

September/October 2021

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



# Critter Chronicles

meet  
**Luna**

.....  
A 'no' from  
C.A.R.E.  
doesn't mean  
its staff or  
**volunteers**  
don't **care**  
.....

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

Doctors  
**Corner**  
.....

**AND MORE!!!**

Come on out and see  
**LUNA**

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

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September/October 2021



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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.W., Ruskin, Florida 33570 • (813) 645 -2273 • careshelter.org





### ON THE COVER:

#### Luna

Luna is a 5-year old female Siberian Husky. Luna came to CARE as a stray who had also been previously re-homed.

She is as sweet as she is beautiful, and she loves all people.

Luna could potentially be introduced to a home with another dog as she has not shown any aggression or stress around other dogs to date.

Luna would do best in a home with people that have previous experience with huskies. If this sounds like your family, please stop in, and meet Luna.

# CAREing thoughts

Allow me to introduce myself as your new President. I decided to rejoin the Board because I felt the position of President had been vacant for too long. I hope to contribute with some fresh ideas and experience from my years as a C.A.R.E. volunteer.



President Joann With

Fourteen years ago I arrived at the shelter bright and early, introduced myself, and said that I was there to work with the dogs. "Cats" said the man in charge. "You're going to clean the cat rooms." Thus, began my association with C.A.R.E. I later became interested in Outreach and began helping at events. I subsequently served as Outreach Chair for many years, and remain a member of the Outreach Committee today. In 2010 I was elected President for a two-year term and stayed on as a Board member for an additional two years. In 2017, I rejoined the Board for two years, and later filled a short-term vacancy. Overall, I've cleaned litter boxes, mopped floors, done laundry, watched helplessly as kittens were born, staffed the office, organized events, and worked on the business side of C.A.R.E.

*I look forward to working with old friends and making new ones.*



## become a business partner

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BECOME A PART OF  
SOMETHING BIG

# A 'no' from C.A.R.E. doesn't mean its staff or volunteers don't care

By **LOIS KINDLE**, [www.observernews.net](http://www.observernews.net)

The people who work so hard to make the Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort no-kill shelter in Ruskin want the public to know they foster affection and concern for every homeless dog or cat. But due to the tremendous number of stray, neglected, abused and unwanted animals throughout Hillsborough County, the small, no-kill shelter in Ruskin must often say "no."

"Every day, people either stop by, email or call, requesting us to take in an animal," said Gloria Blue, C.A.R.E.'s intake/shelter manager. "We wish we could accept them all, but we honestly can't. We simply don't have room."

Opened by veterinarian Hal Ott in 2001 in a facility built in the early '60s, C.A.R.E. currently has capacity for 35 to 40 cats and kittens and a maximum of 16 dogs and puppies. That's why, in mid-June 2019, its then-president, Penny Smith, began a capital campaign to raise \$3 million for a larger, more modern facility. That effort is ongoing.

It's literally heartbreaking for anyone at C.A.R.E. to turn away any cat or dog. But there are those in the community who don't understand why this is necessary

"It's frustrating for me that people have a misconception about what we do here," Blue said. "There are cases that actually haunt me because we had to turn them away."

There are a number of reasons C.A.R.E. has limited capacity or the ability to accept some animals. Even when it has room, its intake procedures include the following:



This artist's rendering depicts a new \$3-million shelter Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort Inc. hopes to build so it can accommodate more animals and operate more efficiently. C.A.R.E. opened in 2001 with its current building, which was constructed in the early '60s.

- Some large-breed dogs can be problematic. These include pit bulls, Rottweilers, German shepherds, Staffordshire terriers and the like.

"I could fill the shelter with these dogs, but we just can't do it," Blue said. "There are placement issues. Many residences simply won't allow them."

- Animals the shelter takes in must be quarantined until one of Boyette Animal Hospital veterinarians (who provide services at a greatly reduced cost) comes to examine, vaccinate, microchip and spay or neuter them, as needed. This only happens twice a month, so sheltering these pets further limits the C.A.R.E.'s ability to accept new residents.

- If the animal is a stray, the shelter places a 10-day hold to ensure its owner's not looking for it.

