



# The Affection Connection



Spring 2016

Compassion. Commitment. Community.



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Humane Society of Manatee County  
 2515 14th Street West  
 Bradenton, FL 34205  
[www.humanemanatee.org](http://www.humanemanatee.org)  
[info@humanesocietymanatee.org](mailto:info@humanesocietymanatee.org)

Spay/Neuter Clinic:  
 Monday-Saturday  
 8am-5pm by Appointment  
 941-747-8808 x302  
[clinic@humanesocietymanatee.org](mailto:clinic@humanesocietymanatee.org)

Adoption Hours:  
 Tuesday—Saturday 10 am to 5 pm  
 and by appointment  
 (941) 747-8808 x313  
[adoptions@humanesocietymanatee.org](mailto:adoptions@humanesocietymanatee.org)

Feral Cat Information:  
 (941) 747-8808 x302

The Affection Connection is published free of charge, for supporters of the Humane Society of Manatee County.

## How to Save a Life

It happened on a whim. Estrellita Moore was driving by and something told her to walk in our front door. She was in search of a companion animal for her mother; she knew dogs saved lives and was hoping to find the one that would save her mother.

Hilda Perez is a 91 year old dancer. She had been dancing since she was 10 years old and it was one of her favorite past times. She was devastated after finding out five years ago that she could no longer do the one thing she loved most. Year after year as she ached for her passion Hilda began losing her sight and hearing, life as she knew it was becoming less and less fulfilling. On a depression scale of 1 to 28, her doctor scored her at a 27, just one point below the worst. Hilda's life was hanging by a thread and Estrellita was desperate to find a solution.



Patty (now Abee) was saved at the last minute.

Peach Pit Patty was a 2 year old Bichon Frise on the euthanasia list because of a minor medical condition when we found her at the county shelter. Desperate for her life to be saved, Peach Pit Patty worked hard to win us over and her charm worked. She found herself riding shotgun for her freedom ride. Little did Peach Pit Patty know, she would save a life only one week after being rescued herself.

Hilda and Abee (as she is now known) are the best of friends. Abee waits patiently in her doggie bed every morning for Hilda to finish her blueberry cereal and give her the leftover milk. They play with toys, eat ice cream every day at 3pm and say their prayers every night before going to bed. Abee never leaves Hilda's side.

Both Hilda and Abee were close to losing their lives. But through fate, they were brought together to save one another. Without Abee, Hilda would still be just waiting to pass away but now she scores at a 1 instead of a 27. Without Hilda, Abee would not be here. Many times, saving lives goes both ways.



Abee needed minor surgery to correct her eye condition.

Dog and Cat Dentals now available! See page 5 for details

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## Letter from the Executive Director

My first two months serving as the new Executive Director of the Humane Society of Manatee County have been exhilarating and exciting. I have met many people over the past few months, and the passion to provide the best care for the animals is overwhelming. I am committed to the Humane Society of Manatee County's initiative to lead the collaboration of animal welfare groups, shelters and rescue groups in Manatee County.

The staff and volunteers at HSMC are incredibly dedicated and passionate as they work to serve and save the animals. The shelter continues to increase the number of adoptions each month and now average almost one hundred each month. In addition, our goal this year is to transfer in four hundred dogs from Manatee County Animal Services. We continue to work with dogs and cats that face medical and behavioral challenges while finding forever homes for all. Donations and support are always needed so please visit our website at [humanemanatee.org](http://humanemanatee.org) and donate today.

The Pet Health Center is also evolving into a full service veterinary service provider as we have added wellness visits as well as reasonably priced dog and cat dental services. We will continue to offer low cost spay /neuter and vaccines to those in our community who are facing financial challenges. The Pet Health Center offers high quality veterinary services and is open to all. Pet medications are available both at the clinic as well as online for our clients. Please make an appointment today and do not forget to ask to have your dog checked for heartworm, a very preventable disease.



With my thanks from the animals,

Rick Yocum



## Volunteer Spotlight



Maggie has a special bond with the animals.

Maggie has been a volunteer since September of 2015. She takes many of our adoptable dogs out to lunch, attends offsite events and assists us in office and with walking our dogs. She says that "being a volunteer has been an extremely positive experience. Taking part in such a worthwhile endeavor brings me a sense of peace" Maggie loves being around the animals but also enjoys being part of our team. Several years ago she rescued a sickly 5 week old puppy from Costa Rica and brought her back to the U.S. to live. This tiny puppy turned out to be an 80 lb. pitbull mix and was the love of her life. Maggie says: "Every good thing I do is in memory of her."



