



FLORIDA KEYS SPCA

The Center for Animal Welfare & Education

April News from the FKSPCA!

Have you heard the news?



April 2021

FROM OUR DIRECTOR, TAMMY FOX

Heartworm Prevention Can Save Lives!

The month of April is Heartworm Awareness Month

One of the most critical things you must do to care for your dog is to practice heartworm prevention. This is done by providing heartworm prevention medication to your dog on a monthly basis and having them checked for heartworms at your annual visit to the veterinarian. This is especially important here in the Florida Keys. Here at the Florida Keys SPCA, we treated 8 dogs for heartworm disease in the last year. This could have been prevented with one inexpensive tasty prevention chew tab given monthly.



Heartworm disease is spread by mosquitos and is a serious, potentially fatal disease, caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body. Dogs of any age, breed, or size are susceptible to heartworms. Heartworm prevention is affordable at around \$8 a month while treatment can cost up to \$1000 or more and is difficult to treat. In honor of Heartworm Awareness Month, we have compiled some of the most frequently asked questions and answers to help you keep your best friend safe and healthy.

How do dogs get heartworms?

Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes. When a mosquito bites an infected dog, they can transfer heartworms to an uninfected dog.

How can I prevent my dogs from getting heartworms?

Using heartworm prevention medication is the only way to prevent heartworms. The average cost of this medication is less than purchasing a weekly coffee from Starbucks. Talk to your veterinarian to decide which prevention type is right for your dog.

What are the symptoms of heartworm infestation in dogs?

Initially there are no symptoms. As more worms form, the animal will develop a deep cough. Being easily winded will increase over time. With severe heartworm disease, we can hear abnormal lung sounds, dogs can pass out from the loss of blood to the brain, and they can retain fluids. Eventually, most dogs will die if the worms are not treated.

Once my dog has heartworms, what's the treatment? How much will it cost?

The treatment for heartworms is limited to injectable treatment. The treatment can be very difficult on dogs and is costly. The average cost of treatment is \$800-\$1200, in severe cases treatment can cost as much as \$2500.

If my dog is diagnosed with heartworms, can I just give him his monthly preventative instead of having him go through treatment? Won't that kill his heartworms?

The full treatment series is best practice for treating heartworms. Giving only monthly heartworm preventative can have side-effects such as long-term damage to the heart and lungs and can lead to death in severe cases.

Can I skip giving my dog his preventative during colder months, when there aren't any mosquitoes?

The American Heartworm Society recommends year-round prevention as mosquito species have been adapting to colder climates. Additionally, most heartworm preventatives have the extra benefit of a dewormer for internal parasites.

If my dog gets heartworms, and is treated for them, can he get them again?

Dogs do not build immunity to heartworms. The only way to stop dogs from getting heartworms again is to keep them on heartworm prevention medication year-round.

If you have questions about how to keep your best friend free from heartworm disease and healthy, please call our medical team here at the Florida Keys SPCA at 305-294-4857 or email chantelle@fkspca.org

With gratitude,

Tammy



Sponsor A Pet Program is Here!

Our exciting new Sponsor A Pet program will give you the chance to help change the life of one of our pets in need. Your monthly \$25 donation will directly benefit that pet's needs whether it's medical, like Pearl who had to have her leg amputated (pictured), a specific diet or a special needs animal. You can find each pet available for sponsorship and their stories by clicking the button below.



Each sponsor will receive a welcome letter, a picture of their pet, certificate of sponsorship and updates on their sponsored pet. You can also give the gift of saving a life in honor of someone special. We have so many animals with stories to tell and we want to share their needs with you in hopes that you will find a special bond with them. For additional questions please email Tiffany@fkspca.org.

[Meet Your Sponsor Pet Here](#)



April 11-17 is Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week!

We would like to thank our Animal Control Officers at our Key West and Marathon Campuses who work hard daily to continuously protect pets in paradise!

Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 18-24!

We are incredibly lucky to have a team of volunteers that dedicate their time, talents and hearts to all of our animals! They make a difference in the lives of homeless pets every single day! From our shelters and community, THANK YOU for all you do!





Choose the FKSPCA as your charity for AmazonSmile!

When shopping this year, consider choosing the Florida Keys SPCA as your nonprofit to support and shop through AmazonSmile. If we are your

choice as the non profit to support, each time you make a purchase though Amazon you will also be donating to the homeless animals of the Lower and Middle Keys! Amazon will automatically donate 0.5% of your total purchases to our shelter if you choose us!

Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> or go under the settings in the Amazon app and when choosing which charity to support, choose the Florida Keys Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Thank you!

Looking to spruce up your Spring outfits?

We have sweatshirts, hats, shirts, tanks, baby & youth apparel, mugs, tote bags and masks! Treat yourself while helping save a life!

Check out our Online Store Today!



Family dog Danny looking for a home!

Meet Danny! Danny is a 45 pound Hound mix with a sweet submissive personality. She is well trained to sit, lie down and even play dead! Danny has met smaller dogs at the shelter and even the cats which would make her a good candidate for a family with other pets. At seven years old Danny is still playful, loves going for walks and mostly spending time with people. Danny is available to adopt at our Marathon Campus and our adoption questionnaire is accessible on our website by visiting <https://fkspca.org/adopt/adopt-a-dog/>, clicking on her



adorable photo and following the link. For more on Danny call our Marathon Campus at 305-743-4800.



