

PAUSE FOR PAWS



A Weight Lifted YOUR GIFTS TRANSFORMED GUCCIE'S LIFE!

WHEN GUCCIE ARRIVED AT OUR SHELTER, his hair was overgrown with huge mats all around his body. Even the simplest of tasks, such as lying down for a nap or going on a walk, were difficult for him. His movements were limited and the extra hair increased his risk of heatstroke.

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Guccie was given to his previous owners as a gift, but they soon realized they were financially unable to provide him with proper care. After careful consideration, they decided the best route for Guccie was to bring him to SPCA Tampa Bay for a better life.

With his past behind him, it was time for Guccie to get a makeover! Carefully, SPCA staff cut off the large masses of hair bit by bit. Once it was short enough, he got a nice shave and a soothing bath for his aching skin. The process took several hours and multiple staff members joined in on the effort. Throughout it all, Guccie frequently looked up at his caregivers as if to say thank you.

Relief! Once Guccie received his haircut, the change in his personality showed us how grateful he was. You could see his tail wag, his eyes open, and his demeanor improve significantly. Volunteers and staff jokingly expressed, "He lost 20 pounds!" If Guccie were able to speak, we are sure he would agree.

Shortly after his transformation, Guccie became available for adoption, and it didn't take long for his new forever family to come scoop him up — just one day to be exact! Really, this success story is all because of you! It is thanks to your support that Guccie was able to begin a new life chapter, one where he receives all the proper care (and treats) a pup could want.

Without generous gifts from donors like you, we would not be able to make this happen. You make the difference. Whether it is informing the public about SPCA's mission or raising the donations, you are giving back to animals just like Guccie. **THANK YOU!**

Throughout it all, Guccie frequently looked up at his caregivers as if to say thank you.

Spreading the Humanimality

REMEMBERING MOLLY



By Dedicated Board Member, Carrie O'Brion

My love for Molly really taught me the concept of humanimity...

ABOUT FIVE MINUTES INTO MY TALK for Ms. Watkins' class at Mildred Helms Elementary school, I was interrupted by a sharp bark.

I stroked my dog, Molly, who was joining me for the Great American Teach-In. We were supposed to be ambassadors for SPCA Tampa Bay, but Molly was quickly running out of patience. As I tried to calm her, she looked at me as if to ask, "Why are there so many children here and none of them are petting me?"

After a few more minutes and some additional barking, I relented and invited the students to join me. Some dogs might have been overwhelmed by 20 sets of little hands reaching out at once, but Molly was in heaven. She rolled onto her back to let the children scratch her tummy and gave a contented sigh.

Like many rescue dogs, Molly had a rough start in life. She spent her first four years ignored and neglected in a concrete kennel, and the next 11 making up for lost time. My love for Molly really taught me the concept of humanimity, the bond between humans and animals that we see every day at SPCA.

Soon after I adopted her, we enrolled in SPCA's basic manners course. I really liked the trainers' gentle style and emphasis on positive reinforcement. Molly loved getting little bits of hot dog in exchange for good behavior and proved to be a quick learner.

As she grew older, I wanted to find a way to keep her active and engaged. By then, SPCA had formed a partnership with New Dawn Animal Behavior Center, and I was impressed by their trainers and their programs.

One class in particular intrigued me: K-9 nosework. In nosework, dogs navigate an obstacle course in pursuit of certain scents. I thought it would give Molly some much-needed mental and physical exercise while still being gentle on her aging joints.

In nosework, dogs navigate an obstacle course in pursuit of certain scents.

To say that she loved the class would be an understatement. She took to the course with gusto to search out the little bits of high-value treats (in her case, roast beef) hidden under boxes or nestled in corners. She was exhausted but happy at the end of each class.

A few months ago, at age 15, Molly began exhibiting serious signs of decline. Her arthritis grew so bad, she could hardly walk. She began having seizures and the

Continued on next page.



Developing Kids Who Care | FROM MARTHA'S DESK



NO, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT BABY GOATS, but rather a commitment to children and humane education! This idea has been core to SPCA Tampa Bay for decades, developing programs that help children understand how animals enrich our lives, and how they can enrich the lives of animals.

In 2019, we decided to take a fresh look at how we can engage today's children in humanimity. So we sat down with some experts in child development and education: the leadership team at Great Explorations Children's Museum in St. Petersburg.

As we shared SPCA's desire to touch many more young lives, we learned about the powerful work being done at Great Ex. It soon became clear our organizations should collaborate.

