PRAI Beauty at SPCA Tampa Bay would spark a movement to change how shelter adoptions are done in the U.S.? It all began with a call to SPCA Tampa Bay's CEO Martha Boden. Cathy Kangas, Founder and CEO of PRAI Beauty, would be appearing on HSN to promote her line of cruelty-free beauty products and wanted the proceeds to pay for all adoption fees. We loved the idea and agreed, but were concerned because we only had one week to publicize this free event!

We didn't need to worry. Saturday morning arrived and shelter manager Angela Durden snapped a picture of the line of people wrapped around SPCA's adoption center building! Eight hours later, and with a shelter of empty kennels, over 80 animals were adopted.

Kangas is an animal activist and proud Board Member of national advocacy organization The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). She shared: "Our event at SPCA Tampa Bay was such an 'ah-ha' moment. A light bulb went on, and I wondered if something so simple as removing adoption fees could give homes to the millions of animals in our shelters."

Because of the tremendous success of the event, Kangas introduced a national "Free the Shelters" campaign to sponsor adoption fees at animal shelters from coast to coast. The campaign launched Saturday, May 27, with the sponsorship of adoption fees at three animal shelters across the United States, and Kangas hopes to expand this effort to help even more animals.

"We pride ourselves in being first at PRAI Beauty, and this campaign is no exception. These three shelters are just the beginning...we are starting a movement. Shelter pets can be pedigree or mutts, young or old...they're all perfect, and they need to find good homes. With this campaign, we will make it easier for every dog, cat and pocket pet to find its forever home!"

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Shelter Manager, Angela Durden snapped a picture of the growing line waiting to adopt at the PRAI Beauty sponsored adoption event.

PRAI

ABOUT PRAI BEAUTY

PRAI Beauty is one of the fastest growing beauty companies in the world where charitable giving is built into every sale. Our effective, affordable products are made in the USA and are certified cruelty-free by Leaping Bunny.™ We devote a portion of every sale to protecting animals through our PRAI for Paws campaign.

Who Saved Whom?
A story by Loyal Supporter & Board Member, Tara Miller

Cooper (left) with his brother, Buster

Adopting Cooper Changed My Life

MY FIRST RESCUE PET was a dog named Cooper. He was happy, friendly, and most of all, super lovable! He came to me at a time when I felt blah, really blah, because I had recently lost another pet and wasn't sure I knew how to keep going. I went to the shelter at SPCA Tampa Bay, and as soon as I saw his tail wag from behind his sad golden eyes, I knew he was right for me (and I think he felt the same).

> **My heart is so full of gratitude for Cooper, which is why I give to SPCA Tampa Bay.**

When I brought Cooper home, he immediately bonded with his new 4-legged brother, Buster, and me. His sad eyes soon sparkled with love and joy. He cracked me up when I would tell him to ride his bike, and he'd roll over on his back and pedal his legs like crazy!

He was not without some challenges, which really took my mind off the loss I had experienced. He liked to kill plants and to eat everything! He also suffered from seizures that never went away entirely. Eventually, he became the protector of the family.

Cooper taught me to share my heart with all animals that are in need. My heart is so full of gratitude for Cooper, which is why I give to SPCA Tampa Bay.

So many other pets have been able to find a family to love because of supporters like you. You help the animals that have no voice; and give people a chance to find unconditional friendship and love. Thank you for supporting SPCA and for spreading the humanimality!

From Martha's Desk

A Message from Our CEO

WHEN WE FIRST HEARD the phrase "spread the humanimality," we giggled, we laughed, we tried to say it aloud. But then, each SPCA Tampa Bay employee had the same question: just what the heck does that mean? Well, after the past year of embracing this vocabulary, we know exactly what it means.

- 🐾 It's the soaring joy that fills our hearts when 183 pets find new homes in one weekend.
- 🐾 It's the enthusiastic compassion that fuels us as we help an animal-lover rescue an injured osprey from a roadside and get it safely into rehabilitation.
- 🐾 It's the deep satisfaction we feel when one of our Veterinary Center customers sends happy photos with their furry companion, now recovered and loving life.

Finding our voice over the past year had a significant impact on our long-term strategic planning. As we were drafting our plan for 2017-2019, it became clear it was time to revisit our vision and mission to better reflect our voice. The vision answers, "Where do we want to go?" The mission defines, "How do we get there?"

After several lively and passionate discussions, we finally crystalized our vision in this statement:
"Create a community where every animal matters."

How exactly are we going to make that a reality? Well, we are going to need everyone's help so here's the mission:

"Through passionate collaboration with our community, we transform the lives of animals."

We know we can't do it alone. And we have proven, year after year, as adoption rates increase and euthanasia drops across our county, we get more done for more animals when we work together. Our partners, which include other animal agencies, our donors, our volunteers, and our customers, allow us to do the greatest good for the most.

We are excited about what the future holds! I look forward to partnering with you as we spread the humanimality!

SPCA TAMPA BAY
PET WALK
— 27th Annual —

October

1	2	3	4	5	6	⑦
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SATURDAY
October 7

① 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

VINOY PARK
St. Pete

Registration   8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Vendor City open   8:30 a.m. – noon
Walk Starts!!   10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Presented by

Hill's
food • shelter • love

Register at PetWalk.org

Surgery Saved Bella's Life

Help Spread the Word about the Importance of Spaying and Neutering Your Pet!

AS SOON AS THE SPAY/NEUTER TEAM GOT STARTED on surgery, they knew something was wrong. At first, they thought six-year-old cat, Bella might be pregnant, but quickly ruled that out when they saw her uterus was swollen and hard to the touch. This definitely wasn't a good thing. It meant Bella was sick— possible causes included inflammation, infection, mummified fetuses, or even cancer.

After surgery, tests revealed it was a bad case of endometriosis. Endometriosis is a type of abnormal swelling that affects the inner lining of the uterus, causing pain and bleeding, and is not curable with medication. Cats tend to hide their pain, which is likely the reason why her owners never noticed something was wrong. The good news is that spaying her fixed the problem, and Bella was cleared to go home and recover.

With your partnership, SPCA Veterinary Center has a high-volume spay and neuter clinic. Just one veterinarian can alter up to 30 pets a day— that's **THOUSANDS of pets a year!** The surgery prevents cancer, deadly infections, overpopulation and corrects many behavioral problems. *This would not have been possible without compassionate pet lovers like you.* You are the key to creating a community where every animal matters.