2 Cats Purrfect for your Family!

Meet Selis & Sofia from our Marathon Campus! These two young teenagers are gorgeous Calico sisters that are now ready for adoption! They are young, fun, playful, friendly

and full of kitten-like energy! If you're looking for adventurous, slightly mischievous fun cats to make you laugh be sure to visit us online at <https://fkspca.org/adopt/adopt-a-cat/> and fill out an online questionnaire for Selis & Sofia today!

Could a Hamster steal your Heart?

We still have 6 Syrian Hamsters for adoption at our Marathon Campus! These adorable furry hamsters are four months old now and ready for homes of their own. Syrian hamsters are one of the most popular companion hamsters as they are friendly and social with people! They don't care much for other hamsters so they have to be adopted out as individuals or housed separately. Syrian hamsters are social and fun to watch and interact with! If you've been thinking of bringing a hamster into your home and heart consider adopting one from our Marathon Campus! Meet our adoptable hamsters online



at <https://fkspca.org/adopt/adopt-small-animals/> and click on any of their adorable photos for an online questionnaire!



Seashell is searching for You!

Seashell is a senior sweetheart looking for a great home! He is sassy, snuggly and ready to be your next lap cat. He is a wet food lover, has his own special meow and just wants a warm cozy bed to take naps in. If you are interested in adopting this Siamese Mix, go to

<https://fkspca.org/adopt/adopt-a-cat/>, click on Seashell's photo and fill out an adoption questionnaire today!

Meet Mr. Wonderful!

Sammy may not be a TV celebrity but he's still a star in our world. He's a big ball of soft fur with an even bigger personality. He could be the perfect house companion. He's curious and active, but also loves just hanging out with his feet stretched out behind. He's not a fan of being picked up (like most rabbits) but LOVES to come to us for petting when we sit on the floor. He definitely likes his social time. Sammy is a young adult and has been neutered and microchipped.



If you would like to learn more about our adoption process and adopting Sammy, you can fill out a questionnaire online on our website <https://fkspca.org/adopt/adopt-small-animals/>, email us at info@fkspca.org or call (305) 294-4857. Sammy is waiting!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday April 11th

Artisan Market ~ 10am-2pm

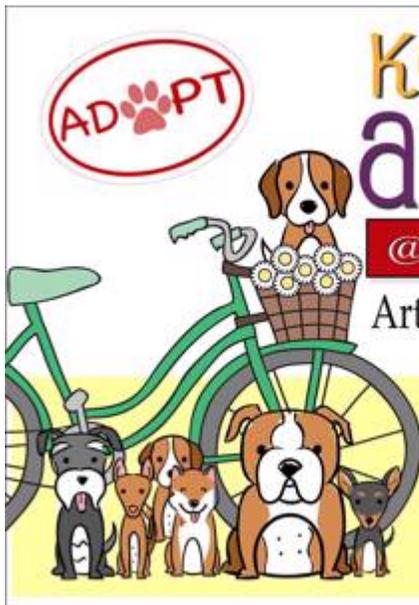
Across from the White Street Pier in Key West

(Corner of White Street and Atlantic Blvd)

The Key West Artisan Market celebrates National Pet Day this Sunday with the Florida Keys SPCA! If you are looking to donate, we will be accepting our most needed items like Wet Food- Dog or Cat; Cardboard Scratchers for Cats; KMR- Kitten Milk Replacer; Dog and Cat Toys and Wicker Chew Balls for Small Animals! We will have raffle prizes available to win and merchandise for sale!

Guests are welcomed to bring well-behaved four legged friends - the Artisan Market is always pet friendly and right next to the dog parks. The show, which features local artists, fresh farms stands, food trucks and merchandise made in the Keys, is located in the parking lot at the Key West Wildlife Center/Sonny McCoy Indigenous Park, 1801 White Street, across from White Street Pier and by the bocce courts. There is free parking, no entrance fee and masks are required on property. For more information click the button below!

Key West Artisan Market Info



ADOPt

KEY WEST *Where the locals meet*
ARTISAN MARKET
@ HIGGS BEACH
Art • Shopping • Food • Cocktails • Live Music

SUNDAY, APRIL 11 • 10 AM - 2 PM
NATIONAL PET DAY
Featuring Florida Keys SPCA EDITION

Wednesday April 21st

Scotty's Front Street Stage ~ 5-7pm

528 Front Street, Key West

We are so excited to be partnering with Scotty's Front Street Stage, a new bar, restaurant and live music venue in Key West! They are generous enough to have chosen the Florida Keys SPCA as one of the charities to benefit from their concert series where several of their musicians will be donating all their tips from their sets on certain dates!

The next show benefiting homeless pets is Wednesday April 21st from 5-7pm. If you are looking to support a new business and donate to the animals all at once, head over to Scotty's Front Street Stage located at 528 Front Street (in the old Rum Barrel) and check them out today!



