

March/April 2024

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



Critter Chronicles

C.A.R.E in the Community
.....

Doctors Corner
.....

John and June Caspersen
a Wish Come True
.....

Volunteers Corner
.....

AND MORE!!!

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

careshelter.org

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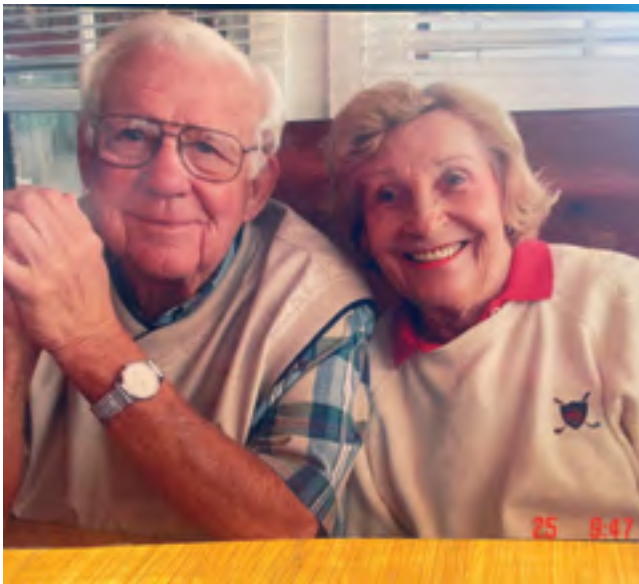
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Special Note:

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

ON THE COVER:



ON THE COVER

John and June Caspersen. They always had a love for dogs. They have passed, but their dog Tootsie is still alive and is taken care of by John's golf friend.

CAREing thoughts

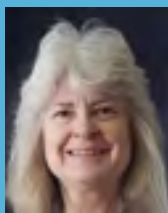


President Joann With

Imagine that you are at an event with numerous animal societies and rescue groups in attendance. Stopping at C.A.R.E.'s exhibit, you hear about our facility, our wonderful animals, and opportunities within the organization. Then you ask, "What makes C.A.R.E. different from all these other groups?" You are told that we're not a rescue group but one of several no-kill shelters in Hillsborough County, and the only shelter that serves the Southshore area. You learn that our cats are not kept in cages but are free roaming in one of three condos with adjacent lanais; and that our dogs are outside during the day where they get plenty of fresh air, exercise and play time. You are told that our animals are vet checked and treated for whatever medical conditions they may have on arrival and are vaccinated, spayed/neutered, and microchipped. You hear that we are primarily a volunteer-run organization whose volunteers donate countless hours of loving care to our animals and to the running of our organization. All of this makes C.A.R.E. Animal shelter not only different, but special.

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Scout Eagle Project Benefits C.A.R.E.



Jeremiah Cruz is working to become one of only 6% of all BSA Scouts to earn Eagle Scout Honor. Jeremiah is a member of Boy Scout Troop 3892B and meets at Northside Baptist Church. Eagle is the highest and most coveted award in all Scouting.

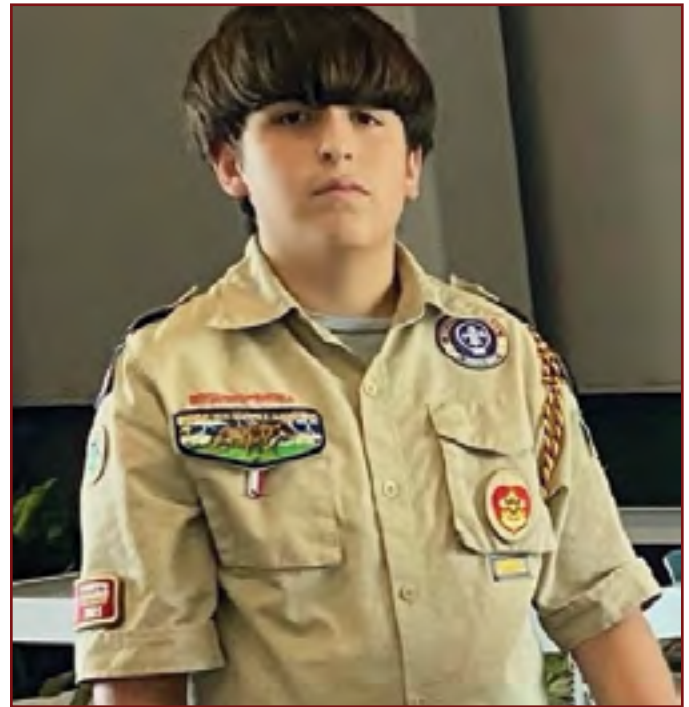
Requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges. The Eagle Scout must demonstrate Scout Spirit, an ideal attitude based upon the Scout Oath and Law, service, and leadership.

