

Critter Chronicles

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

1528 27th Street S.E., Ruskin, Florida 33570 * 813-645-2273 * www.careshelter.org



Meet Winnie! - Catahoula Leopard Dog Mix



Single, multi-colored, sassy female seeks a home with a throne. Optimal matches should believe the world revolves around her. Spends her days bossing the office staff around and taking up lots of room with her beds. Demands trips to the yard so she can rub it in to all the neighbors that she has the coveted title of Office Dog. Has mastered the potty dance so seeks someone who listens when she talks. Prefers match to not point out that she isn't a spring chicken any more. She thinks she is perfect! Must

be willing to provide an allowance for stuffed squeaky toys too. In return, you will receive daily wags and a loyal companion.

If you have love in your heart and are looking for a really special dog, contact C.A.R.E. and give Winnie a home. It's long overdue.

Your 2019

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- John Fischer**
- Carol Picot**
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- Phyllis Gannon**
- Pat Santana**
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C.A.R.E.

Hours of Operation
Tuesday - Saturday
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Call (813)645-2273 for your free shelter



From the President's Desk

Happy New year to all C.A.R.E. friends and supporters!

I would like to thank outgoing President, Michell Rhodarmer for her leadership over the last 2 years. I am honored to be the one following in her footsteps for the next 2 years. This is a time of change and I can't wait see this Board's vision for the shelter come to life. As a volunteer myself, I am so grateful for all the hours donated by so many on a regular basis. Without their hearts and minds it would not be possible to save as many cats and dogs as we do, but we are limited by the size and the condition of our current facility.

This year we are kicking off a major campaign to raise the funds to build a brand new facility. It is no small task to take on the planning, designing and building of a new facility but this Board is determined to make it happen. It will take time and a lot of hard work. We must be patient, and most of all we must be diligent and steadfast in our fundraising efforts.

The first event for 2019 will be the Tea, scheduled for Sunday, February 24th at the Firehouse Cultural Center in Ruskin. This event is always a sellout so call the office to reserve your spot now! We can take your credit card over the phone or you can mail your check for reservations. More details below!

Here's to a great 2019!

Penny Smith

Who is Gloria Blue?

The one thing that all of us who volunteer at C.A.R.E. know, is that the level of care that all our animals receive is second to none. That is because we have the hardest working Animal Care Manager making the tough decisions every day.

Gloria Blue works tirelessly at the shelter to ensure that every animal gets the best care and is adopted into the best family possible to ensure success. Gloria has made many sacrifices, by giving countless hours to these animals and also taking home many animals with extensive medical problems so that she can be sure they get the correct diet and medication, and that they will be ready to be adopted into a stable home of their own.

This is not to say that C.A.R.E.'s volunteers are not loving and caring to these wonderful animals, but it just a testament to how lucky C.A.R.E. is to have this AMAZING woman in charge of these animals.

Thank you Gloria for everything that you do!!

The Resting Respiration Rate and Heart Disease in Cats and Dogs

Dr. Bob Encinosa

One of the most effective and simplest ways to monitor your dog's or cat's health is to learn to take a resting respiration rate (RRR). This can be especially important if your dog or cat has a history of heart or lung disease or other chronic conditions such as anemia.

Quite simply, the RRR is a measure of how efficiently your pet is getting oxygen from the air. The process for measuring this is to simply count the breathes your pet takes by watching the movement of their chest. Count the number of breathes in a 15 second span, and multiply by 4 to get the number of breaths per minute. It is important that the pet is not hot, has not been recently active, and is not panting. So make sure they have been indoors and resting for an hour or so. It is easiest to count the breathes when they are sound asleep.

Most healthy dogs and cats will have a RRR of between 10 and 30 breathes per minute. Once you've taken your pet's RRR a few times, you will have a pretty good idea of what is normal for them and you can use that as a baseline for future reference. If their RRR increases by 20% or more, they are likely having the first signs of a worsening condition.

Here's a common example. You have a 10 year old poodle who has been diagnosed with a heart murmur, but no other health problems yet and no signs of congestive heart failure. This is a great time to get an idea of what its RRR is because odds are that this newly found murmur will progress over time until the first stages of heart failure begin to appear. If over many months, your poodle's RRR has been around 26, but now is 33, it is time to visit your veterinarian very soon.

