

September/October 2023

C.A.R.E is a No Kill Animal Shelter



# Critter Chronicles

C.A.R.E. in the  
Community

A **behind the scenes**  
look at the Shelter

Doctors **Corner**

Meet our Student  
**Volunteers**

AND MORE!!!

**COME ON OUT AND SEE OUR SWEET  
CATS AND DOGS UP FOR ADOPTION.**

[careshelter.org](http://careshelter.org)

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### Special Note:

*This is a Electronic Issue C.A.R.E. has produced. If you are viewing electronically check for links associated with buttons, ads, and stories throughout this publication.*

The Official Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort, Inc.  
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- Rula Urso

## ON THE COVER:



### ON THE COVER

Sanaya Sudderth, C.A.R.E. student Volunteer with Ivory, a puppy that came to C.A.R.E. earlier this year with her sister Ebony. (Ebony and Ivory were featured in our May/June edition of Critter Chronicles) Sanaya and her family adopted Ivory and now have three dogs. Sanaya is a senior in high school this year and has been volunteering with C.A.R.E. for a little over a year now. She enjoys helping with the dogs. Her love for animals is shown in her dedication at a young age to make a difference. She always greets you with a smile and gives all of the dogs lots of love and attention. In this edition we take a look at our Student Volunteers.



## CAREing thoughts



Rula Urso, Board Member, Kennel Volunteer, Critter Chronicles Editor, with former C.A.R.E. pup Jessie

This issue I want to introduce you to our newest board member, Rula Urso. Rula joined our board last September having moved here from Chicago with her husband Frank, three dogs, and one cat. Although she is employed full-time with Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, Rula has done volunteer work for several organizations, most recently with the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Her passion is helping animals, and Rula is certainly helping C.A.R.E. Here's what Rula has to say.

"I always had a passion to give more, no matter how daunting or time consuming, it was always seeing the smiles on people's faces that made it all worthwhile. No matter the event, Food drives for the Holidays, Susan G Komen drives for Breast Cancer or packing after-school meals for kids at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, I loved it! It was so rewarding to know I helped make a difference. I didn't care about the recognition, I cared about making someone's day better. When the opportunity came to help C.A.R.E. Animal Shelter, I literally bounced with excitement. I always wanted to volunteer at an animal shelter, but never got the chance to do so on a consistent basis. As a C.A.R.E. volunteer, I help out with the dogs each Saturday afternoon, spending time with them, playing catch outside in the yards, cleaning kennels and giving them love. My Board Member duties have been just as exciting, planning for the new building while also making sure our current shelter, employees and volunteers have what they need to be a successful operation. I recently took over Critter Chronicles as well. Getting to work on stories, taking photos and learning as I go along of what makes a great edition is a lot of hard work but equal parts fun and exciting. I am approaching one year with C.A.R.E., and time flies when you're having fun. For me this has been a dream come true!"

Consider volunteering and come have some fun with us.

By President Joann With

C.A.R.E.

# GIFT AND WINE FAIR

Sat. Dec. 2, 2023 10 AM to 2 PM

A Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.) Fundraiser

In the Southshore Falls Grand Ballroom 122 Falls Blvd. Apollo Beach

A Wine Tasting Adventure with unique gift vendors to help you complete your holiday or personal shopping:

Glass Art, Wood Crafts, Wine Accessories, Jewelry, Visual Art, Custom Charcuterie, Bath and Body Gifts, Raffles, Jams and Jellies, and a 50/50 Drawing



**Tickets available at the door for a \$10 Donation to benefit our animal rescue in Ruskin. Includes one Raffle Ticket.**

C.A.R.E. Animal Shelter, a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) Public Charity

## Community outreach

### 2023 C.A.R.E. Gift and Wine Fair

The C.A.R.E Gift and Wine fair is back for the 4th year. This years' event will be bigger and better than ever. Along with the invited gift vendors offering unique gifts for your holiday and personal shopping, PRP Wine is back to provide free wine tasting. We will have vendors that show exclusively at this event along with eight new vendors.

"This event has become known as the outstanding event in the holiday season to find unique gifts, enjoy the wine tasting, and have fun all for the benefit of our local shelter," according to Cheri Schumacher the event coordinator

"Along with 50/50, we are grateful to the many local and regional businesses donating to the event's raffle and auction." said Sue Oland, event co-coordinator.

Be sure to mark your calendar to attend on December 2nd 10:00-2:00 at the Southshore Falls ballroom in Apollo Beach.