April 27th - May 1st

Mile 0 Fest

Coffee Butler Amphitheater & More

We are so excited to announce we will be one of the three benefiting charities at this year's Mile 0 Fest Key West! In addition to the amazing bands that will be playing, they also host several fun events that directly benefit the charities chosen.

Each night of the festival there will be a guitar signed by one or more of the artists auctioned off, they will have raffles at Dante's on Thursday 4/29, a Beard Contest will be happening at the Southernmost Beach Resort at 4pm

on Thursday 5/1 and more! To buy your tickets to the festival, or to learn more about these events that will benefit the animals of the Florida Keys SPCA go to their website at <https://mileOfest.com/> or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mileOfestkeywest>.

We hope to see you there!



APRIL 27TH-MAY 1ST 2021

Virtual Kitten Season Shower



Kitten season is here! We will take in an overwhelming number of kittens between now and September as the cooler weather ends and cats go in heat. If you want to help our kittens by becoming a 2021 Kitten Season Sponsor, a Kitten Foster or by donating much needed supplies from our Amazon Wishlist, click on the button below to learn more about how you can help! Or, if you are interested in adopting, continue to watch our

adoption page at <https://fkspca.org/adopt/adopt-a-cat/> to see when they become available! Thank you for your support for these itty, bitty kitties!

[Kitten Season Shower Info Here!](#)



Thank you to Maddie's Fund!

We are excited to announce our Clinic Manager, Chantelle, has been selected to attend the Maddie's Shelter Clinic Management Apprenticeship. This apprenticeship will be incredibly beneficial to our organization as we learn to grow our shelter medical programs from leading experts in animal welfare.

We thank Maddie's Fund for making this opportunity possible!

Maddie's Fund[®] is a family foundation established in 1994 by Dave and Cheryl Duffield and is the fulfillment of a promise to an inspirational dog, Maddie. She provided them much joy from 1987 – 1997 and continues to inspire them today.

The Foundation has awarded nearly \$250 million in grants toward increased community lifesaving, pioneering shelter medicine education and establishing foster care as a standard across the U.S.

Maddie's Fund proudly offers the industry a national voice, important funding opportunities for bold ideas, learning resources and access to collaborate and share lifesaving ideas. The Foundation invests its resources in a commitment to keeping pets and people together, creating a safety net of care for animals in need and operating within a culture of inclusiveness and humility. #ThanksToMaddie





**April 10th is
National Hug
Your Dog
Day!**

**Give a little extra
love to your best
four legged
friend!**

Behavior Helpline Information

Florida Keys SPCA Animal Behavior Helpline

**DOG PROBLEMS? CAT CONCERNS?
BUNNY BURDENS?**



WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

CALL

305-294-4857

EMAIL

behaviorhelpline@fkspca.org

Sharing your life with a companion animal can be incredibly rewarding but it also comes with a unique set of challenges. Even the most experienced pet parents need a helping hand at times.

The Florida Keys SPCA has a team of animal experts who are ready to help. Simply leave a voicemail or email about your pet's behavioral concern and one of our Behavior Helpline team members will reach out to help within 24-48 hours.

(Please note: This is a helpline, not a hotline. For Animal Control Emergencies, please contact our After Hours Emergency number.)

[**Click Here for More Behavior Helpline Info!**](#)



Did you know that the Florida Keys SPCA accepts gifts of Stock or Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA? Not only can a gift of stock give you a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock, you will also avoid paying capital gains tax on any increase in the value of stock. Or help meet your RMD and avoid tax penalties by giving a QCD! We make it easy for you to donate while helping you at tax time!

For details on how to donate a gift of stock or a QCD to benefit animals like Capricorn (pictured), click the button below or contact us directly at Tiffany@fkspca.org!

[Learn how to give the gift of Stock or QCD here!](#)

Do you need some feel-good moments in your life right now? Check out and Like our Facebook page or become one of our Instagram followers today! We are posting happy, silly and fun animal content daily just like below!

Be sure to follow our Small Animal Facebook Page, *Bunnies & Buddies*, for regular content featuring small animals like rabbits, guinea pigs and hamsters!



Connect with us on Facebook!



Follow us on Instagram!



Follow our Bunnies & Buddies Page here!



HAPPY TAILS



Esther waited 3 years to find her home!

Adoption Update! One year ago one of our longest residents at our Marathon Campus, Harley, now Esther was adopted. Esther waited three long years for a family of her own. Her mom just sent us a wonderful adoption anniversary update. "It will be one year March 31 that I picked up Harley now Ester from your shelter. I never met her before, just picked her out online with your guidance. She's been a very happy cat and I love having her in my life. I'll never be without a cat! Her allergies are better because we get a cortisone shot every couple months. No more scabs and she has all her fur. She loves her temptations and will only drink out of the tub faucet on her command. She has made herself right at home. Thank you! Love Ester and Nancy." Way to go Esther!



Check out our Key West Amazon Wishlist for our greatest needs!

Donate Today!
Click here for more info

Check out our Marathon Amazon Wishlist for our greatest needs!



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Florida Keys Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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