



Shelter News



November/December 2010



Simon

Open House at the shelter

We were thrilled that so many people came to the shelter to visit the animals in August at our Open House, brainchild of board members **Georgia Favelli** and **Christopher Rounds**. Stars of the day were our longest residents, Ms Bee, a cat now with us for two years, and Ari, a lab mix, with us one year.

The children, especially, were fascinated by all our kittens, which put on quite a display of acrobatics as they played in their spacious new enclosure, recently donated by **Alice Senturia**. Adding to the festive atmosphere, volunteers from **Centennial Bank** cooked hamburgers and hotdogs, and **GFS** provided snacks.

A very spiffy bicycle generously donated by **Pirate Bicycle and Scooter Rental** of Key West was raffled, raising over \$4,000, and ace baker, our own Christopher Rounds, provided wonderful cupcakes, some of which carried a lucky number and won prizes.

We were so proud to show off the wonderful work our staff does every single day even though the buildings they work in are crumbling around them. If you missed our Open House, not to worry -- we all had so much fun we decided to it again. Watch this space!



Banjo

Shelter director, LuAnn Huff with proud raffle winner Camille Blatz



*Until one has loved an animal,
part of the soul remains
unawakened.*
(unknown)



**FKSPCA board members were on hand to ensure everyone had a good time.
(l to r) Linda Walker, Patricia Eables, Christopher**



Keys



Ms. Bee

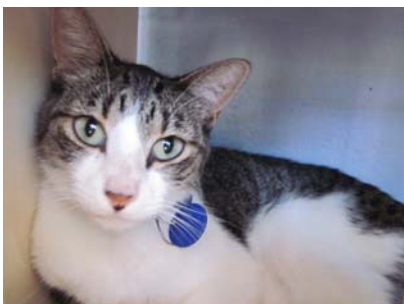


If I want to hear the pitter-patter of tiny feet, I'll put shoes on my cat!

(unknown)



Cheety



Rounds, Sue Turner, Jane Dawkins, Georgia Favelli.
Connie Christian and shelter director, LuAnn Huff

A time to give thanks

2010 has been another difficult year for many, including non-profits like ourselves that depend in large part on the generosity of the community we serve in order to exist and do the very best job we possibly can. We feel fortunate that we live in one of the most caring, giving communities anywhere. We have been blessed over and over by individuals and groups who have helped us in different ways to maintain the highest standards of care for our animals. Whether you gave us a couple of dollars or many more; whether you passed by, saw our Needs List and brought us scoopable kitty litter, dog and cat treats, blankets or toys, please know how very much we appreciate it

We are so grateful for our **Volunteers**, who give so freely of their time assisting our staff. Our **Foster Parents** are another vital part of the FKSPCA. Thank you all for caring for litters of tiny kittens until they are old enough to be adopted, and for the TLC you give to animals recovering from illness or surgery, not forgetting those of you who stand by during hurricane season, just in case...

Thank you to **Drs. Lisa Bramson and Kristen Jensen** for being there for us every single day (and night!) and for stretching every dollar for us.

We know exactly how much time and effort go into arranging fundraisers and are very grateful to the following groups that have held events to benefit the shelter: **Lilly Pulitzer, Key West Winery, Geiger Key Marina, Sunset Rotary Club, Bikers Against Drunk Driving (BADD), Kimberely Denney, Grand Vin, Monica Matroci, Oasis Guesthouse.**

From all of us at the Florida Keys SPCA to all of you, thank you for your continued support for the animals in our care. We wish you a festive and happy holiday season and a New Year filled with good things.



Our Hunter is now a promoter of fine wine

One look at his face tells you everything you need to know. Hunter is a loving, courteous and courtly gentleman, much loved by all our staff and volunteers for the entire year he was at the shelter with us. It was another instance of wondering why this gorgeous dog was overlooked over and over again.

At last however, **Helen and Sean McConnell**, owners of Grand Vin wine bar and store on Duval Street, recognized Hunter's fine qualities and realized what a wonderful complement he would be to their fine wines -- that was after they fell in love with him, of course!

Helen and Sean and Hunter dropped by the shelter recently to get Hunter up to date on his shots and we took the opportunity to photograph the happy family.