You can learn more About C.A.R.E. by visiting the website at [careshelter.org](http://careshelter.org) and follow us on Facebook - Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort.

## Meet our Student VOLUNTEERS

C.A.R.E. was recently in The Observer News, featuring our student volunteers. This past July C.A.R.E. had 14 Student volunteers. Student volunteers are unique in that they bring a new perspective, but they also gain a lot of skills and experience that will last them a lifetime. We have three students that I would like for you to meet. Sanaya , Mimi and Travis. Sanaya is our Saturday dogs volunteer, she has been with C.A.R.E. for over a year now. Sanaya helps with taking care of the dogs. That involves spending time outdoors , playing catch, cleaning up and making sure all dogs are attended to. Her love for the dogs shows in everything Sanaya does , from taking extra care of our sick dogs to falling in love with one of them so much that she adopted one of the C.A.R.E. puppies Ivory. Her dedication also flowed to her School where she recruited her friend Mimi. Mimi volunteers Saturday afternoons with Cats. Mimi is in love with all things cats. I spent this past Saturday with Mimi and Sanaya and asked them what did they learn from volunteering at C.A.R.E. and both leaped up with excitement and said Time Management! I didn't think that would be an exciting thing, so I asked what's so exciting about that? They both smiled and said because they look forward to spending time with the dogs and cats so much , they make sure they are always on time. That small change led to bigger changes such as being on time for school projects and showing up on time and feeling a great sense of accomplishment. They also said learning to help around the shelter has given them a new perspective with helping at home and helping colleagues at school. Mimi went on to say she never knew how much it takes to run a shelter, its not just about seeing the cute kittens, but knowing what they need to be healthy and happy. She appreciates the work it takes to run a shelter and understands there is a lot of work involved but its rewarding seeing the happy and healthy cats and dogs.

Travis is our Sunday morning student volunteer, he helps out with the dogs. We asked Travis what's the best part about being a volunteer at C.A.R.E.? "Helping them (dogs) out really brightens up my day. Running around seeing the dogs happy makes my day so much better" he also added by volunteering at C.A.R.E. "knowing I am helping to get them in a new loving home , makes me want to come here every single day!". Thank you to Travis, Sanya and Mimi for all that you do and to all of our student volunteers. With the skills and experience you gain from volunteering at C.A.R.E. you are shaping a better future for all of us.

You can check out The Observer News story at this link, <https://www.observernews.net/2023/08/10/teens-love-of-animals-guides-her-life-choices/>



Travis taking care of Ollie a new rescue that arrived two weeks ago. Ollie was severely underweight when he arrived at C.A.R.E.



Sanaya holding Ivory. Ivory now weighs over 40 lbs!



Sanaya and Mimi at the Cattery lanai area.

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# Prrrrrrr-fect for a family

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10 AM to 3 PM • Tuesday - Saturday



## ▲ Guinness and Rheingold

Our sweet boys, Guinness and Rheingold, are still up for adoption. Born September 2022, they are sweet, playful and smart! They are both neutered and up to date on all vaccines. They are good with other cats as well and very sociable.

## Rocky ▶

Come on in and meet Rocky!

He was brought in alone as a kitten, he was born in November 2022.

He is shy at first, but with patience and kindness, he does warm up and is very sweet. He is very friendly with the other kitties at the shelter.

He has been neutered and is ready for his forever family.





## Betty Boop and her Kittens ▲

Beautiful Betty Boop and her two sweet kittens; Socks and Suzie Q are ready for adoption.

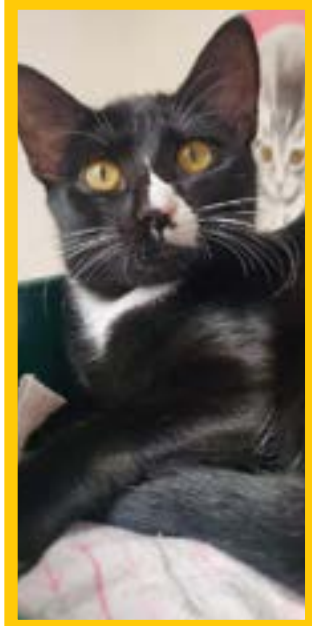
This trio was brought in as strays. Betty is a young, very quiet, sweet Calico. She has what appears to be a leg deformity to her back leg. She walks with a limp but does get around easily, it would probably be best for her to have a quiet, one story home. She has been spayed and microchipped and is ready for her forever home.