## Chico and His Little Man

When a vehicle and a Chihuahua meet the results can be catastrophic. Little Chico learned this lesson the hard way. Several people witnessed him being struck on one of the busiest roads in Manatee County. He lay in the middle of the road crying out in pain and in shock. Several Good Samaritans stopped to help, but had a very difficult time stopping traffic. Finally, they were able to wrap Chico in a t-shirt and quickly transported him to the Humane Society of Manatee County's Pet Health Center.

We examined him and provided a quiet place to stay until we could further evaluate his injuries. It was late Friday, so we transferred him to the Veterinary Emergency Center on Cortez Rd. in Bradenton, knowing there was no owner to pay for the services, but we knew he needed monitoring, x-rays and further diagnosis.

On Monday morning, Chico came back to our clinic. X-rays showed a bad fracture of his right front leg, noticeable bone fragments and a severely torn ligament in his back right leg. His back leg was so badly scraped; there was no skin to protect the tissue on his entire leg.



Chico waits for visits from his family.

After searching the neighborhood, and posting lost and found ads everywhere, the Good Samaritan eventually found Chico's owner, a 7 year old little boy whose mom is very limited on funds. When they came to check on Chico his broken body shook with excitement when he saw his little boy! They snuggled and cried together, causing tears to roll from our staff's eyes.

We reached out to a specialist to see if there was any hope for Chico's situation. With both legs on his right side badly injured, our fear was that he would need to be humanely euthanized. After the specialist assessed his condition, it was decided that this brave little dog would have a pin placed in his front leg and dressings prepared for his back leg. With cage rest and daily bandage changes, it is anticipated that he will have a full recovery.

His family faithfully comes to visit Chico each week as he slowly recovers and waits to be reunited with his little boy. Meanwhile, his surgical procedures and the ongoing care expenses continue to mount. Our Angel Fund will help with Chico's medical care and those of other pets whose families are economically challenged. With your support a little boy's world will be brighter and a little dog will have the care and love he deserves.



## WiFi Has Connections!



Vet Assistant Kennedy Wilson holds little WiFi after surgery.

They come to us bruised, battered, and broken. We have seen and smelled some of the strangest things! WiFi, a three month old kitten came to us from Manatee County Animal Services with a severely injured limb. It was bruised, swollen, non-weight bearing and infected. His only chance to pull through was with expert care and love from our dedicated medical team.

For the course of two weeks, WiFi was on multiple antibiotics and crate rest. He slowly began to open up and explore his kennel but still he wouldn't use his front left foreleg. We knew x-rays were needed in order to assess his diagnosis and treatment.

WiFi's outlook wasn't bad but it wasn't great. He would be saved, but his leg wouldn't. We thought in the grand scheme of things, losing a leg was better than a life. So, Medical Director, Dr. Julie Hollifield, performed the lifesaving surgery for WiFi and removed his leg.

WiFi has now greatly improved and is headed toward being healthy enough to be adopted. It will take him some time to get used to having one less leg than before, but, already he seems happier. We couldn't have saved his life without our generous donors!

## Paws Were Set in Motion—see it all on our Facebook Page

300 pet owners and their dogs came to Sutton Park in Palmetto on March 5th to wag, walk and raise money for homeless pets! After the 1 mile course they enjoyed the Doggie Fun Zone, lots of vendors, music and good food. More than \$30,000 was raised at this event!



Meet Klesko, 2017 Paws in Motion Spokesdog! This 10 yr. old lab and her mom, Elisabeth Cobb, raised more than \$4,500 for this honor.



HSMC Board Member, Gina Brulato and Mandy-Top Dog at the Doggie Fun Zone for the 3rd year!



Lots of walkers and dogs enjoyed the beautiful day at Sutton Park



1st Place Team  
Grenier Group of Wagner Realty



New vendor- Craving Donuts! They were a very popular attraction.



It was a long walk for this little guy.



Doggie Fun Zone is always a hit.



Some walk, some ride!

## Nancy's Nook is a Welcome Addition

Bill Thuma has been a friend to the Humane Society of Manatee County for more than 10 years, ever since he adopted Trey, a Boxer/American Staffordshire mix. The scholarship fund he created in memory of his late wife Nancy has allowed many adopters to attend Canine Good Citizen training with their newly adopted shelter dogs. For more information on the Nancy Liddell-Trey Chein Scholarship please contact the shelter at 941-747-8808 x 304.