This also includes an extensive service project to benefit an organization that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. Jeremiah contacted C.A.R.E. to fulfill the service project requirement. Discovering C.A.R.E. currently had only one bench that was over 15 years old and weathered, he recognized that this is a key place for volunteers and potential adopters to interact with dogs. Jeremiah was responsible for creating a project plan to acquire the materials and assembling a team to help build new benches. He approached 84 Lumber in Ruskin who was more than happy to donate the materials needed.

True to the Scout motto Jeremiah and his team came - Be Prepared! The day of the project was rain all day. With pop up tents and a team of adults and scouts Jeremiah and his team built 2 benches for 2 different play yards!

C.A.R.E. is grateful to Jeremiah and the dogs are happy to have a special place to hang out with their human buddies.

Congratulations to Jeremiah on completing the last step to earn his Eagle Award.



Jeremiah Cruz



Scout Troop 3892B

Thank you for all you do for our animals.

Hi All, To thank you for your dedication to our animals our Board of Directors is giving Publix gift cards to three volunteers every month. This includes ALL active volunteers during the preceding month. We will be drawing the names in my office on the second Thursday of each month. I will notify the lucky winners each month.



Angelika Hamilton Angelika is a fairly new cattery volunteer who is here on Friday afternoons.



Kathy Vertullo She is one of our cat volunteers.



Kay Williamson Kay is our Saturday office volunteer. She does an excellent job of greeting all callers and visitors, as well as assisting all prospective adopters. We are so lucky to have her at C.A.R.E.



Laura Daniels is one of the Volunteer month winners She is a Wednesday morning dog handler and has opted to donate her gift card back to Outreach.

*Thank you
we appreciate it!*



Prrrrrrr-fect for a family

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10 AM to 3 PM • Tuesday - Saturday



▲ Mango

Mango is a sweet tabby looking for a home. She is outgoing, social and playful. She would be a perfect fit !



▲ 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.

Guinness (mainly white) playing with our other adorable cat up for adoption Smokey

Rheingold (Black with White Chest) Rheingold is very playful and loves all the fun toys he has to play with in the cattery. He is friendly to all volunteers and steals the heart of visitors.



▲ Charlie

Charlie is a handsome kitten. He is smart, curious and playful. He loves hanging out with the volunteers and playing with the toys.



▲ Maci

Maci (black and white kitten) is a sweet little girl, very gentle and easy going. She is ready for a loving and forever family.

Community outreach



Manager Vicki O'Donnell and Devin Chanowsky

Tractor Supply Supports C.A.R.E.

Riverview Tractor Supply wanted to be sure that C.A.R.E. had toys and treats for the cats and dogs in December. They and their customers donated dozens for our animals. Along with these donations, they also provided eight 40+ lb bags of dog food that will be used to support the shelter and our animal community food bank. They again donated nine bags in January and another ten bags in February.

Vickie and Devin and the team at Tractor Supply in Riverview are committed to continue to support C.A.R.E. in 2024.

Dancing for C.A.R.E.

The SOLO Line Dance and SCLD Line Dance clubs in Sun City Center hosted a fundraising event for C.A.R.E. on January 13th. Each club donated \$200 and for this event they asked their members to bring donations for C.A.R.E. We received \$1730 in donations and 2 car loads of dog/cat kibble, toys, treats, bedding and more. This was a fun event for the line dancers and generous donations to C.A.R.E.





C.A.R.E. NEEDS YOU YES YOU!

DO YOU LIKE ANIMALS?

ARE YOU CONSIDERING A CARRER IN AN ANIMAL-RELATED FIELD?

(vet, groomer, animal cruelty investegator, animal care technician behaviorist, etc.)