Her two kittens; a female Calico (Suzie Q) a male Black and white coat (Socks) are around 7 months old. They have been neutered/spayed, microchipped and vaccinated. They are both very sweet. They are shy, but they warm up quickly.

### ▼ Suzi Q



### ▼ Socks



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## Community outreach

### A BIG Thank you

Our Outreach Committee represented C.A.R.E. at the Cool Summer Market & Expo on July 28th at Kingspoint. We were able to share the mission of C.A.R.E, meet guests, Kittie Corral rescue, and recent C.A.R.E. adoptor for Archie the one eyed dog. A fun day for all!



Outreach Committee Members Robin & Kris



Outreach Committee Members Gayle & Pam

### Board and Brush Apollo Beach Supports C.A.R.E.

In November of 2022 Kevin and Julie Boyd opened the Board and Brush design studio in Apollo Beach. This is a fun and creative space for individuals, families and organizations. There are literally hundreds of project options offered. And new designs are introduced monthly and seasonally. So lots of reason to go back!



Kevin and Julie, as a local business, want to support local efforts and they stepped up to help C.A.R.E. Immediately they donated to the 2022 December C.A.R.E. Gift and Wine event and offered a workshop that will support and donate to C.A.R.E. "The event was a success, selling out," commented Cheri Schumacher, C.A.R.E. Outreach Coordinator. " This is truly a way that local business and local 501c organizations coordinate to support each other. Kevin and Julie are great partners and we hope we can do this again!" WorWorkshops



include an instructor to help guide you through making your personalized wood project. All materials and paint, and stencils are provided. And you can make it a fun event with friends and family enjoying the complimentary wine and beer during your workshop.

C.A.R.E. is a local animal shelter located in Ruskin. Visit their website at [careshelter.org](http://careshelter.org) and follow them on Facebook Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort.



## Butterfly Memorial Garden

Volunteer Cindee Riek noticed our butterfly garden was looking very sad. She decided to start the renewal by clearing out the debris.



Member Lauren LaCost wanted to help too and went to Home Depot to get (and donate \$260+) the materials which included 20 bags of mulch.



Meeting with Kris Hart they picked up from Cindee's effort to finish the garden with the new materials.



The cats will enjoy the new look. It is beautiful.

## Animal Holidays

### SEPTEMBER - MONTH LONG OBSERVATIONS:

- National Pet Insurance Month
- National Guide/Service Dog Month
- National Pet Memorial Month
- Responsible Dog Ownership Month
- Animal Pain Awareness Month
- Sept. 4: National Wildlife Day
- Sept. 8: National Dog Walker Appreciation Day
- Sept. 11: National Pet Memorial Day
- Sept. 11: National Hug Your Hound Day
- Sept. 17: National Pet Bird Day
- Sept. 17: Puppy Mill Awareness Day
- Sept. 17: Responsible Dog Ownership Day
- Sept. 19: National Meow Like a Pirate Day
- Sept. 23: National Dogs in Politics Day

### OCTOBER MONTH LONG OBSERVATIONS:

- Adopt A Shelter Dog Month
- Adopt A Dog Month
- National Pet Wellness Month
- National Animal Safety and Protection Month
- National Pit Bull Awareness Month
- Oct. 1-7: National Walk Your Dog Week
- Oct. 1: National Fire Pup Day
- Oct. 1: National Black Dog Day
- Oct. 4: World Animal Day
- Oct. 12: National Pet Obesity Awareness Day
- Oct. 15: National Fetch Day
- Oct. 16: Global Cat Day
- Oct. 16: National Feral Cat Day
- Oct. 21: National Pets for Veterans Day
- Oct. 22: Make a Dog's Day
- Oct. 27: National Black Cat Day
- Oct. 29: National Cat Day



## A behind the scenes look at the Shelter

You might wonder what happens behind the scenes at C.A.R.E. and what are donation funds used for. Well in this edition we take a deeper dive into the operations of C.A.R.E. and the wonderful people that make it all happen.