- Every person who relinquishes an animal must fill out a form and any potential adopter must complete an application, which must be checked out by Blue before an animal leaves the shelter. This is to prevent "impulse buying" and ensure the dog or cat is placed in a suitable living situation. Blue verifies all references and looks into each animal's medical and vaccination histories, where possible, and makes sure the animal is actually allowed to be where it's supposed to go. Further, if a prospective owner has another animal, a "meet and greet" is arranged on site to ensure compatibility.

For example, Blue said, a seemingly great candidate recently brought in their super-sweet dog to meet a seemingly super-sweet adoptee. But once they met, she knew it wasn't a good match. "It would have been disastrous," she said, and the newly placed would have been brought back.

"We try to do everything possible to ensure the situation is permanent," Blue added. "One of the worst things for a pet is for it to go to a 'forever home,' only to be returned a few weeks or months later," Blue added. "As much love and care as we give our animals, the bottom line is we're a shelter. When an animal comes back, it affects their personality."

- Other factors that must be considered include the backlog of young, adopted puppies or kittens coming back to be spayed or neutered, which is part of their adoption fee. The veterinarians can only do a maximum of six per day or 12 per month, and time for exams and vaccinations for sheltered C.A.R.E. animals must be part of scheduling. Currently, C.A.R.E. has 14 kittens in homes due to be brought in for their procedures, Blue said.

An animal's health must also be weighed. Since C.A.R.E. is a no-kill shelter, a dog or cat is cared (and paid for) for its entire life. Some are just too sick for the shelter to handle.

CON'T PG 9

# CARE welcomes a new employee!



CARE is pleased to announce that Karen Transue has joined us as our new Office Administrator/Volunteer Coordinator.

Karen comes to us with over 16 years of Human Resources and Office Management experience. Most recently Karen was the Human resources Director for Ten - 8 Fire Equipment in Bradenton where she managed the HR functions, including Payroll, Benefits and Government Compliance, for 8 company locations.

Karen is a member of SHRM and a graduate of the University of South Florida.

She lives in Apollo Beach. She likes her new commute. She said it took about an hour to drive to her last job and doesn't miss the traffic congestion or the drive.

When not working at CARE, Karen enjoys gardening, crafts and playing with her three cats.

***Please join me in welcoming Karen to CARE!***



## Dog thinking

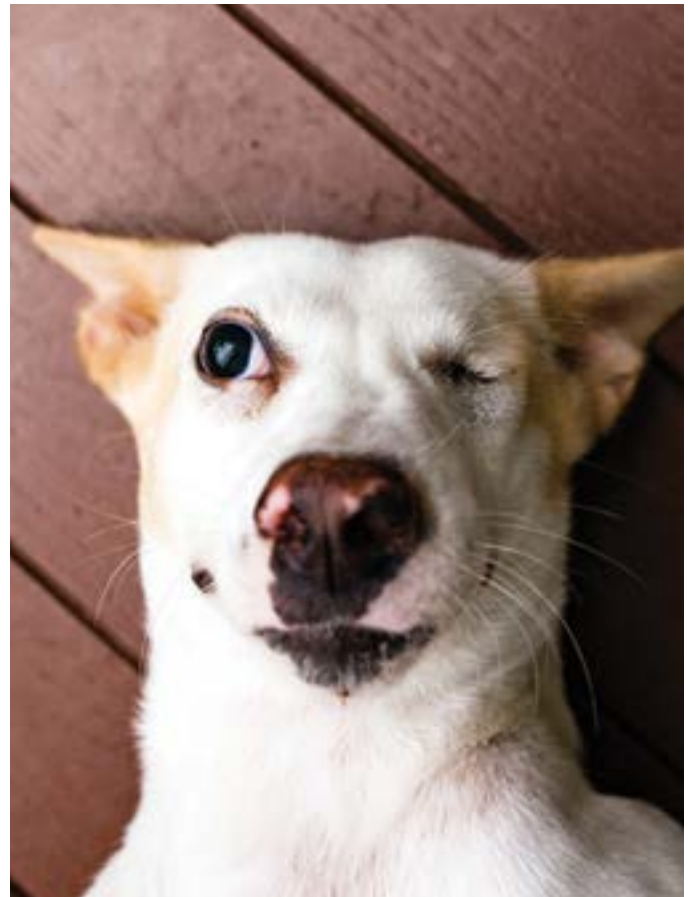
THIS WHAT YOUR DOG THINKS ABOUT YOU:

I am your dog, and I have a little something I'd like to whisper in your ear.

