

March/April 2023

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



Critter

Chronicles

C.A.R.E. in the
Community

.....

Doctors
Corner

.....

A Volunteer
Love Story

.....

AND MORE!!!

Come on out and see
TELICA

careshelter.org

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Michelle Morin

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.
1528 27th Street S.W., Ruskin, Florida 33570 • (813) 645 -2273 • careshelter.org

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CAREing thoughts



President Joann With

While the months after the holidays may slow down for some, not so for C.A.R.E. who began the new year with numerous events and accomplishments. A Benefit Dance Show for C.A.R.E. was held at the Kings Point Veterans Theater in January. Nine clubs from Sun City Center and Kings Point performed before 335 guests and raised \$3,350 to benefit the shelter along with much needed supplies. C.A.R.E. was a featured guest of Bethel Farms at the International Tropical Plant Show at the Tampa Convention Center. C.A.R.E. dog, Minnie, greeted visitors and enthusiastically demonstrated how to use their "Gotta Go Grass" product. She was quite the star, giving kisses and stealing hearts.

We replaced our aging storage shed to continue to provide dog and cat food to area residents in need. Kimmons Construction demolished and removed the old shed at no cost to C.A.R.E. Brandon Sheds discounted the cost of the shed, and Crossroad ... discounted the cost of the concrete step. Given that this was an unanticipated expense, we are seeking grant funds to defray these costs.

The C.A.R.E. Board of Directors voted to approve a contract with Dykes-Johnson for architectural and structural engineering drawings for the new building. Dykes-Johnson has experience with veterinary facilities and came highly recommended by Dr. Bob Espinosa and others. Our major effort moving forward is refining the cost of the project and securing needed funding.

By President Joann With

ON THE COVER

Telica, This sweet young female was brought in as a stray. She has been named Telica. She has a quiet temperament and is very sweet.

She has been spayed and is up to date on her vaccines. She is young in age.

Come on in and meet this sweet kitty



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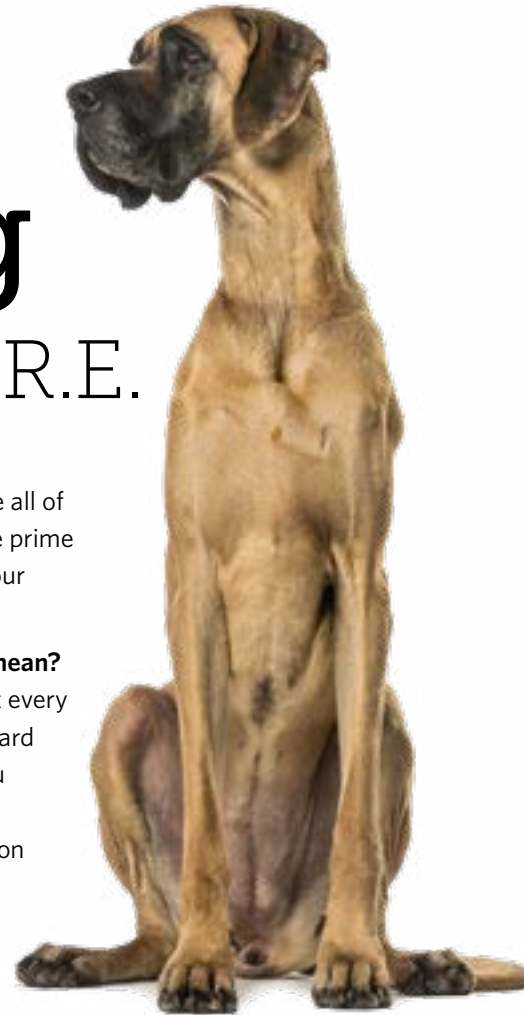
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BECOME A PART OF
SOMETHING BIG

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

Name:		Date:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
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Automatic Recurring Monthly Donation of \$ _____ (Credit Card Only)

\$35 - Basic Annual Membership (Includes car magnet)

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Please check shirt size: S M L XL XXL

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[Sign up online](#)

[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.