When a cat or dog is brought into C.A.R.E. they are first evaluated by our Animal Care Manager Gloria. Gloria has been with C.A.R.E. for over 20 years and has seen it all. She could tell you some sad stories of animal abuse and neglect. What's amazing about Gloria is no matter the condition that poor animal is in, she always has hope for them. A thorough review of the animal's skin, eyes, ears, paws, coat and teeth is done along with a fecal sample to see if the animal has any parasites. Gloria's initial assessment determines what precautions are needed so that these parasites are not spread to our healthy animals. Unfortunately, most animals come in with a host of fleas and/or ticks. Immediate medication is given upon intake to



Mom and her four kittens born at C.A.R.E. Friday 08/11.

remove the pests and prevent further spread. She will contact the C.A.R.E. veterinarian team if immediate medical attention is needed. Every stray animal is placed in quarantine for at least 10 days in order to run additional testing for viruses. During this time they receive care from Gloria and volunteers. Volunteers are given up to date information on our animals at every shift. When known, Gloria provides details about each animal's situation, what brought them to C.A.R.E. and any special medical notes they need to be aware of. Tests pertinent to the animal, vaccines, and a veterinarian checkup is done followed by spaying and neutering if needed. C.A.R.E. works with Boyette Animal Hospital for all veterinarian needs. Dr. Bob Encinosa and his team have been providing veterinary services to C.A.R.E. for many years. You can learn more about Boyette Animal Hospital by visiting their website [boyetteanimalhospital.com](http://boyetteanimalhospital.com)

Once an animal is cleared by the vet, they are ready for adoption. Photos are taken and put on our C.A.R.E. website and on our Facebook page, they are socialized on a daily basis with volunteers. The dogs get to play outside and a volunteer is with them at all times. The cats have a large indoor room filled with ramps, toys and cubby holes that they can play in as well as an outdoor lanai that faces trees and a bird bath for their favorite past time, bird watching!



This is Ollie he arrived at C.A.R.E. August 16th . He was found on the side of a highway as a stray. He is severely underweight.

Thanks to the generosity of several people, C.A.R.E. receives both financial donations and donations via our Amazon Wish list. Both forms of donations help C.A.R.E. to cover medical expenses, food, bedding, basic supplies such as dish soap, detergent and paper towels. As you can imagine with lots of cats and dogs comes lots of cleaning. A clean environment is top priority at C.A.R.E. All bedding, towels and blankets are washed daily, floors are mopped daily and litter boxes are cleaned daily as well. On average our animals are cared for by 12 volunteers and 3 employees on a weekly basis. That's a lot of CARE! Which brings us to another important person on the C.A.R.E. team and that's Karen, our office manager. Karen tackles all things office related, such as paying bills, organized volunteer hours and making sure each morning and evening shift has the necessary amount of volunteers for both our cats and dogs. Karen reviews volunteer applications and works closely with new volunteers to make sure they are setup for success.

The chart below breaks down where funds are used. Administration and staff expenses cover such items as payroll, office supplies, internet, phone and credit card fees. Facility maintenance includes repair of the building, ground maintenance, electric and garbage collection and finally animal care covers medical supplies, food, and veterinary services.

It takes a great team of dedicated staff and volunteers to run the shelter. At C.A.R.E. we are very fortunate to have these amazing people. A thank you also to all of our members, its thanks to you that we can make a difference in these animals lives.

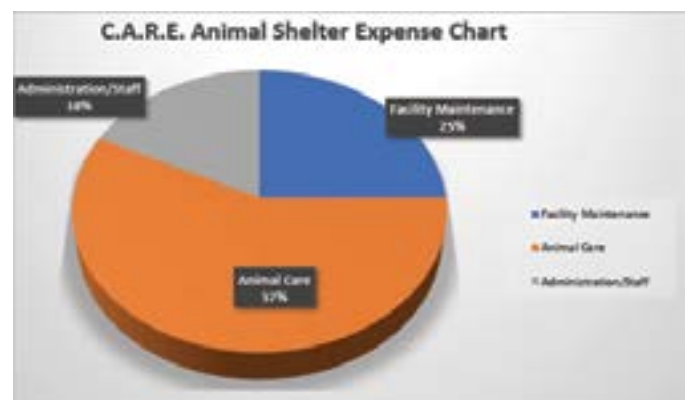


Chart figures are based on June 2023 Profit & Loss.

# Looking for a **dog-gone** home

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

10 AM to 3 PM • Tuesday - Saturday



## ▲ Tango

Tango is available for adoption again. Come out to C.A.R.E. and meet this super sweet puppy. He is a fantastic dog who loves everyone and will make a great family member. At about 10 months old he is still a puppy and while he knows basic commands he has all the typical puppy antics.

His recent adoption wasn't the perfect match as his puppy antics were a bit overwhelming for the toddler. He got along well with the family and they loved him but had to make the heartbreaking decision that he wasn't right for them. We are asking that if a potential family has children that they be no younger than 10 years old as Tango is a large active and playful puppy.