I know that you humans lead busy lives. Some have to work, some have children to raise. It always seems like you are running here and there, often much too fast, often never noticing the truly grand things in life. Look down at me now, while you sit there at your computer. See the way my dark brown eyes looks at yours? They are slightly cloudy now. That comes with age. The grey hairs are beginning to ring my soft muzzle,

You smile at me. I see love in your eyes. What do you see in mine? Do you see a spirit? A soul inside who loves you as no other could in the world? A spirit that would forgive all trespasses of prior wrong doing for just a simple moment of your time? That is all I ask. To slow down, if even for a few minutes to be with me. So many times you have been saddened by words you read on that screen, of other of my kind, passing. Sometimes we die young and oh so quickly, sometimes so suddenly it wrenches your heart out of your throat. Sometimes we age so slowly before your eyes that you may not even seem to know until the very end, when we look at you with grizzled muzzles and cataract clouded eyes, Still the love is always there, even when we must take that long sleep, to run free in a distant land.

*Written by the volunteers of the Lorain County, Ohio Dog Kennel*





# Prrrrrr-fect for a family

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10 AM to 3 PM • Tuesday - Saturday



## ◀ Juliette

Born in April 2021 Juliet was found up in a tree on CARE property and was rescued and brought inside. She is white with a few specks of dark grey on her little head and has beautiful blue eyes. Her fur is super soft, and she seems to enjoy some cuddle time. Juliet weighed 3 pounds and is now a healthy weight and waiting for her forever home.

## Angelina ▶

Angelina is a 6-year-old large black cat with an even bigger attitude. If you want a cat with spunk, then Angelina is your girl. Angelina came to CARE as a pregnant feral cat that had lost her kittens. A short time later a litter of kittens came to CARE without their mom and Angelina stepped right in and “adopted” the kittens.

Angelina is sly girl who will rub up against visitors and even roll over to show her belly but doesn't actually like belly rubs. Her cattitude as mellowed however and she is more agreeable to being petted, just not on the tummy.

Come in and meet Angelina and see if her personality fits your family!





## Manny ▲

Born in April of 2021 Manny came to CARE with his mom Sunshine and his brother Micah. He is a beautiful light gray tabby with golden highlights. He likes being held and rubbing noses. Manny is the quieter of the 2 brothers and loves to follow Micah around the kitten room.



## Hera ▲

Hera is a very sweet young lady who is very affectionate with people. She is playful and loves to be petted. Hera will make a great solo kitty in pretty much any home. She is on a special dry food diet due to a sensitive GI tract and is doing great on it. She will need to remain on this diet.



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## C.A.R.E. Community Outreach



Honey Bunny & Cheri

The success of our shelter depends on the support of our local community. That's where the Community Outreach Committee comes in.

The committee is a group of volunteers that find and attend various markets, and events to share the mission of C.A.R.E.

As our local community grows there are some that do not know about C.A.R.E. and our goal is to make sure everyone is aware of the service we provide to the community on behalf of the dogs and cats we rescue.

After a year of inactivity due to covid, the committee is gearing up for the 2nd half of 2021 to let everyone know what we do and how to support our shelter. You will also see us represent the shelter at the

**Sun City Pet Supermarket.**

*Cheri said, "Having positive committee members with a passion for animal welfare is the main requirement for serving on the committee. I am actively recruiting both - cat and dog people - who want to be involved."*

And the big news... the **Gift and Wine Event** is back on December 4th this year. This was a huge fundraiser for the shelter in 2019.

Committee Chair, Cheri Schumacher, is thrilled to be able to share these exciting events.

So perhaps this could be you! If you would like to be a part of our team please contact Cheri to get in on the fun and make a difference for C.A.R.E.

You can reach Cheri at [cherischumacher2@gmail.com](mailto:cherischumacher2@gmail.com) or any Wednesday afternoon with the dogs.