Jill



Coco



Regal



Hannah



Julie



Helen tells us Hunter is rarely alone -- he "goes to work" at Grand Vin most days and after just a short time has become very attached to his new family, who, incidentally, have become ardent supporters of the FKSPCA and have a special Yappy Hour each Saturday afternoon, offering a free glass of wine in exchange for a \$10 donation to the FKSPCA.

It may have taken a year but we are thrilled that our Hunter now has the happy home he deserves -- stop by Grand Vin and he'll help you select that special bottle for that special occasion, although his personal favorite is a large bowl of Eau de Key West, served at a cool temperature, neither stirred nor shaken!

Mark your calendars - you won't want to miss this workshop!

Have you ever wondered what goes on in your pet's mind? Have you ever asked yourself, "Now why did he do that?" and wish you could talk to each other? Of course, we all have, and that's why we're very excited that well-known animal communicator, **Mary Getten**, will teach us how in a two-day workshop this January. Here are the details:

Saturday/Sunday, January 22nd and 23rd
12 noon til 5 pm
VNA/Hospice Conference Room
1319 William Street, Key West
Total cost: \$150

Mary has graciously offered to donate part of her fee to the FKSPCA, so it's win-win-win for us all. Here's the catch, though... So that each participant gets the most from the workshop, there will be **a limit of 20 people**, so don't miss out. Sign up soon! To reserve your place, send a check for the full amount to the shelter and be sure to indicate that it is for the workshop. See you there!

(By the way, for more information about Mary's work and her workshops, visit Mary's website at www.marygetten.com)

BADD is very GOOD to us

BADD (Bikers Against Drunk Driving) was founded in 1986 by **Danny Perkins** after two tragic accidents involving his family, with a specific goal of joining in the fight against drunk driving and assisting victims.

After reading a story about the shelter in a local paper, Danny dropped by the shelter last June to present a check for \$1,000 to help with our work. Thanks, Danny! Thanks bikers!



Jake



Magnolia



Wish List

Scoopable Kitty Litter

Gas Cards
(for transporting animals to and from
the vet and foster homes)

Dog and Cat Treats

Dog and Cat Toys



Penny



Connie Christian and LuAnn Huff accepting
the check from Danny Perkins (r) founder of
BADD

Holiday gift ideas

For the person who has everything, how about buying **an inscribed brick** that will eventually become part of our new shelter? Bricks cost \$75 (or \$150 for a larger one) and will honor or memorialize that special person or pet. Call the shelter for details.

You can also make a **holiday donation** in any amount to friends and family. Just give us a list of their names and addresses and we will send them a **gift card** informing them of your kindness.

If you can't find what you're looking for locally, forget that long drive to the mainland malls, hop on to your computer and check out cafepress.com/FKSPCA where you'll find **t-shirts** in all sizes and colors, **mugs** and more, all sporting our very special Jeff McNelly-designed logo.

Just about every merchant you'd find at the mall is represented at iGive.com/FKSPCA, from fashionable clothing designers like Ralph Lauren and Victoria's Secret to Home Depot, Hilton Hotels, car rental companies -- you name it!

But what about **the most important gift of all** - giving a shelter animal a forever home? While we don't allow gift adoptions, what better gift than have the whole family be involved in adding a new family member from the FKSPCA! An attractive gift card is available at the shelter.

See us on parade

One of the nicest local events of the year is the Holiday Parade in Key West. It's a lovely community event at a wonderful time of year, and we're proud to take part. So come out on Saturday, December 4th, (check your newspaper for times) and watch us strut our stuff, accompanied, of course, by some of our shelter dogs available for adoption.

New look website

When you next visit www.fkspca.org you'll find we have a fresh, new look that is very easy to navigate and full of useful resources, as well as information about the various services we offer the community we serve, not to mention up to date photos of animals available for adoption. We think you'll agree that our webmaster, **Andy Cook** with **Serial Design Group**, who donates his considerable talents, has done a wonderful job making our website friendly and professional, reflecting the aims of the FKSPCA. Thanks, Andy!

The FKSPCA family has grown - just temporarily

If you live in Big Pine Key, you may have been puzzled to see FKSPCA animal control officer **Diana Boley** patrolling your neighborhood. That's because we are temporarily handling animal control services there, as well as in Marathon (including the animal shelter) until Monroe County appoints a contractor for those areas. The new contact number for the Marathon shelter is 743.4800. Call the Key West shelter for services in



Shelly



Big Pine Key. (294.4857). If you have any questions about either location, call our shelter director, [LuAnn Huff](#), who oversees daily operations.