This simple test is one of the best ways you can be an active part of your pet's health care and treatment.

- According to Priceonomics, "Americans own over 86.4 million cats and 78.2 million dogs. The number of households that have pets even tops the number that has children."
- In 2014, Americans spent nearly \$58.5 billion on pet expenditures, according to the American Pet Products Association. That's a lot of cash!
- There are over 70 million stray dogs and cats in the U.S. Only 6-8 million will be taken in by a shelter.
- Americans euthanize 2.7 million dogs and cats in shelters each year according to The Humane Society of The United States.



Timmy is a wonderful guy with the biggest gold eyes! He came to C.A.R.E. due to no fault of his own. He is a lap cat and enjoys the attention he is getting from all of the volunteers.

Timmy has a medium length coat of black, gray, blue and silver. He can often be found on the lanai watching the squirrels with fascination. He gets along just fine with his house mates, and with dogs.

This is a great cat who deserves a forever home. Come and meet Timmy today!

Meet Licorice

Licorice is exactly what you would expect out of the candy... a little spice but sweetness beneath! He was rescued from life on the streets over a year ago. Now, Licorice spends his time romping around the big yard and playing catch me if you can with the squirrels. This handsome guy has had several playmates during his time at CARE. He presents himself as a cool, independent guy who doesn't ask for a lot of attention. We are pretty confident that there is more than meets the eye. He doesn't show well in his kennel and usually, the first one or two meet and greets are Licorice just trying to figure out who the new person is. This is making it hard for him to land a home. With those he has a solid relationship with, he is silly and affectionate in his own way. Licorice is one of those dogs who is saving up all his love for his forever home. He needs someone to give him a chance to drop his walls and love, probably for the first time.



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loriyeago@yahoo.com

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Dog Behaviours Explained

Dog faces

- Dog looking straight at you, with ears up and tongue exposed**
 - I'm happy because you've just praised me, shown me affection or offered me a treat
- Eyes are open, bright, unblinking and a little intense**
 - I'm alert and concentrating on something important like a ball, a treat or you
- Ears pricked up, whites of eyes showing**
 - I'm fearful - I don't like the look of those red 'clapper'!

Dog noises

- woof woof**
 Rising bark
 - I want to play - hurry up and throw that ball already!
- owooooo**
 Howling
 - This is often my response to a high-pitched sound, such as a police or fire siren
- grrrrr**
 Low growling
 - I'm feeling fearful / threatened. This is my way of saying "back off!"

Shelter Wish List

- | | |
|--|--|
| Canned dog and cat food | Rawhide bones |
| Toys for dogs and cats | Large Jolly Pets Romp-n-Roll Balls |
| Chuck-it Dog Toy | Hard/soft treats for dogs and cats (No Milk Bones) |
| Tidy Cat Scoopable Litter | Yesterdays News Cat Litter |
| Petsafe Premier Quick Snap Pet Collars | Office Supply Gift Cards |
| Leashes | Bleach |
| HE Laundry Detergent | Dish Soap |
| Refills for hand soap dispenser | 13 gallon trash bags |
| Postage stamps | Printer ink cartridges (HP901 and Canon 128) |
| Pet Store Gift Cards | |

And if you order from Amazon.com, remember to sign into <https://smile.amazon.com> and Amazon donates to C.A.R.E when you choose them as your charitable organization.

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A+ Hearing Center, Inc. is owned and operated by Don and Chris Guiley.

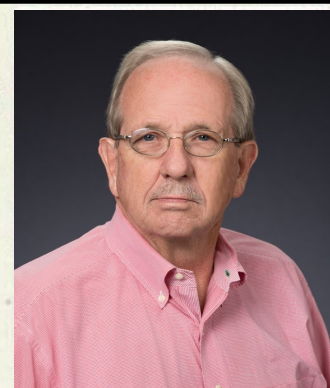
Don and Chris have been in the hearing business for over 45 years combined. The Guileys share the commitment of educating people that hearing should be treated the same as eyesight, as it is one of our contacts with the outside world. Additionally, they share the motto of "We are not just in the hearing aid business, but in the business of helping people hear." Because we care, we strive to produce individual solutions for each hearing impaired person we serve.

