



PAUSE FOR PAWS

Baby Girl's Journey | HOW YOU HELP DOGS DURING THEIR STAY AT THE SHELTER

A SHELTER ENVIRONMENT can often be a shock to pets. There are times when dogs we see are happy, confident and ready to get back into a household environment. Other times, the abrupt change in scenery can cause a dog to become scared and feel vulnerable.

Seven-year-old Baby Girl arrived at our shelter because her owner did not have enough time to care for her. Her whole life had been spent in the same home, so the shelter world was understandably overwhelming, with all new noises and smells. **Whenever Baby Girl saw anyone unfamiliar, she would growl, bark and run to the back of her kennel.** It was her way of saying she was scared and did not want to be bothered.

We started slowly by tossing Baby Girl a handful of her favorite treats every time we saw her. This simple action made a huge difference as she began to realize that whenever she saw someone, she'd get a handful of delicious bacon strips! We had around eight different volunteers, as well as the entire SPCA Tampa Bay behavior team, caring for Baby Girl. Each day, we'd gather new information and would review her progress.

Soon, Baby Girl's true personality began to shine through. She'd wag her tail when people passed by, loved playing with toys, and couldn't wait to join the other dogs in playgroups.

Watching her blossom into her true, happy-go-lucky, goofy self, showed us that Baby Girl's fear of the unknown is what caused her to bark and growl at people when she first arrived.

One afternoon, a loving family came into the shelter



Baby Girl & Friends

Volunteers and staff worked hard to help Baby Girl regain trust and rebuild confidence.



Baby Girl

and knew Baby Girl was the dog for them. They didn't want to go through the "puppy phase," but still wanted a playful dog. She had all the qualities they were looking for and her sweet face didn't hurt either! It was an instant bond among all of them.

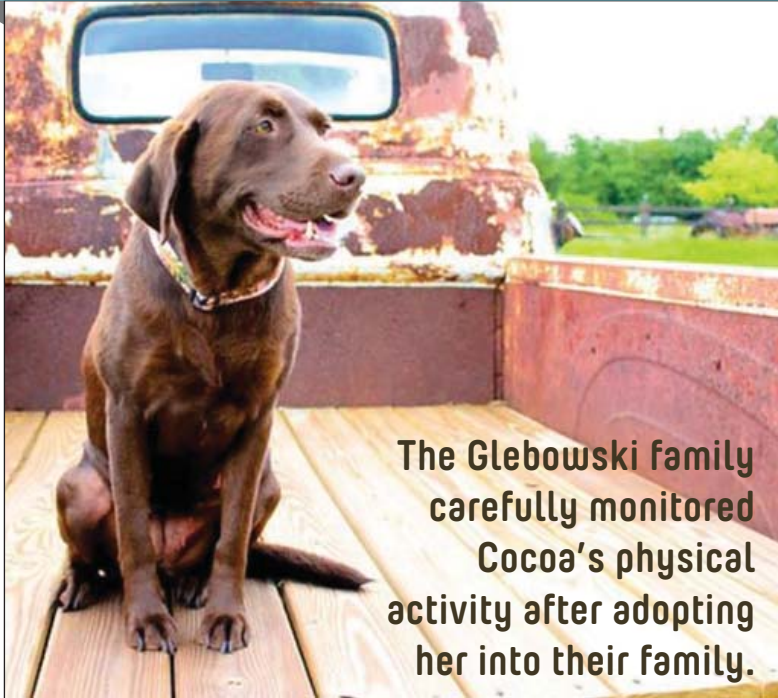
Your dedication to SPCA is the reason thousands of our animals, like Baby Girl, find new loving homes each and every year! **SPCA staff and volunteers work tirelessly to provide enrichment and training for dogs in our care and get them out of the kennels as much as possible as they await their adoptions.** We cannot do this work without you, and for that, I am truly grateful!



by Lindsey Troy,
Canine Behavior Technician

Her whole life had been spent in the same home, so the shelter world was understandably overwhelming.

From Heartworm to Healthy



The Glebowski family carefully monitored Cocoa's physical activity after adopting her into their family.