C.A.R.E. NEEDS VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU TO HELP HOMELESS DOGS AND CATS AT THE SHELTER.

EVEN IF YOU JUST WANT TO HELP OUT , WE WANT YOU!

VOLUNTEERS HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING:

Dog walking and socialization, Dog Cleaning, Cat Socialization and Cleaning. Help other volunteers with tasks around the shelter. Greet potential adopters and show them cats or dogs.

Email us at volunteercare@aol.com For More Information

STUDENTS YOU CAN:

- Earn community service hours
- Gain valuable experience (great for college applications and resumes)
- Feel good knowing you are making a difference in the lives of homeless pets

IF YOU ARE:

- At Least 16 years old
- Willing to devote 4 hours a week for the shelter
- Able to drive, bus, bike or walk to 1528 27th Street S.E. Ruskin, FL 33570

John and June Caspersen a Wish Come True

By Rula Urso

In our November 2023 Member meeting C.A.R.E. Board was happy to announce the generous grant by the Caspersen Foundation. The grant of \$1,000,000.00 was beyond anything the Board ever expected. It was also such an honor to be chosen by the Caspersen Board for this grant. I wanted to learn more behind the decision of choosing C.A.R.E. for such a wonderful grant and who was Caspersen.

On a rainy and overcast January morning I met with Dennis Brozak and Mindy Tumbleson at a Starbucks in Ruskin. With fresh coffee and some scones, we discussed the history of Caspersen and learned more about the amazing Board but also the amazing people behind it all, John and June Caspersen.

Dennis is on the Caspersen Foundation Board and Mindy (his sister-in-law) was once a volunteer at C.A.R.E. Dennis along with others in the Board were tasked with finding trustworthy organizations that needed financial grants. The board was formed shortly after John Caspersen's passing in 2019. However, the vision for the Board and what to do with the funds started long before that.

June and John Caspersen never had kids but loved animals. They were very responsible and good at money management. John would always say he made his money "one dime at a time". Early in his career, John sold ice cream novelties in the 40s and later in life was in real estate investments.

John and a few others would golf on a regular basis and over the years formed a close-knit group of golf friends. While golfing John would discuss with his close group what he wanted done with his money after he and June passed. John was very adamant about the money being put to good use.

John's close golf friends (a group of five) would challenge John to think of ways to disperse the funds and he contemplated it for a very long time. John and June always had dogs, his last dog is Tootsie and Tootsie is still alive and is with one of golf friends to this day. John decided after much thought the funds should go to spay and neuter efforts and rehoming homeless cats and dogs.

When John passed in 2019 and the estate was closed, Dennis, Jay, Sandy and Lacy (the golf friends) began putting together John's vision. They formed the Caspersen Foundation, and they are the Board. They put together a plan of finding worthy organizations that fit John's wishes. Through investigation and due diligence, they found organizations that fit the need and qualifications.

Five major gifts were placed, with C.A.R.E being the last one and a plan to wind down the Foundation is in the works for 2025. All big donations were very responsible organizations and that was the utmost priority of the board. Through conversations, Mindy decided to mention C.A.R.E. to Dennis. They took a tour of the shelter and were impressed with the facility. Then Dennis reached out to C.A.R.E Board president Joann. He was very impressed with Joann's vision for C.A.R.E. and the Board's direction of the future of C.A.R.E and its money management. Through a course of almost a year the Caspersen Board decided C.A.R.E was worthy of receiving the last big gift of the million-dollar grant. I asked Dennis what were the

factors that sealed the decision for the Caspersen Board, he stated it was having a clear vision, responsible with money and C.A.R.E's community involvement. He also highlighted how important the volunteers are to C.A.R.E. He mentioned while touring the shelter he could see the love and devotion the volunteers have for the animals.

Dennis shared with me fond memories of golfing with John and their close group of golf buddies. Dennis went on to say it was the best feeling knowing they were able to accomplish John's wish of making sure the money went to the right causes. Dennis also kept stating how important the volunteers are. If it wasn't for Mindy once volunteering at C.A.R.E., Dennis probably would have never known to look at C.A.R.E. as a potential for the funds. Volunteers are the heart and soul of C.A.R.E. As a volunteer myself I know how important my role is in making sure these animals have the love and attention they need while with C.A.R.E. I also see the other volunteers and their passion for C.A.R.E. You can see the smiles on their faces, the caring touch and the work in making sure the facility is always clean, well-stocked and the animals are always taken care of.