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.



Larry Brooks

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What does my adoption fee cover?

- Rabies Vaccine \$18
- Flea/Tick Treatment \$20
- Micro Chip \$35
- Physical Exam \$50
- Spay/Neuter \$250
- Deworming \$30
- Heart Worm Test \$30
- Distemper combo vaccine \$18 per booster

Our adoption fees cover a \$400+ value for only \$100!

1528 27th St. S.E.
 Ruskin, FL 33570
 Telephone: (813) 645-2273
 E-mail: VolunteerCARE@aol.com

Visit us online at www.careshelter.org for more information

A Dog's Bedtime Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,
 The king-sized bed is soft and deep.
 I sleep right in the center groove,
 My human beings can hardly move.
 I've trapped their legs, they're tucked in tight,
 And here is where I pass the night.

No-one disturbs me or dares intrude
 Till morning comes and "I want food!"
 I sneak up slowly to begin,
 And nibble on my human's chin.
 For morning's here, it's time to play,
 I always seem to get my way.

So thank you Lord, for giving me,
 This human person that I see.
 The one who hugs me and holds me tight,
 And shares their bed with me at night.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The shelter is operated mostly with kind hearted volunteers and one and a half paid staff members. We depend on the generosity of our volunteers to help us keep the kennels and cat rooms clean, launder the towels, exercise and play with the dogs, and socialize with the cats and kittens. Some tasks are more physical than others, and some volunteers have more time to give than others, but we are always in need of more help. "Many hands make light work." Call the office if you want to know more at (813) 645-2273.

Doggie Days....



Rasta is a happy, goofy, lovable guy! He's a Dalmatian/ Pointer Mix and a younger guy. His owners were no longer able to care for him but he is eager to get back into a home. He greets everyone with a big smile and likes belly rubs. He zooms around the yard and bounces his orange ball for himself under the tree. He is tall but light on his feet. We love this guy!

Cutie Putie **Petunia**

This little Shar Pei is as cute as a button. She is a bit shy at first but warms up and is oh so sweet. She will even give you kisses!

Love her for her wrinkles and great personality! Stop on out and say hello to her. We open again Tuesday 10am-3pm.



Meet **Timber**



Timber is a gorgeous, large Retriever mix who was found as a stray. He is lovable and athletic. Timber flies through the air catching balls, one of his favorite pastimes. He also likes to play in the hose and take a dip in the doggy pool. He has started basic training and is brilliant! He is a powerful dog but so far he reacts positively when the other dogs are near. Timber will need an active home with an owner who will continue his training. We just love this big hunk!





Marmaduke is not only a hunk but an amazing athlete! His favorite pastime is to play 'catch the squeaky toy'. It is a real treat to see this big dog flying through the air with such precision. Marmaduke has a goofy side too. He is still very much 'puppy'. When it is warm out, he loves to splash and blow bubbles in the kiddie pool. Other times, he is happy relaxing on his dog bench. We have started his training. He is a smart cookie. His adopter will need to continue to work his active mind and body. Because of his size and drive, a large-dog-savvy, home without small animals or cats, is required. Marmaduke's big grin brings an instant smile to everyone who meets him. You don't know what you are missing!

I wish I *may*...
I wish I *might*...
Find myself a *forever* home tonight



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angela boone
PHOTOGRAPHY



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C.A.R.E. Membership

It's new year and if you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do. In fact please consider a monthly automatic donation to help with our operating costs. Even a small amount helps us with food and medical care of the cats and dogs we rescue.

We can help you set it up, and you set it and forget it with the peace of mind that it's done.

Call the shelter at 645-2273.

"Don't ever
question the
value of
volunteers.
Noah's Ark was
built by
volunteers; the
Titanic was
built by
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Spotlight on Cats

The Benefits of Adopting an Older Feline

by Eileen Dunnington



At C.A.R.E., we usually have several kittens available for adoption. At the same time, there are also many older cats that are awaiting their forever homes. Although taking on a kitten as a member of your family may be enticing, there are many benefits to giving a more mature feline a place in your heart and home.