A great place to meet your new dog

In 2016, driven by his passion for training bully breed shelter animals, Bill donated the funds necessary to construct "Nancy's Nook." This private room allows families to get to know their potential new family member in a calm cozy environment and a larger area provides training and enrichment activities indoors and out of the heat and rain. According to the ASPCA, "Shelter enrichment programs helps to reduce the stress and boredom of

kennel life. All shelter animals benefit from enrichment programs, but they can be especially valuable for bully breed dogs." The Humane Society of Manatee County is blessed and grateful for donors like Bill. The impact of his dedication and generosity will improve the lives of thousands of dogs and increase their chances of being adopted into a loving home quickly.



Our dogs are enjoying the indoor agility course with Sarah, Adoption Counselor.

There are many causes of bad breath in pets:



**Periodontal disease** — this is by far the most common reason for that stinky breath. Studies show that 80% of dogs and cats will have signs of periodontal disease after the age of 3 years! The bacteria associated with plaque buildup is usually the cause of the offensive odor. As it progresses without treatment, it can become very painful and lead to tooth loss and even damage to organs like the heart and kidneys!

**Teething** — sometimes bacteria collects at the gum line as puppies and kittens lose their baby teeth. This can cause stinky breath for a couple of months around the age of 2-5 months, especially if the baby teeth (called *deciduous teeth*) are not pushed out by the adult teeth coming in.

**Oral disease** — *Stomatitis* (a common feline condition) can cause painful inflammation of the gums; oral masses (benign and malignant tumors), and gingival hyperplasia (overgrowth of the gums) can all create an environment where bacteria proliferates.

**Metabolic disease** — sometimes there is underlying disease that allows the buildup of certain toxins in the bloodstream, causing a sour-smelling odor from the mouth. Kidney disease is the most well-known of these.

**Our Pet Health Center Can Help! We Now Offer Dentals for Dogs and Cats!**

Schedule an oral exam as soon as possible; we can evaluate the possible causes and develop a treatment plan customized for your pet. Call 941-747-8808 option 1 or email [clinic@humanesocietymanatee.org](mailto:clinic@humanesocietymanatee.org).

We have dental packages available for both dogs and cats that include pre-anesthetic examination and bloodwork, IV catheter/general anesthesia, and a dental cleaning that will remove the plaque and bacteria that can collect under the gum line.

There are a variety of chews and toys that can help prevent the recurrence of plaque buildup; brushing your pet's teeth can also ensure that the teeth are in good shape for years to come!



## Purchase Medication Online from HSMC!\*

Now available online:

**Dogs:** Activyl, Bravecto, Comfortis, Heartgard, NexGard, Revolution, TriHeart, Trifexis

**Cats:** Activyl, Comfortis, Revolution

Visit our online product website at: [shop.humanemanatee.org](http://shop.humanemanatee.org) for more information and to order your heartworm and flea prevention at discount prices today!

\* Your pet must be a patient of HSMC's clinic to order medications online . The clinic is open to the public and it's easy to make an appointment by calling 941-747-8808 option 1 or email: [clinic@humanesocietymanatee.org](mailto:clinic@humanesocietymanatee.org).





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## Upcoming Events

June 14– Manatee Chamber After Hours 5 pm to 7 pm—HSMC Pet Health Center

June 16– Bark in the Park 5:30 pm -McKechnie Field

June 18–Farmer’s Market 9 am to 2 pm -Old Main St.

June 19– Yappy Hour 1 pm to 4 pm—Motorworks

June 19– Adoption Event 11 am to 3 pm– PetSmart

July 16– Farmer’s Market 9 am to 2 pm—Old Main St.

July 17–Adoption Event 11 am to 3 pm—PetSmart

July 24– Bark in the Park tbd—McKechnie Field

Aug. 6—Christmas in August 8 am to 12 pm-McKechnie Field

Aug. 28– Bark in the Park tbd—McKechnie Field

Oct. 6– HSMC Ribbon Cutting 9 am– Pet Health Center

Nov. 11—Putting for Pets 11 am—Univ. Park CC

Jan. 26, 2017—Because Of You Donor Appreciation Luncheon 11:30 am to 1 pm—Renaissance on 9th

Mar. 4– Paws in Motion Walkathon 8 am to 1 pm- Sutton Park

April 8, 2017– Adult Easter Egg Hunt 4 pm to 6 pm - Motorworks

## Matching Grant Opportunity!

Thanks to the Ralph S. French Charitable Foundation Trust we have the ability to double our grant funding. Donations of any amount made through July 31st will be matched up to a total of \$55,000! This is an exciting opportunity to raise \$110,000 to help the dogs and cats at the shelter with medical care, food and housing as they wait for their new families. We are so grateful to be given this chance and hope you will consider making a special donation to help meet our goal.

**\*Please designate “matching donation” on your check or on the enclosed donation envelope if you wish it to be used in this campaign.**