I want to thank Dennis and the Caspersen Foundation for entrusting C.A.R.E. with this generous grant. I also want to thank Mindy for her mentioning C.A.R.E. and her volunteer time at C.A.R.E. A special thank you from me to Dennis and Mindy for spending time with me and sharing their story. I cannot wait till we are all standing at the new facility and looking onto John and June's dream come true.

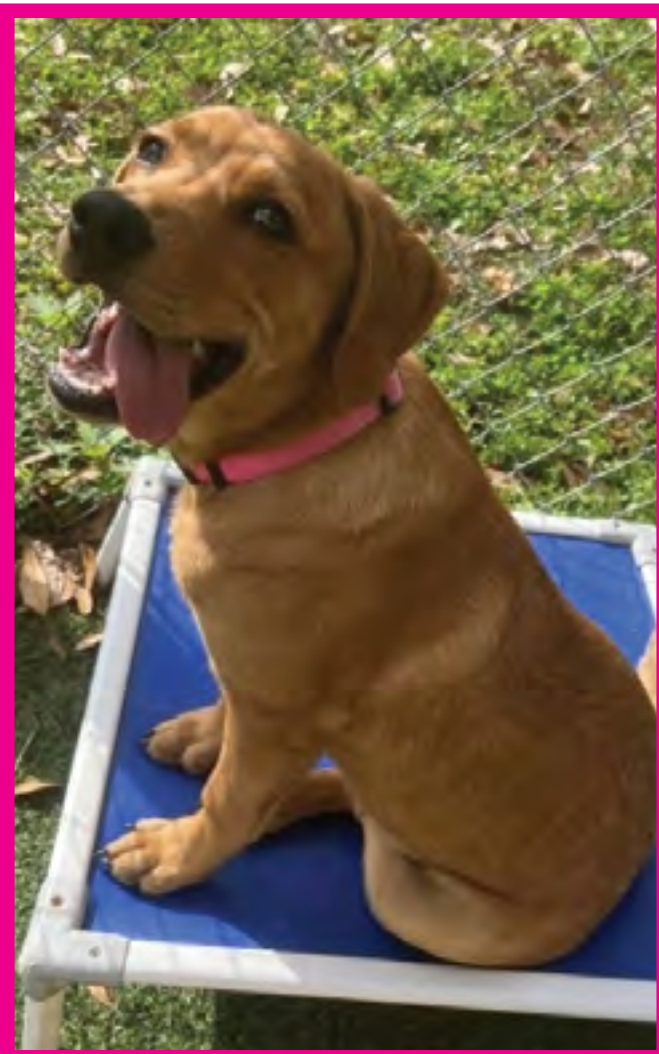


From left to right, Joann With (C.A.R.E. Board President), Dennis Brozak and Mindy Tumbleson, at the C.A.R.E. 2023 Gift & Wine event.

Looking for a **dog-gone** home

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10 AM to 3 PM • Tuesday - Saturday



Sandy ▲

Sandy is a sweet puppy and very friendly. She was found as a stray and is now getting lots of love and attention at C.A.R.E. She loves being around the volunteers and playing with her toys. She is young and energetic, she will need some training, but her sweet demeanor will more than make up for it.

pg 10



Sienna ▲

Sienna was found as a stray and was very timid when she arrived. She has quickly determined that C.A.R.E. is a friendly place and has adjusted nicely to life at our shelter.

She is approximately 9 months old and has a sweet and loving personality. She loves to play with the volunteers especially her favorite game tug-of-war!



Annie ▲

Annie is a sweet girl! She is active, loves to play fetch and hang outside in the yard. She is good with people but is best to be the only dog and have a fenced-in yard where she can play. She is also a great guard dog and would be a great fit for an active family that loves to jog or hike.

She has been at the shelter for over a year now and it's mainly because she needs to be the only dog for a potential adopter. We love having Annie, but we would love it more if we can find her the right forever home.



Taylor ▲

Taylor is another sweet girl at C.A.R.E. she is easy going and loves to play. She is happy walking with you or just sitting down and enjoying the beautiful Florida weather. She is estimated to be one year old.