One of the benefits of adopting older cats is that their personalities have already developed; therefore, an adopter will know exactly what type of feline they will be adopting and can choose the one that will fit their lifestyle purr-fectly. They are definitely more mellow than the kittens!

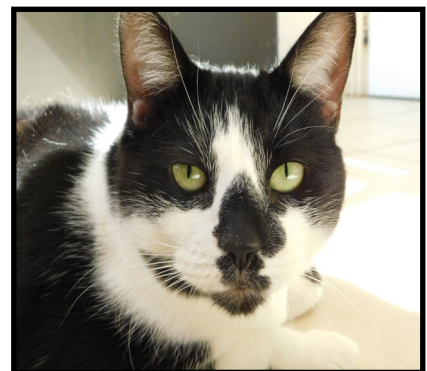
While kittens are generally more playful than older cats, they also have a tendency to get underfoot; therefore, they can trip you or you can lose your balance trying to avoid hurting your kitty by stepping on him or her.

It is also important to consider the longevity of felines when considering adoption. Cats can live for over 20 years (my oldest just turned 22!), so if you don't have someone who can give them a loving home down the road in the event of your inability to care for them or due to a change in your living arrangements, e.g., moving to a pet-restricted community, it might be to your advantage to adopt an older cat.

Many older cats are happy to warm your lap or your feet for hours. Kittens usually don't sit still that long; they want to play, and want a willing participant to play along with them! I have also read that petting a cat is a form of meditation. I know first hand how soothing it is to pet a cat that is sitting in my lap! It is really hard to stay upset about anything in that situation.

So, if you come to C.A.R.E. to consider adopting a feline, please check out our older cats as well as our kittens! They all deserve fur-ever homes!

We are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and here are a few of our older kitties.