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Pads4Paws

Over the years, we have enjoyed helping hundreds of people buy and sell their homes- from Tampa south to Bradenton, north to Dade City, east to the Gulf, and west to Plant City. The rewards we get from helping people find the home they love drives us forward each and every day.

"Finding a Home" has a different meaning when it comes to shelter animals. Home is a warm bed, a regular meal, a roof for protection from a raging storm or a cold, dark night. A home means love and life to our furry friends.

The Home Solutions Team has always praised local shelters, foster homes and rescues for the great work they do, but often wondered, 'couldn't we do more?'

And now we know: Yes, we can!

Pads4Paws, a program we have developed, is our way of giving back to these amazing rescues and shelters so they can continue their good work. We aren't the only company who supports worthy causes, - but we feel this is a unique way to make each of our real estate transactions matter to a sponsored animal and their benefactors.

Pads4Paws.org will generously support local animal shelters, rescues, and foster homes in their efforts to fund programs for animals. The Pads4Paws program provides a plan where our team contributes a pre-determined dollar amount from each of our sales toward these organizations' ongoing rescue and rehabilitation efforts. By choosing to list their properties or purchase a property with our team, our clients become an integral supporter of these shelter animals as well.

Prrrrrrr-fect for a family

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10 AM to 3 PM • Tuesday - Saturday



▲ Daisy

Meet Daisy! She came in as a stray a couple months ago with her two kittens, Espresso and Brewer, who have since been adopted. Daisy is very friendly and enjoys spending time sitting outside on the lanai and getting love from our volunteers. Stop by and meet this adorable mama.



▼ Dusty & Shadow

Dusty and Shadow are very sweet and very social. They are a bonded pair so they would like to be adopted to a home where they can stay together.

Dusty, who has the darker coat, was born in October 2019. Shadow, who was born in July 2020, has a golden grey coat.

They are both neutered, current on all vaccinations and ready for adoption. They are food with other cats and have been in a home with dogs.





▲ Guinness

Guinness is a young kitten with mostly white fur. He gets along great with the other kittens in the kitten room, but you can usually find him with his brother, Rheingold. Guinness is a playful kitten that loves affection. Help us find a great home for this cute kitten!

▲ Rheingold

Rheingold is a mostly black kitten with white patterns on his fur. He enjoys playing with everyone in the kitten room and getting lots of attention from our volunteers. Rheingold came in with 4 other siblings a couple months ago, but him and Guinness are the last 2 at the shelter. Come by and give this sweet kitten a great furever home.



Community outreach



A Benefit Dance Show

A Benefit Dance Show for C.A.R.E. was held at the Kings Point Veterans Theater in January. Nine clubs from Sun City Center and Kings Point performed before 335 guests and raised \$3,350 to benefit the shelter along with much needed supplies.



left to right: Susan Roberts, Shonnee Conery, Joanne Kerr, Susie Keltz, Michelle Maloney, Julie Chappel.



Outreach Committee

Our committee continues to represent C.A.R.E. at various events and locations. You will find us every 3rd Saturday morning at the Pet Supermarket in Ruskin/Sun City sharing information. Come and join us on Sunday afternoon March 12 at Salty Shamrock for St Puppies Day.

We are grateful to local businesses and our Business Partners who have an interest in animal welfare and support our mission.

Each of these events is staffed with C.A.R.E. volunteers. If you would like to join our Committee contact Cheri Schumacher at cherischumacher2@gmail.com

You can also find her on Wednesday with the dogs at C.A.R.E. She previously spent over 12 years as a shelter volunteer in Dallas. After moving to Apollo Beach ten years ago, volunteering at C.A.R.E. finds her happy to see dogs find their new families. This is Cheri and her 2020 adoption from C.A.R.E. Honey Bunny.



International Tropical Plant Show

C.A.R.E. was a featured guest of Bethel Farms at the International Tropical Plant Show at the Tampa Convention Center. C.A.R.E. dog, Minnie, greeted visitors and enthusiastically demonstrated how to use their "Gotta Go Grass" product. She was quite the star, giving kisses and stealing hearts.



March is Pet Poison Prevention Month

March is National Pet Poison Prevention Month and it's always a good time as pet owners to educate ourselves on the dangers of accidental pet poisonings and most importantly, how to prevent them.