Today, I am proud to announce that SPCA will be deeply involved in the "Pet Vet" exhibit upgrade at Great Ex. This highly popular exhibit is ready for a refresh, providing SPCA a chance to shape the content and design to reflect animal well-being, safety around animals and wildlife appreciation.

Just as exciting, our Largo campus has become a field trip spot for Great Ex's summer camp, offering a unique hands-on opportunity to help shelter animals. SPCA staff now provides regular presentations to museum guests, and partners on various programs that highlight how animals and people can compassionately coexist.

The SPCA Tampa Bay/Great Explorations partnership is a match made in heaven, and one that expands our reach exponentially. Talk about spreading the humanimity!

Thoughtfully,

Martha



SPCA Tampa Bay is excited to be a part of Great Explorations "Pet Vet" exhibit!

Remembering Molly continued.

brightness in her eyes started to dim. On April 9, I made the heartbreaking decision to say good-bye to my old friend. She was surrounded by family until the very end, being petted by multiple people, just as she liked it.

While I miss my sweet Molly every day, I'm so grateful to SPCA Tampa Bay for giving us so many wonderful experiences together. I know that when the time is right, Molly would want me to find another dog that needs a home and continue the humanimity we had together.

New Dawn

Animal Behavior Center

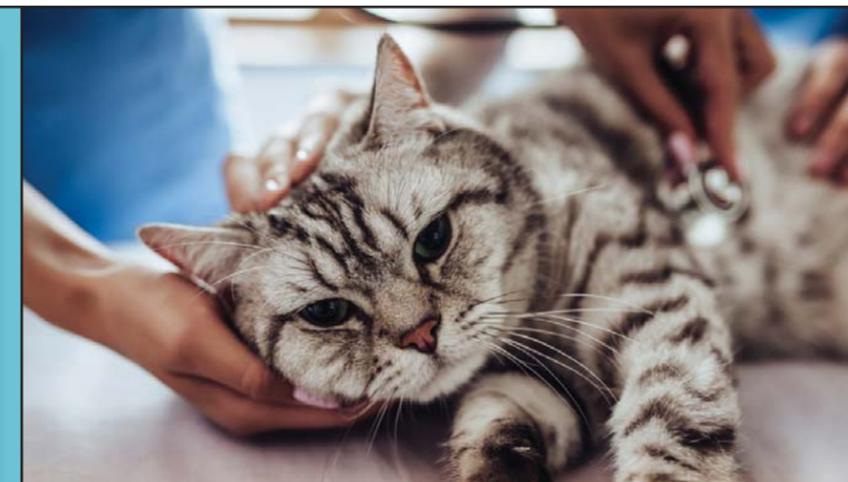
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Ask the Vet!



Dr. Rizal Lopez, SPCA Tampa Bay Spay/Neuter Program Director

DR. RIZAL LOPEZ HELPS ANSWER COMMON HEALTH QUESTIONS CAT OWNERS HAVE ABOUT THEIR FELINE COMPANIONS.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM THAT MY CAT IS OVERWEIGHT?

BEING OVERWEIGHT MAY INCREASE THE RISK OF MANY HEALTH PROBLEMS such as diabetes and high blood pressure. The extra fat puts more weight on delicate joints, tendons and ligaments, especially when jumping down from high places. The fat can enter organ cells, including the liver, and put these organs at risk of failure. Almost all cases of cat obesity are because of overfeeding.

MY CAT STOPPED USING THE LITTERBOX. WHAT DO I DO?

BRING YOUR CAT IN FOR A CHECKUP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. A change in litterbox use can be a warning sign of medical or behavioral issues. Medical issues can include urinary tract infections, inflammation of the urinary tract or crystals/stones. Behavioral reasons can include a new pet in the house, or change in human routine that upsets the cat's sense of normalcy. The sooner we track down the cause, the easier it will be to return a cat to its normal litterbox use.

I DON'T LET MY CAT GO OUTSIDE. DO I STILL NEED TO GIVE HIM ANY FLEA/TICK PREVENTIVE?

IN FLORIDA, OUR WARM WEATHER ALLOWS PARASITES TO THRIVE essentially year round. If you consider how many times you have found a mosquito flying around your home, you realize that the inside of a house is not really a safe zone. Because of this, we highly recommend all cats be on monthly preventive medications for heartworm, fleas, gastrointestinal worms, ear mites and the like.

MY CAT VOMITS AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK. IS THAT NORMAL?