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Future Events
Ladies' Tea
February 24th
3pm
Firehouse Cultural Center in Ruskin

~~~~~

Hambingo  
At  
Hamburger Mary's  
Brandon  
February date TBA



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C.A.R.E. is a 501 (c)3 public charity; a no-kill animal shelter for neglected, abused and unwanted cats and dogs with a mission to reduce the number of homeless and abandoned animals through adoption, sterilization and education.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MEDICAL TEAM**

Dr. Bob Encinosa, Medical Director

Dr. Amanda Esposito

Dr. Damen Muller

Tamsyn Bucher

Gloria Blue, Animal Care Manager





**Piper** is a large, friendly female with white whiskers that can be seen from across the room. She loves to eat, especially treats, and will knock your hand out of the way while you are serving her any kind of treat to get at them quickly. She will talk to you like you are her best friend, which is nice since everybody needs a friend! Come and meet Piper today!



**Angelina** is a big, beautiful gal and an even bigger attitude. If you want a cat with spunk, she is your girl! Angelina came to CARE as a pregnant feral cat that lost her kittens. Shortly after, a litter of kittens came to CARE without their mom. Angelina stepped right in and “adopted” the kittens. This is how she acquired her name. Although she doesn't like to share space with other adult cats, she has never lost her mothering instincts toward the kittens at CARE. Therefore, she lives in the kitten room where she can watch over them. But beware! She will rub up against visitors, and even roll over to expose her bel-



**Butterscotch** is a pale orange/beige male tabby with big gold eyes. He was recently relinquished with his litter mates due to no fault of their own. He is a little reserved in the shelter environment, but we were told by his prior owner that he is friendly and playful in a home. Please help Butterscotch get a second chance at happiness. Come and meet him today! (DOB 2016)

All these beauties are up to date on vaccinations and have been spayed or neutered. They are long overdue for their fur-ever homes. Please come and see them!



**Ladies' Tea**  
**Sunday, February 24th**  
**3 p.m.**  
**Firehouse Cultural Center**

101 1st Street N.E., Ruskin

\$35 per person

Call 645-2273 for reservations

**Silent Auction**



**Best Hat Contest**



This event is a fundraiser for The Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort, a nonprofit no-kill shelter that operates almost entirely on donations and hundreds of volunteer hours.

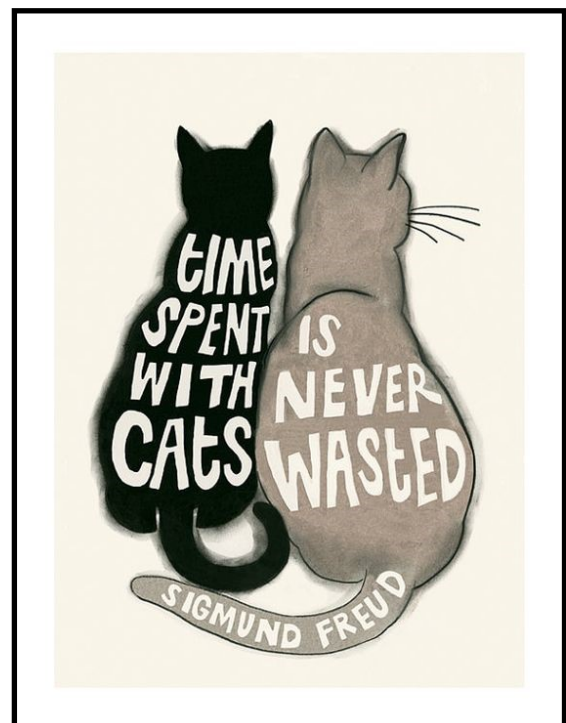
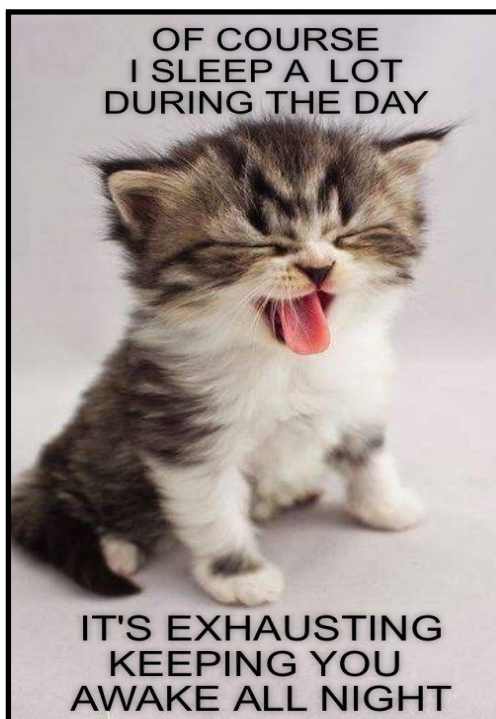


We may not think of ourselves as educators, but it is part of what we do as C.A.R.E. volunteers. We do this when evaluating the needs of visitors, providing information to callers, while giving tours of C.A.R.E., answering questions from students at the Great American Teach-in, speaking to civic organizations, or talking to the public at fairs and festivals. We aren't experts, but we know the value of a good diet, exercise, discipline, and regular veterinary care. We have seen first-hand how the lack of proper care has affected animals that have been brought to the shelter and their amazing transformation with a few weeks of special care. We know the importance of proper identification, such as tags and microchips, and have experienced the joy of owners reunited with their pets and the heartbreak of those who were not. So we spread the word to prospective adopters, neighbors, the strangers who comment on our C.A.R.E. shirts, and through outreach events, and hope that a few seeds scattered here and there will take root and grow.

Here are a couple of community events we will be attending. Stop by and say hi, and learn more about C.A.R.E.

January 30th from 2-5 p.m. at the Hillsborough Community College 50th Anniversary celebration

February 23rd from 10am to 2pm—The Second Annual Ruskin Community Heath Fair at the park.





**Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort, Inc.**

1528 27th St. S.E., Ruskin FL 33570

CARE has a three acre shelter located in Ruskin and is an all volunteer effort. We rely on the generosity of public donations to continue our work. We have adopted over 2,000 animals and have spayed and neutered over 4,000 in our discount clinic. We are unique in the sheltering 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.

CARE Medical staff provided by:



*Dr. Bob Encinosa*  
*Dr. Amanda Esposito*  
*Dr. Daren Muller*

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