Project PAWS relies heavily on the guidance from The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and would like to take this opportunity to review some of the most common household threats to your pet.

Toxicologists at the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center examine its data and release the Top 10 categories of toxins that pets come into contact with.

You can learn more at

<https://projectpaws.org/march-is-pet-poison-prevention-month/>

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10 AM to 3 PM • Tuesday - Saturday



▲ Mickey & Minnie ►

Mickey has the white chest. Minnie is all brown. They came to us as a bonded pair and we would love to adopt them out together. Mickey is around 11 pounds and most likely around one year old.

They are both really friendly, social and enjoy having company at the shelter welcoming other with their cute little tails a waggin'.

They are fully vaccinated and up to date, spayed and nurtured. Ready to be adopted!

Minnie is around 16 pounds and most likely around 3 years old. She may or may not be the mom to Mickey...



MILITARY OWNED

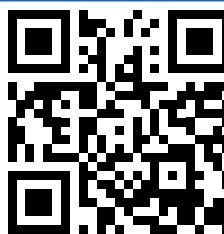
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▲ Josephine

She is a sweet, gentle lady. We think she is about 13 years old. She likes to walk on a leash and still has a lot of energy to walk with us. She has a few medical needs that we are helping her with but is heartworm negative.

She loves to cuddle up in her bed and enjoys being held. She is very low maintenance and easy to handle. She is currently enjoying time in our office where she gets a lot of love and attention.

Annie ▲

This is Annie. She loves to play ball, Frisbee and a good roll in the grass. She is the perfect companion for an active person. Annie is very smart and would love to be with someone who will take her to explore the world around her. She is an active girl who wants to be queen of the house and should be the only dog in the home.

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Symptoms of hearing loss may differ for each person with a hearing impairment. No single type of hearing instrument is appropriate for everyone with a hearing loss, which is why we treat each person with a hearing impairment with special attention.

We look forward to seeing you.

Don't Let Your Dog's Life Slip Away

By Bob Encinosa

The joints of dogs, particularly the hips and shoulders, are designed to move primarily forwards and backwards. They have very limited side to side range of motion, that is, they don't do "splits" well, even when they are young. But that is exactly what often happens as they age. Because of the weakening of their muscles and arthritic joints, they have a more difficult time rising and are more likely to fall and land in awkward positions that can cause injuries to already sensitive joints. The trend away from carpeted flooring has made this problem worse.



So here are a few tips to make life easier for these senior pets.

1. Place runners with good bottom traction along the pathways that pets frequent. It's also important for them to have good traction surfaces in the areas where they rest and sleep. The easier it is for them to get up, the more often they will.
2. Put up barriers to keep them from climbing interior stairs or buy non-skid tread mats to place on slippery stairs.
3. Make sure that exterior hard surfaces like brick and wood are kept algae and mold free. This is especially necessary on the northern, shaded side of many homes. These areas can become very slippery after rains.
4. Purchase dog boots or socks that provide good traction on the bottom. These are primarily for indoor wear. They can stay on for short jaunts in the yard but take them off for longer leash walks so they don't get tender feet over the long term.
5. Talk with your veterinarian about prescription pain medications when arthritis becomes an issue.

Taking some or all of these measures will not only help keep your senior pet from injuring themselves but may also help slow down the aging process in a way. The more comfortable we make it for our pets to get up and down, the more likely they are to get up and stay active and keep those joints healthy and those muscles strong.

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What Does It Mean When A Dog Wags His Tail?

Whether your dog has a sweeping side-to-side tail wag or a high-speed wiggle butt, it always makes you feel good, right? But does it mean he's happy?

A dog's tail can tell you a lot about how he's feeling. While a person uses facial expressions to convey her emotions, a dog primarily uses his tail and other body language.

That's where the age-old question comes in: What does it mean when a dog wags his tail?

"This is a great question because many people think that dogs who wag their tails are happy, but that's not always the case," says Lauren Novack, ABDDBC, KPA-CTP, FPPE, and behavior consultant at Behavior Vets in New York City. "A tail's position and movement are only a part of the whole picture. If a dog's whole body is a sentence, their tail is one word in that sentence," she explains.