Tanner ▲

Tanner is a four year old terrier mix looking for a loving home. He is a bit shy at first but if you are patient he will come over for attention. Tanner is always up to go for a walk and is great on a leash. He looks a little rough around the edges, but once he knows you and trusts you he is your best friend.



Just Florida Things - Snakes and Toads

By: Luke Viramontes, DVM

Living in Florida, we're accustomed to the crazy stories that come from this state. Your local Florida man, iguanas falling from trees, monstrous alligators ending up in pools or golf courses, the invasive pythons that can devour humans (or said Florida man) - but what about the smaller guys, like venomous snakes and bufo toads?

Unfortunately for dogs and cats, their inquisitive nature and innocent sniffers can lead them to under bushes, shrubs, or other areas where some of these guys can be hiding. Coral snakes mimic the color pattern of the less dangerous King snake - think of the cliché "Red touches yellow, you're a dead fellow. Red touches black, you're okay jack." Coral snakes (red touches yellow) can inflict a venomous bite that can rapidly depress the victim's neurological functions and cause severe blood clotting dysfunction. Several rattlesnake species can inflict similar disease, but are also associated with tissue necrosis, leading to severe, open wounds. In many cases, the best chance for survival is by starting aggressive supportive care and hospitalization, where having antivenin and a respiratory ventilator on standby is imperative.

Bufo toads are large toads that can be recognized by their prominent, circular parotid glands on the sides of their face. When animals interact with the toad, bufo toads may secrete and spray a poison from their glands as a defense mechanism that, when it comes into contact with mucous membranes, like the eyes or mouth, may cause seizures and fatal electrical disturbances of the heart, called arrhythmias. If this interaction is witnessed, you should aggressively

flush your companions mouth or eyes with water (use a hose with decent water pressure) and immediately seek emergency veterinary care.

It is strongly advised to go directly to a 24 hour emergency/referral hospital for proper care and treatment, as many smaller private clinics may not have the supplies and advanced training required for these intoxications. If able, you can safely bring the suspected perpetrator into the clinic for identification - the snake or toad will need to be killed for you to safely do this.



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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

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.



Pet Holidays

MARCH PET HOLIDAYS

- March calls for complementing our furry friends with sunny getaways and spring break adventures. Let's make this month extra special for our pets while making sure that they are safe throughout the year.

MONTH & WEEK-LONG PET HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

- Adopt a Rescued Guinea Pig Month
- March 3-9: Professional Pet Sitters Week (observed the first full week of March)
- March 17-23: National Animal Poison Prevention Week (observed the third full week of March)

DAILY PET HOLIDAYS

- March 1: National Peanut Butter Lover's Day
- March 1: Horse Protection Day
- March 1: National Pig Day
- March 2: Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race begins (First Saturday in March)
- March 3: World Wildlife Day
- March 13: K9 Veterans Day
- March 23: National Puppy Day
- March 23: Cuddly Kitten Day
- March 28: Respect Your Cat Day
- March 30: Take a Walk in the Park Day

APRIL PET HOLIDAYS

- April is known for featuring some of the most popular pet holidays. Whether you're a seasoned pet parent or have just embarked on your journey as one, this month will surely be special for you. So, mark your calendar as April is all about showering your pet with love and appreciation.

MONTH & WEEK-LONG PET HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

- Heartworm Awareness Month
- National Pet First Aid Awareness Month
- Prevent Lyme Disease in Dogs Month
- Canine Fitness Month (AKA Active Dog Month)