## Bealls Donation Drive

Bealls Outlet in Sun City Center sponsored a month-long donation drive for C.A.R.E. The staff and customers of Bealls purchased and donated dozens of new items. So many that they filled an entire car. Alichia Beale and Manager Cindy Reed noted the wonderful support by their customers for these donations. Many beds, toys, bowls, and treats for both dogs and cats all went to the shelter for our furry friends. C.A.R.E is grateful for the support of our community.



Alichia Beale and Manager Cindy Reed

## Annual Meeting 2021

The Annual Meeting of Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort Inc. will be held Monday, Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. at the Firehouse Cultural Center.

Three board members will be up for reelection: Vice President John Fischer; Treasurer Marlene Greenberg, and Board Member Beth Ann Stein.

A change in the Bylaws will also be voted upon.

Article V on voting currently currently reads that "At all meetings, except for the election of officers and directors, all votes shall be by voice vote.

That shall be amended to read all votes shall be by secret ballot.





LOIS KINDLE PHOTO  
At the shelter Veterinarian Bob Encinosa, C.A.R.E. medical director and owner of Boyette Animal Hospital in Riverview, examines a young Keeshond mix he suspects might have a heart murmur. His practice provides services at greatly reduced fees for the no-kill animal shelter in Ruskin.

"We never give up trying to place our animals, but right now it looks like we have four dogs and nine cats with health or personality issues that will probably be with us until they pass," Blue said. "This, of course, affects our capacity to accept new ones."

Blue herself has eight dogs and three cats, some of whom she said were brought to the shelter due to poor health and "short to this world." They're still with her today.

Any of these factors can mean a request for shelter is denied.

"There are people who call who think all we ever say is 'no' and just don't care," said C.A.R.E. board member Beth Stein. "Even some of our volunteers have this perception. It's so difficult to turn away any animal.

"As a shelter volunteer and board member, it concerns me that anyone could feel this way," she continued. "Our hearts would love to say 'yes,' but we simply don't have the space or the personnel to accept more than we do. We care deeply."

Since C.A.R.E. is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, it's always in need of additional funding and volunteers at the shelter or for outreach. If you'd like to help in any way, visit [www.careshelter.org](http://www.careshelter.org) or call 813-645-2273.

By LOIS KINDLE, [www.observernews.net](http://www.observernews.net)



## 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.

# Looking for a dog-gone home

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10 AM to 3 PM • Tuesday - Saturday



## ◀ Gwen

Gwen is a young, sweet lab/hound mix. Gwen can be very sweet and loves to play, if you are on her list favorite people. She is picky when it comes to choosing people to love. Possible adopters should be prepared to visit her several times in order to convince her that you are deserving of her affection. We know that she is well worth the effort!

This large, strong girl is looking for a single owner, or a family with teens, who has had previous large dog experience and will respect her need for slow introductions to a new environment. She requires someone able to set boundaries and handle her with firm, loving guidance.

## Charlie ▶

Charlie is a young (approximately 2 years old) adult male Chihuahua. He is very friendly and loves attention from anyone and everyone. Being a small breed he would not require long walks, but enough indoor space to play and burn off a little energy! If Charlie sounds like the right companion for you please stop by CARE to meet him. He'll be glad to see you."



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## Peppermint ▲


Peppermint is an adult female American bulldog mix. Peppermint came to CARE a couple of years ago and immediately gave birth to 3 puppies. Her puppies were adopted very quickly but Peppermint is still waiting for her forever home. She would do best in a home with no small children and where she is the only pet.

Peppermint is a “warmer-upper” and her adopter will need to put the time in to get to know her before bringing her home. Once she knows and trusts you then you will have a friend for life. Typical of many dogs in shelters she will bark at most strangers that approach her “space” (kennel) which makes many people skeptical. Peppermint needs an adopter who can take the time to visit her on a frequent basis and establish a bond. Anyone who has the patience and time to invest in getting to know her will be paid back in endless love and affection.

Please come to CARE to learn more about Peppermint!