## ▲ We are on a mission to find a home for our sweet Annie.

Annie has been with C.A.R.E. for a little over a year now. While one would assume there is something "wrong" with her that she is not adoptable that is not the case. Annie just needs the right home. So, we are spreading the word in Critter Chronicles hopeful that our members will help us find the right home for Annie.

This sweet girl is about 3 years old and spayed. She is active, loves to play, run and hang out with the volunteers.

She needs a home with a fenced in yard and to be a single dog, having all the attention of her fur parents. She is good

with kids as long as they are not too young (around 10 or older) she likes to be active so an active family that gets out in the yard and plays is perfect. Annie also likes to protect those she cares about; she will react to a car or truck approaching and we think that is because she is protecting her turf. On the grooming front Annie is a breeze. A bath, nail trim and brushing every other month will do.

Please help us find a good home for our sweet girl.

# Is The U.S.'s Most Popular Dog Breed the Right Fit for Your Family?

By Nancy Moser, DVM

The U.S. has decided and the French Bulldog is now our favorite dog breed! When deciding what type of dog would be a good fit for your family, it is important to consider your lifestyle, activity / fitness level, and most importantly, veterinary care and medical needs of your dog.

While Frenchies are very cute with fun personalities, they are predisposed to a few medical conditions that require more maintenance than the average dog. A part of a Frenchie's appeal is their cute baby-like "smushed" faces; this "smushed" face is a part of a medical condition called Brachycephalic Syndrome. This condition includes having a smaller narrowed windpipe, smaller nostril openings, and having extra soft tissue in the back of their throat; Most Frenchies have at least one or a combination of these issues, which makes it more difficult for them to breathe. When these dogs get excited, stressed out, or go outside on a warm day, they have a higher chance of developing respiratory distress, which is a potentially fatal emergency. Fortunately for dog owners, most of these issues can be surgically corrected to help Frenchie's breathe more normally. These surgeries involve widening the nostril openings and removing the excess

tissue in the back of the throat. Your veterinarian will be able to assess your Frenchie's specific needs and let you know if they would recommend any of these procedures

Other medical issues French Bulldogs are prone to include skin and ear infections, skin allergies, intervertebral disc disease, and dental

disease. There is no way to predict which of these conditions a Frenchie will develop. All of these conditions are very treatable but can be costly to prevent or maintain. Pet insurance has come a long way and can help with routine and unexpected costs.

If you are interested in adding a French Bulldog to your family, ensure you do your research on their needs; this can include having a conversation with your veterinarian to set expectations and ask more specific questions about this breed.



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## ◀ Kevin

This is Kevin. He is a super sweet, 8 month old beagle puppy looking for a home. This boy is beyond cute. He is a friendly boy who loves attention and seems to like other dogs.

Beagles are great family dogs and companions. They are Hounds so adopters need to be prepared for lots of sniffing, baying and exploring. A fenced yard is a great idea with this breed as they follow their nose and trail scents.

Kevin was with a family before coming to CARE and has spent a few days in a foster home so we have an idea of how he is in a house and around other animals.

## C.A.R.E. Business Partners

C.A.R.E. is grateful to the many Business Partners that support our mission. Annual Business Partner donations help us to continue to provide food, shelter, and medical care for the cats and dogs we take into our shelter each year. As a Business Partner your name will be promoted in the community as a supporter of local animal welfare.

If you are interested in becoming a C.A.R.E. Business Partner, you can contact the shelter at 813-645-2273 or our Outreach Coordinator at [cherischumacher2@gmail.com](mailto:cherischumacher2@gmail.com)

Let's work together to promote your business and further the mission to reduce the number of homeless and unwanted cats and dogs in the Southshore area.



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### A BUSINESS PARTNER GETS THE FOLLOWING:

- Use of the C.A.R.E. Business Partnership Logo on marketing materials
- Digital Partner Certificate and Window Cling
- Business Partner company logo on C.A.R.E. website
- Business Partner Name listed in C.A.R.E.'s Critter Chronicles
- Business Partner Hyperlink on C.A.R.E. website for one year
- Subscription to C.A.R.E.'s Email Newsletter and invitation to fundraisers

### CONTACT

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**(813)645-2273**

**BECOME A PART OF SOMETHING BIG**

# be a part of something big

## become a member of C.A.R.E.



### Why you should consider becoming a Sustaining Member

Many of you may already be regular or premium members of C.A.R.E. and we appreciate all of you. To those of you reading this who are not members, why should you consider it? The prime reason is that membership fees help us to pay our overhead bills. So when we receive your renewal fees, that is a good month for us. But that is only once annually.