Photos by Vander Shots Photography

THE GLEBOWSKIS CHECKED SEVERAL SHELTERS

in search of a new family member before striking gold — or shall we say, chocolate! Jessica saw the sweet face of Cocoa, a 1-year-old Labrador mix, on SPCA Tampa Bay's website. Cocoa's profile stated that she was good with children, so Jessica gathered up her family and said, "Let's just go check her out."

Although shy at first, Cocoa's sweetness shone through. **The Glebowski's were falling in love... then the news hit.** Cocoa had heartworms, a parasite spread by mosquitoes that causes serious damage to pets' organs.

This disease frightens many adopters because treatment is expensive and requires strict exercise restrictions to maintain a low heart rate for more than six months while the medicine works to break down

the potentially fatal heartworms.

But thanks to supporters like you, treatment for Cocoa began immediately upon her arrival at the shelter.

"Cocoa was young, she still had a chance. If they could treat it, she would do fine," Jessica said, reflecting on that day.

At her new home, Cocoa was taken on short walks. Referring to the exercise restrictions, Jessica explains, "It was no big deal. She liked to sit in the back yard with us and watch the boys play." Cocoa was recently cleared of the disease at **SPCA Tampa Bay's Veterinary Center** in St. Pete and is now on a monthly heartworm preventative.

Jessica is thankful she found Cocoa. "It's a rewarding process and they deserve the chance. She is a great dog and I would have hated to have missed that."



Obiwan



Penny



Pollyanna



Princess

Cocoa was one of thousands of animals adopted last year thanks to your support.
HERE ARE SOME MORE PETS THAT FOUND THEIR FOREVER HOME IN 2018!

SPCA's New Pet Guardian and Communal Pet Trust

ROMEO IS AN ADORABLE 7-YEAR-OLD orange tabby who is good about using his scratching post and loves to play with water from the faucet. He sleeps on the bed next to the pillow with his stuffed cat toy and enjoys getting neck rubs. Romeo lives with his sister, Pumpkin, who is more on the quiet side. She is also an orange tabby, but prefers to lounge on the sofa.

If something were to happen to Dee, their "mom," SPCA Tampa Bay would pick these kitties up and take care of them until a new home could be found. Potential adopters would have all the information they needed to know about the cats including their microchip number, veterinarian contact, behavior, favorite food and what makes them unique.

It's a new service offered by SPCA called the Pet Guardian Care program. Dee had named SPCA in her will and was concerned about what would happen to her cats



if she became incapacitated or if they outlived her. When she learned about the benefit of the Pet Guardian Care program, she was the first to enroll. Dee said it gives her peace of mind that **Pumpkin and Romeo will be cared for in the event something unexpected happens.**

While SPCA's Legacy of Love Communal Pet Trust is designed for people who want to set aside funds to a specific caregiver of their pets, the Pet Guardian program is aimed at re-homing a beloved pet in the least stressful manner possible.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE

about our PET GUARDIAN program
or COMMUNAL PET TRUST?

Contact Linda Bak

727-581-3249 or LBak@SPCATampaBay.org.

**We are hosting free educational seminars
every quarter, so sign up today!**

SPCATampaBay.org/seminar-RSVP

SEMINAR DATES

LARGO

- March 9
- August 24

ST PETE

- May 19
- November 17





SPCA Tampa Bay
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HOW CAN WE REACH MORE ANIMALS IN NEED?

From Martha's Desk

THANKS TO YOU, our Largo shelter has been a temporary home to animals in Pinellas County for more than 75 years. When we first opened our doors, one building made up the entire shelter. As we expanded our services, we kept adding on structures and developed quite a maze over time. For those facilities that now need to be replaced, we're considering what the future might look like.

One of the questions we always ask ourselves is "How can we better serve our community and help keep people with their pets?" To help us analyze new approaches, we plan to open a temporary satellite shelter facility in north Pinellas County. Transportation can be a major barrier for people facing issues with their animals, and while our Largo campus is centrally located, it's a long way from communities like Dunedin or Tarpon Springs.

The north county campus will expand awareness of our shelter and make it easier to access services. Animal intake, donation drop-off, pet behavior guidance and a pet food bank are some of the services we will offer, but we also want to learn what the community around the satellite shelter needs.

We are very excited about our plan and the chance to test new ideas, and I look forward to sharing what we learn with you!

Thoughtfully,