A very happy tail

Remember Miss Sunshine, the pig that was rescued from filthy living conditions, without food and water? She had bleeding lacerations and her nose was rubbed raw from her wire cage. Thanks to our friends at All Animal Clinic, who tended her wounds, and thanks to you, our friends who donated to [Oscar's Fund](#), our special fund for sick and wounded animals, Miss Sunshine made a good recovery from her ordeal after several months of TLC from our staff.



Papi



Her brief stay at the Sheriff's animal farm did not work out but [Cathy Baier](#), our intrepid dog trainer, found a pig preserve in Tennessee that was willing to take her. So, one morning this summer, Cathy and colleague [Liz Heflin](#) set off from the shelter to hook up with pig rescuer [Sue Levitt](#) in Jupiter. Along for the ride was a one-eyed rooster that Cathy had rescued, and three baby chicks that the pig preserve had offered to take, too. Sue took everyone to another transporter who took her on to her new home.



HOORAY! WE'RE OFF!



Kisses

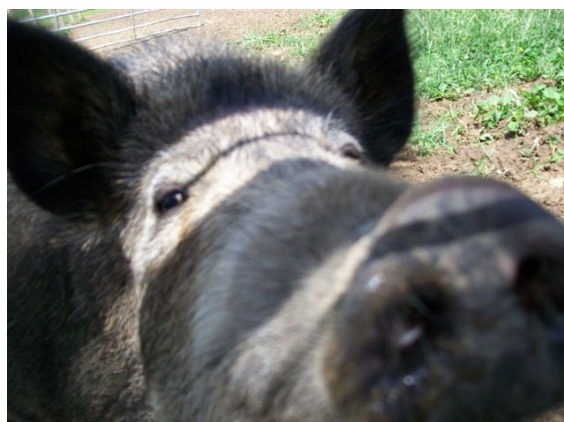


Miss Sunshine (now called Sunny) has settled in well and we recently received an update from her new owners, Rich and Laura, which included news of her new best friend Chopper: "They hit it off instantly and became friends. Chopper showed her where to come to eat and by the end of the second day, he showed her how to open the gate to get in to the feed pen and also how to get out when she was done. Now, every day at 5 o'clock she and Chopper head for the house!

Her pastures seem to end at forever. She certainly thinks so, anyway! There are hills and creeks and lakes and small waterfalls that connect the lakes that the pigs can walk under to cool off and let the water massage them. There are thick trees, cool places to lay, a never-ending supply of forage planted especially for the pigs in addition to the natural vegetation that is so appealing to their appetites!" They add that in the photo, she was asked for a kiss, which she gladly offered:



Lodi



And here is her new back yard!



Wilson



Strike strikes it rich

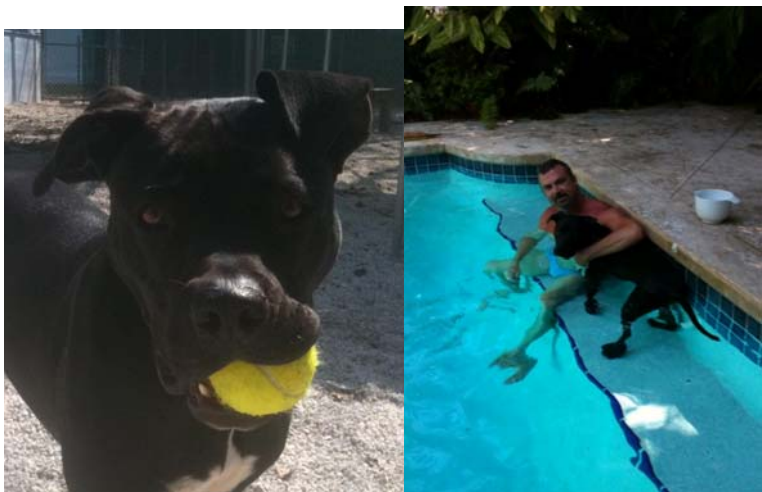
Strike came to the Florida Keys SPCA as a young pup with a broken leg. After mending that leg, he was made available for adoption. Strike was one of those dogs that almost no one looked at until one day that right person walked in the door. Paul was that right person. Here's what he told us:

"I was wanting a dog for some time now and never really considered a 'shelter dog', I just decided to stop in on my day off, and saw this beautiful, gentle, playful goof ball running around his pen, pushing the top half of a two piece dog house with his nose, barking at it! He came running right up to me and we hung and played ball and fetch for awhile... Then I realized that he had (a good portion of) Pit Bull in him... STOP EVERYTHING!! Only crazy people have Pit Bulls! I honestly thought that the only way to get a 'good dog' would be through a reputable breeder, and that he would have to be a puppy in order to be trained properly (and certainly not a Pit Bull!). I was wrong...

I left that day without him, and researched Pit Bulls and spoke with (Pit Bull) owners. I had pre-conceived, negative ideas. The only information I had for them was through the media... Truth be told, Pits are only as vicious as their owners train them to be. They do not have in-bred DNA to make them snap or attack.

I adopted Copa Joe (then named Strike) in April of 2010, from the Florida Keys SPCA. He is a beautiful black Pit/Lab mix with a white 'tuxedo' chest and orange eyes. I can't say enough about Cathy and the staff at the SPCA. They had cared for him for six months, trained him his basic commands, he was 'house broken' and well socialized with other people and animals (well... we're still working on the cat part :). He loves the ocean and swimming in pools and ANYTHING to do with water!! He's so cool! THANK YOU for my new best buddy and educating me on just how wonderful SPCA pets can be! He's everything I wanted in a dog!

We're going swimming now..... Cheers! Paul and Copa"



Toby



Sol



Kika





Trudy



Ruby



Athena



Larry



We love our volunteers! We couldn't do what we do for the animals in our care without them. They walk the dogs, brush the cats, and enrich the animals' lives in so many ways. Unfortunately, training and scheduling volunteers takes precious staff time that they often can't spare, but that's all about to change. Long-time volunteer, **Elaine Fontaine**, has offered to take on this important role and is looking forward to meeting those of you who have offered your own precious time and skills.

Elaine is also a member of our BRATs, (Behavior, Rehabilitation, Adoption, Training) team that provides reward-based training and enrichment of our shelter dogs in order to increase their adoptability and improve their quality of life. You can reach Elaine by calling the shelter, 294.4857, or emailing her at info@fkspca.org

And speaking of volunteers...

...we must make special mention of our **Kitten Foster Parents**. Despite our regular spay/neuter clinics, this year we had more kittens than any of us can recall (and some of our employees have been with us ten years!) The kittens just kept coming. Many were much too tiny to be adopted, some were just a few days old. That means round the clock feeding for weeks until they are big enough to return to the shelter for first shots, spay and neuter, and eventual adoption.

Our loyal foster parents never once said Enough! As soon as one (or more) litters came back to the shelter, there were more to take their place, so we would like to publicly thank **Jane Grannis, Kathleen La Macchia, Jeanne Tindel, Cheri Shapiro, Audrey Samz, Alyssa Aquilan** and **Andy Kimball and Kristina Neilhouse** for everything they did to make sure the many kittens that were surrendered to the shelter were healthy, well fed and socialized, even though that entailed a huge commitment in time and energy.



Kristina and Andy, kitten foster parents, enjoying our Open House.

If you would like to be a Kitten Foster Parent, please call us at the shelter, 294.4857.



Marley



Wilma



Axel Rose



Florida Keys SPCA

5230 College Road

Key West, FL

305.294.4857

Monday - Friday

10:00am to 6:00pm

Saturday

10:00am to 2:00pm

Bite Prevention Week

Animal Behavior Program Manager **Cathy Baier** and volunteer **Elaine Fontaine** visited second graders at Sugarloaf School to talk about the Be A Tree Program as part of Bite Prevention Week. This program teaches young children how to avoid being bitten in a way they can understand.



Elaine with her rapt audience of second graders

If you are a teacher and would like us to visit your school, just call **LuAnn Huff** at 294.4857. And if you'd like to know more about the Be A Tree program, here's the address: www.doggonesafe.com/Be_A_Tree-program.

Our Mission

The Florida Keys SPCA is dedicated to promoting the humane treatment of all animals through compassionate care, adoption, education, population control and humane law enforcement.

Visit our Website
www.FKSPCA.org