VOMITING IN CATS SHOULD ALWAYS BE DISCUSSED WITH YOUR VET. It's true that cats can have "hairballs" from time to time, but occasional repetitive vomiting can be a warning of other common cat issues, such as kidney disease, inflammatory bowel disease, or thyroid problems. Your vet should be able to rule out the most serious causes of vomiting and even offer suggestions on how to minimize hairballs— because nobody likes stepping into that in the middle of the night!

IF YOU COULD RECOMMEND ONE THING TO IMPROVE ANY CAT'S HEALTH, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

GET REGULAR ANNUAL CHECKUPS FOR YOUR CAT. In our busy modern lives, cats' needs can seem so routine that we forget how quickly time moves by. However, even simple things like weight checks, dental checks, and listening to the heart can increase your pet's chance of a long and healthy life. Our knowledge of common cat diseases allows us to ask specific questions at each checkup that can tip us off to issues, even when things may seem normal to you.

The Small, the Furry and the Voiceless

A VOLUNTEER FINDS UNEXPECTED LOVE



Julie with Archie and Ollie

ALMOST ANYONE CAN TAKE adorable pictures of cats and dogs but making a rat look cute and cuddly? That takes special talent.

Several months ago, Julie Martin had never even held a pocket pet. As an animal lover and pet parent of two rescue dogs (pictured above), she wondered if her photography hobby could be useful to SPCA Tampa Bay.

"There were some really talented people already photographing the cats and dogs, so I was asked to do pocket pets," she says. "I had never touched a single one of these animals before!"

Julie visits SPCA for a few hours each week with handmade props, doll accessories and seasonally-themed wood pieces that her husband carves for the photos. "I think it's cute to give them personality," she says.

She also dedicates time to edit the photos and add them to the SPCA website to catch the interest of potential adopters.

Whether it's a ferret on a mini handmade couch, a guinea pig with a handbag or bunnies in tiny cowboy hats, it's clear from her photos that Julie is having a blast all while doing her part to help her furry friends.

Still, she warns, the job is not without hazards. "Bring lots of back-drops, because everything pees on everything," she says, laughing.

Julie is one of the many valued volunteers who helps keep SPCA running smoothly. She finds it rewarding and reminds others, "The littlest of commitment can make a huge difference in the organization...whether you like to walk dogs or take pictures of rats."



Julie dedicates a few hours each week to help highlight SPCA's smallest adoptables.



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Taking Advantage of RMDs

HOW YOUR GIFTS CAN HELP MORE ANIMALS LIKE TOM BOY



SUFFERING FROM NAUSEA and a bad case of feline upper respiratory infection, Tom Boy was struggling during his stay at the shelter last year. He underwent several rounds of antibiotics, but even that couldn't help him get his appetite up, and soon he stopped eating entirely. As a foster volunteer for more than 10 years, Jan Band was no stranger to sick cats or kittens. She had fostered hundreds of them and offered to take him in.

Jan is a lifelong animal lover who started volunteering with SPCA Tampa Bay when she and her husband, Earl, moved to Florida from Michigan as retired schoolteachers. She donated monthly to help the animals, and when she turned 70 ½, it was time for her to start taking a required minimum distribution from her IRA.

Jan instructed her financial advisor to have the distribution go straight to SPCA. By doing so, she avoided paying income tax on the distribution and her impact for the animals was even greater.

As for Tom Boy? Well lucky for him, he was Jan's one and only "foster failure" and is now happy, healthy and part of Jan's family. Because of her tax savings, SPCA receives a larger donation and can help more pets like him.

If you give to SPCA and have to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), consider making a gift through your IRA. You can always donate your cash to your favorite charity, but donating pre-tax dollars is the smarter way to give. **On behalf of all the animals—thank you, Jan!**



Jan and Tom Boy



If you have any questions regarding giving through your IRA, please call Carolyn Wisniewski at 727-581-3249 or email her at CWisniewski@SPCATampaBay.org.



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SPCA TAMPA BAY ALUMNI

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 THANK YOU!**



Cisco



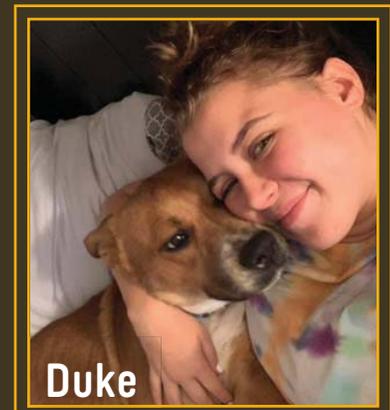
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