## Sammi ▲

Sammi is a young Boxer Mix. The sweet girl is not a puppy, but is certainly still a ball of energy. Sammi is best suited for an active family or a home with a fenced yard that she can run in. Due to her energy and strength, we also suggest the home not have small children. Sammi is wonderful with people, she would be a great adventure companion – and if that adventure involves a pool, you will never see a happier pup. Come in and meet Sammi – she loves new people friends.

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# The Incredible Human -Animal Bond

Animals have been a part of my life from birth. I cannot picture life without them. Growing up with dogs, they became the heroes of my adventures, my protectors and my ever present friends. If you have ever hiked in the company of a dog, you know exactly what I am talking about. It can be ascertained that animals and humans have evolved together throughout history and developed an incredible bond unlike no other.

Our relationship with animals is now more than symbiotic. However, it has taken thousands of years for the first smart wolf who wandered around human settlements to become that cuddly puppy that wears matching pajamas. Culture and religion played a part in the way humans related and continue to relate with animals. Dogs and Cats were revered as deities in ancient Egypt. However, in the Middle Ages, black cats were the victims of superstition and linked to witchcraft.

Today, animals are front and center in our lives. They help us heal and they are our emotional support. Moreover, they are our therapy, our protectors, and our loyal, working partners. They greet us at the door with love and devotion. They lick our tears, guide our steps, and save our lives. They share our beds, guard our dreams and elevate our spirits.

*In a spiritual sense, animals help us remember what we really are.*

**By Dr Adriana Seidl**

Boyette Animal Hospital



"Until one has loved an animal, part of one's soul remains awakened". Anatole France



## Let Us Paws

Let us face it, stuff happens, so this poem begins. Since we CARE enough to share our hands, heart, and time, lets paws and remember, This house is not mine. Let us Paws, and remember, I am here on a mission to CARE and be Kind, with my fellow man for those left behind. CARE gives we are, to those in need. This is their house for as long as required, our work and hope is, that their hearts are not mired.

Learning good souls are near as long as They are here. Lets us Paws, show love for all those all around, see, it doesn't really matter how many feet you have on the ground. I care for you all and CARE is what we do, until All homes are found, not just a few.

**By Beth Ann Stein**

Volunteer and Board member

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

**PLEASE EMAIL** [volunteercare@aol.com](mailto:volunteercare@aol.com) if interested.



# Kids grow up fast

Lily & Gatlin

Kids grow up fast don't they! It feels like just yesterday this mama was at our shelter taking care of five babies. Known as Lily then, both Mama and babies have gone to their forever homes.

Lily - now Honey Bunny earned her first name due to her sweet personality. She is the princess of her new home. Also described as "half spunky and half lap dog" the once Mama is now enjoying being the playful dog she should be at her young age. Because of her huge ears, the second part of her name, Bunny, was a natural.

Her babies grew up to be bigger than Mom. Gatlin, the biggest of the puppies, is happy in a home with other fur sisters and brothers. He is actually the youngest of the four fur-siblings. His personality is as loud as his bark. When you meet him you can't help but fall in love with his mischievous puppy antics.



The two were reunited at the C.A.R.E May Day Market and posed for this adorable Mom and son portrait.

In true fashion they both share endearing traits and funny little quirks that keep their owners entertained.

Honey Bunny and Gatlin's story reminds us of the importance of what we do here at C.A.R.E. We give a Mom a safe place to have babies with the best care, so they can all eventually go to loving homes. It is worth all the efforts of our volunteers in the end. Happy Homes!

Story by Jazmin Lusk



Lily - now Honey Bunny



Gatlin



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a **VOLUNTEER** *love story*



I've volunteered at CARE for approximately 20 years. I enjoy spending time with pups in need of a new home, helping them to be adopted. The most rewarding part is seeing them go home, especially veterans such as Licorice and Marmaduke. I participate in an employer matching program and encourage other volunteers to check into volunteer matching programs with their employer.

- BILL CARROLL

Volunteering at CARE has been such a rewarding experience for me.

It always makes me smile when I see a happy dog go home with his or her new family.

- SALLY FORD

**COME BE A  
PART OF THE**

*Story*

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## 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.

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careshelter@aol.com

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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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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 **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.

**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 have adopted over 2,000 animals and have spayed and neutered over 4,000 in our discount clinic. 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.**

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