ACTIVE DOG MONTH

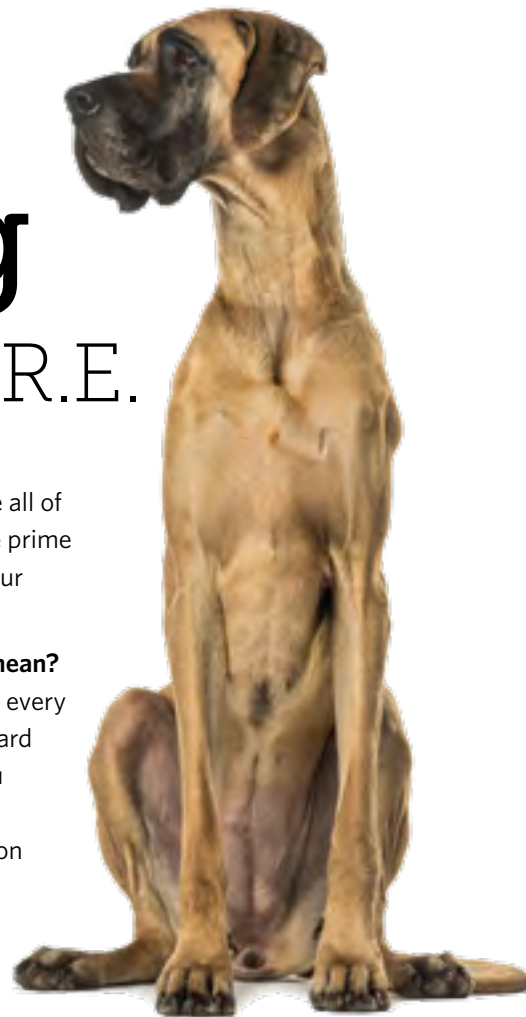
- April 7-13: National Dog Bite Prevention Week (observed the second week of April)
- April 14-20: Animal Care and Control Appreciation Week (observed the second full week of April)
- April 15-21: Animal Cruelty/Human Violence Awareness Week (observed the third week in April)
- April 17-23: National Pet ID Week (observed annually for 7 days beginning on April 17th)

DAILY PET HOLIDAYS

- April 4: World Stray Animals Day
- April 6: National Siamese Cat Day
- April 8: National Dog Fighting Awareness Day
- April 10: National Hug Your Dog Day
- April 11: National Pet Day
- April 11: Dog Therapy Appreciation Day
- April 18: Pet Owners Day
- April 19: National Cat Lady Day
- April 21: Bulldogs Are Beautiful Day
- April 23: National Lost Dog Awareness Day
- April 24: International Guide Dog Day (observed the last Wednesday in April)
- April 27: Free Feral Cat Spay Day
- April 27: National Little Pampered Dog Day
- April 27: World Veterinary Day (observed the last Saturday in April)
- April 28: National Pet Parents Day (observed the last Sunday in April)
- April 30: Adopt a Shelter Pet Day
- April 30: National Therapy Animal Day
- April 30: National Tabby Day

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:
Email:			

Automatic Recurring Monthly Donation of \$ _____ (Credit Card Only)

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

\$50 - Premium Annual Membership (Includes car magnet + t-shirt)

Please check shirt size: S M L XL XXL

Check # _____ (Please make check payable to C.A.R.E.)

Visa Mastercard Discover Credit Card # _____ Exp Date: ____ / ____

[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.

we want to hear from you

Do 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

Urso.Rula@gmail.com

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

Special Thanks to:



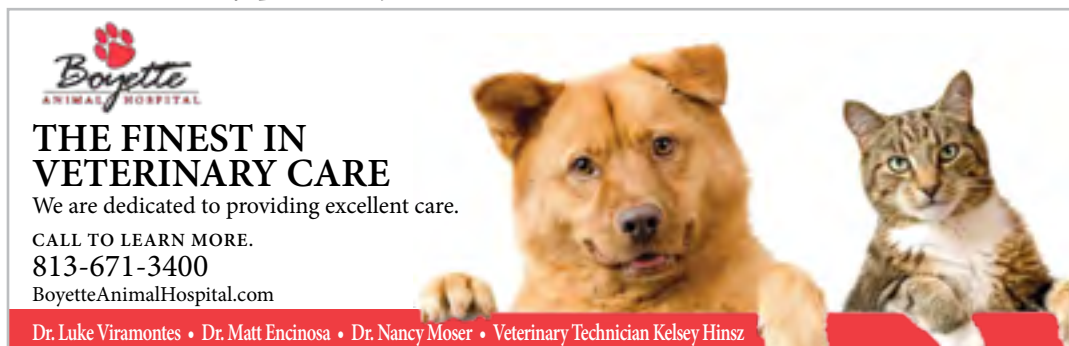
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advertising opportunities

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
if interested.

C.A.R.E.



We are dedicated to
finding forever homes

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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