HOW TO DECIPHER WHAT IT MEANS WHEN A DOG WAGS THEIR TAIL

When attempting to interpret the wag, there are three main things to look at:

1. **BODY STIFFNESS**
2. **TAIL POSITION**
3. **TAIL MOVEMENT**

First, notice if the dog's body is stiff. If it is, this likely means he is anxious and not inviting interaction, so keep your distance. A relaxed body is more likely to indicate your dog is open to interacting. Next is the tail position. A neutral, relaxed tail typically lies flat, somewhere between a tucked tail and a tail that's held high. Knowing where your pup's tail naturally sits when he's relaxed can help you understand his communication when he's happy—or upset.

Lastly, look at the tail movement and speed. The speed at which a dog wags his tail indicates the level of arousal, which can mean stress or eustress (a positive form of stress). In other words, the faster the tail wag, the more emotion he's trying to convey. A slower wag may indicate anxiety and insecurity while a high-speed tail could mean excitement or extreme fear.

To make matters more complicated, Novack adds that not all tails look the same, so "tucked" and "raised" may not look the exact same on two different dogs. Things may look a little different on dogs with naturally curled or kinked tails. Pay attention to your dog's tail during different moods so you know what's normal for him. Luckily, the tail movements and other body language clues are generally universal for all dogs.

HERE'S HOW TO TELL THE MEANING BEHIND YOUR DOG'S WAGGING TAIL:

HAPPY WAGGING

"If the tail is in line with the dog's spine and parallel to the floor, they are most likely relaxed," Novack says. A relaxed pup's tail may not have much wag to it, but it won't be stiff or straight out.

When your dog feels happy, he'll typically wag his tail in a wide, sweeping motion at a neutral or slightly upright position. Your dog's tail doesn't need to be moving fast to show a positive emotion; dogs who are feeling happy will wag their tails at a moderate speed.

For good measure, watch these happy tails in action!

One tail wag that means your dog is happy is the helicopter tail. If your pup's tail is moving round and round super fast (probably alongside some adorable butt wiggles and a dopey smile), you can be certain she's feeling good.

FEARFUL WAGGING

Sometimes a dog may wag his tail in between his legs, but just because his tail is moving doesn't mean he's happy. "When a dog's tail is tucked towards the belly, the dog is fearful," Novack says. This behavior may also be paired with a crouched body, flattened ears, and avoidant eye contact. If a tucked tail means a dog is fearful, then a high tail must mean he's happy, right? Not exactly.

"If the tail is held high, they are in a state of arousal that can indicate fear, anxiety, or potential aggression," Novack says. Alongside a high-held tail, a stiff body, flattened ears, staring, and growling are tell-tale signs of an upset and aggressive dog. While their tail doesn't need to be wagging to show their discontent, it's still important to notice; the faster their tail wags, the more upset they are. If a dog is showing signs of fear, it's best to let them calm down alone as they may bite if they're approached.

CURIOUS TAILS

If your pup runs into a new smell, noise, or object and isn't quite sure how to feel, his tail may be a sign of canine curiosity. A dog's curious tail will be held straight behind him and may have a slight wag, but it's more likely to be held still. Check out how this dog's tail moves straight out as she becomes inquisitive, then straight up once upset:

Typically, a curious dog will be alert—but not completely stiff. Perked up ears, sniffing, or barking are also signs of an investigative pooch.

a **VOLUNTEER** *love story*



We are very pleased to have our new Community Food Shed in place!

We have a very dedicated team of caring office volunteers who distribute food and pet supplies to those in our community who need a little help to care for their pets.

Our office volunteers open the shed to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-1. They do this every week, never deterred by heat or rain. We could not provide this service without them.

We are able to provide this service because of the thoughtfulness, and generosity, of those pet owners and donors who, for one reason or another, bring us pet supplies that they can no longer use.

Please consider coming to our shelter to learn of our volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer hours are usually a two-hour shift once a week but times are very flexible.

We are here Tues-Sat; 10-3.



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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.

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Full Color	Price
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Anyone interested in placing an ad in the Critter Chronicles should contact **Care @ (813) 645-2273**.

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.

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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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