### What I would like you to consider is becoming a Sustaining Member. What does that mean?

A Sustaining Membership means that you are committing to donate a set dollar amount every month. We have the ability to set this up automatically for you so that your account or card will be debited for the same amount on a specific day of each month. The benefit for you is that you "set it and forget it" and may actually be able to give more by splitting up the payments. The benefit to C.A.R.E. is that we know we can count on that regularly donation every single month to pay electric bills, telephone bills etc.

No amount is too small and no amount is too big. Become a part of something bigger and make that commitment now. **Call 645-2273 for assistance.**

### Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort , Inc. Membership

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[Donate online](#)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** The annual membership period is January 1st through December 31st of each calendar year. For any membership initiated during the fourth quarter (October 1 - December 31) the new member receives their membership that quarter for free.

C.A.R.E. is a 501(c)(3) organization (59-3678003) registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Registration No. CH-14526. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800)435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

## we want to hear from you

**D**o you have a story or an article you would like to see in our magazine? We are always on the lookout for the community to participate on what we do here at C.A.R.E.

### PLEASE EMAIL

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Please put **Critter Chronicles** in the subject line with your Ideas and substitutions.

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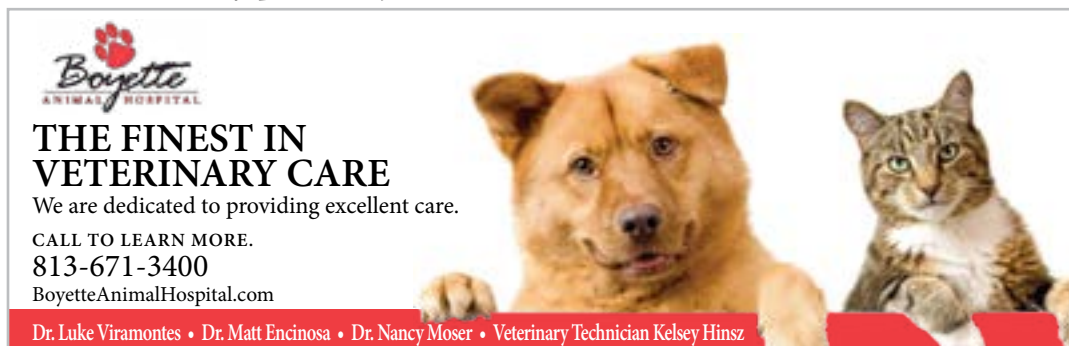
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## advertising opportunities

**C.A.R.E.** is a non-profit no-kill animal shelter. We rely heavily upon the financial assistance of concerned citizens and socially responsible businesses to reach our goals. To help support our activities, we offer advertising opportunities on our website and in our monthly Critter Chronicles newsletter.

Critter Chronicle Newsletter Ad Rates	
Full Color	Price
1/6 Page Vertical 1/6 Page Horizontal Short 1/6 Page Horizontal Long	\$75 per edition
1/3 Page Horizontal	\$150 per edition
2/3 Page Horizontal	\$300 per edition
1/4 Page Vertical Ad	\$125 per edition
1/2 Page Vertical Ad 1/2 Page Horizontal Ad	\$250 per edition
Full Page Ad No Bleed	\$400 per edition
Full Page Ad	\$400 per edition
Additional Value	
Advertising creation	\$40
Inside front cover placement	Additional \$25
Inside front cover placement	Additional \$50

Anyone interested in placing an ad in the Critter Chronicles should contact **Urso.Rula@gmail.com**.

Electronic files should be at least 300 dpi and in .jpg or .pdf file format. (no Microsoft Publisher).

Dedicated volunteers are always needed at C.A.R.E.

**PLEASE EMAIL**  
volunteercare@aol.com  
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C.A.R.E.



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# OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10 AM to 3 PM  
Tuesday - Saturday

VOLUNTEER

C.A.R.E. has a two acre shelter located in Ruskin and is a mostly volunteer effort. We rely on the generosity of public donations to continue our work. We are unique in the shelter-ing world as our animals do not spend their time living in cages. Dogs are outside during the day and cats live in three open bays. We encourage visits and offer tours to local groups.

THE OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CRITTER ADOPTION & RESCUE EFFORT, INC.

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