



volunteer VOICE

February / March 2010



Happy Tails

Jenny came to live at the Gulf Coast Humane Society on November 23, 2007. We found her tied to our gates and left alone. It was obvious from the start that Jenny's life had not been an easy one and she was deeply afraid of men. She did get adopted a couple of times, but both stays ended with Jenny nipping at the men in the house, so she returned.

Jenny did not display well in a kennel either. She was what we call a "painter," she barked, snarled and painted, and no one really wanted to look at her too much. Thankfully, she went into a foster home pretty soon where she learned about potty training, obedience, crate training, and living with cats and birds. She also got some much-needed interaction with humans. She still had a long way to go, but sadly her foster mom had an accident and was unable to foster her anymore.

So, back Jenny came, along with the painting and the barking started again. Volunteers and staff alike got worried for her. Until one day Cheryl Rolph, her husband and her dogs (Judee and Torreya), saw Jenny on the GCHS website and wanted to help her. Jenny loved Torreya at first sight. Torreya was happy as a clam to be able to play rough and tumble with the new girl. Senior lady, Judee, was very glad that Torreya had another tomboy to play with. That was in August 2009.

Jenny has since gone from strength to strength. She absolutely loves her sisters and her mom, and she is taking to her dad more and more. She still has a long way to go, but her future looks as bright and beautiful as her red hair.

Incidentally, the Rolph family wanted to be sensible and not add a third dog to their pack, but Jenny fit in so well that it was just meant to be. She is starting her new life with a brand new name too. Now, she is Penny, bright and coppery, a beach combing, boat riding, swimming, running, happy puppy. She had to wait over two years, but it was well worth the wait. The Rolph family would like to thank volunteers and staff alike for looking after Penny for them.



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Out with Onyx!

Onyx is a very sweet three-year-old Labrador Retriever mix who has been at the Gulf Coast Humane Society, waiting for a home, since August 2008. The volunteers say he is a great dog who enjoys running and playing fetch. Onyx is a little shy at first, but once he warms

up to his handlers he gets excited in a happy way, running circles and bouncing up and down around them.

Sadly, Onyx is more than shy around men he does not know, and that is probably the reason why he is still with us after all this time. He has never...

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...shown any aggression toward men, he just tries not to get too close to them. We are sure this is something he will overcome once he is out of the kennels, with the help of a loving and patient family. Onyx is sure to become a wonderful member of a household experienced with shy dogs. He likes other dogs and seems to do fine with kids. He might even be okay with cats.

It would be so good if Onyx got a chance of the stability of a home of his own, so please spread the word about him. For further information about Onyx, please call the GCHS adoption center at 239.332.0364.



Hello Volunteers!

The new version of Volunteer Voice was a success – we’ve had nothing but great reviews. We are very happy you are enjoying your newsletter and we will do our best to keep it that way.

We have a request to all volunteers. We need to be more regimented with volunteer hours. May of you already come in on a set day and time, which is wonderful! It

would be marvelous if more of you would be able to commit to a set time, that way the dogs and cats would get more consistency in their walks and play times. We are aiming at having the dogs walked three times a day and each cat socialized for at least 10 minutes a day. Ten minutes is as much as some of our shy

cats can take a day. It is so little time for us, but would help those special cases immensely. Please let me know what times would be good for you. Of course, if you can’t we still need you, because without our volunteers it just doesn’t work!

We have had some wonderful adoptions in the recent weeks – lots of black cats and dogs went home. Amongst our canines, Onnie, Gus, Sammy and Sheeba found homes. Some of the lucky felines were Matrix (a special “Woot Woot” for him), Meesha, Sydney (of the dry eyes), and Chiclet, the wild child. We hope to hear from their new families soon and we will bring you an update as soon as we do.

Please enjoy this issue of your Volunteer Voice and keep keeping our multi-legged friends happy!



Andrea Calkins,
Volunteer Coordinator

Donation Bank Program

We are seeking volunteer donation bank collectors! This is a program we are revitalizing, as it is an added source of income that helps support the facility and its services. However, we need volunteers to help make it successful! Some of you may remember the donation banks as the “doggie” banks, but we thought that a new start needs a new name too. Not to mention, we have cats and rabbits too.

Donation Bank volunteers travel to local businesses to collect the money deposited in Gulf Coast Humane Society’s donation banks, as well as try to recruit new businesses to display a GCHS donation bank.

For further information about the donation banks, please contact Andrea at AndreaC@GulfCoastHumaneSociety.org or call at 239.332.0364 ext 301.

Brand New Volunteer Opportunity

We would like our dogs to be a little more welcoming to visitors to the shelter. Instead of spin barking, tooth showing, bouncing and generally making a deafening racket, we would like them to sit by their kennel door and look at incoming humans adoringly. How can we achieve that? Well, that is what the new position is for, the “Treater/Trainer/Talker-tooer.” The TTTTs will be talking to the dogs in a kind and calm voice, enticing them to sit down and rewarding that behavior with a treat. This position requires a time commitment to make it effective. We would require TTTTs to commit to one set time per week on a set day.

We really need your help with this as we have way too many long-term dogs that simply get passed by because they don’t know how to behave when there are visitors.

Please contact Andrea with a day and time that would suit you. We will then draw up a schedule and show you what to do.

ADOPTION NEWS

Roscoe – From Foster to Forever

Amanda Nusbaum and her husband were the only people daring enough to foster Roscoe, a very independent-minded feline. They were looking for a cat to keep their 20-year-old cat, Mittens, company. To everyone’s surprise he did a wonderful job. So in September 2009, Roscoe was made an honest cat and adopted by Amanda. Mittens has since passed away, but he sure had a great companion during his final months.

Amanda says that Roscoe is the perfect cat for her and her husband. They’ve even adopted a second cat, Harley, because the house felt empty with only one cat. Now Roscoe has a friend again and we think everybody might just live happily ever after.



Tommy News

Here’s another little one for the “old-timers” amongst cat volunteers. Tommy resided at the GCHS for nearly two years. A little on the difficult side, he could only be picked up and held if he was facing you – no mean feat considering his severe case of halitosis! He loved a fluffy lobster, but we think it was purely physical attraction. One day he decided to pick his owner and jumped out of the cage straight into the arms of community service volunteer, Krystle Recker. He now lives happily in Michigan and has transferred his love from fluffy lobsters to rugs. Tommy is trying to become a professional impersonator and the photos shows his star performances, “alarm clock” and “decorative throw.”



Mikey ... Ping Pong Cat No More!

Mikey was very unlucky. He started off as a stray then found a home. He was then returned because he was ill, found a home again, then returned because the persons changed their mind. He found a third home, then returned again because he wanted too much attention and was very determined to get it. Mikey was known as an affectionate, beautiful cat and we all wondered why nobody wanted him for good.

Thankfully Mikey’s luck changed when Kaitlyn Nixon came into the shelter. She was looking for a companion for her cat Lily, and Mikey caught her eye and captured her heart. Kaitlyn says she and her family cannot imagine ever being without Mikey, and he and Lily have made firm friends, chasing each other around and playing. He is truly a part of the family Kaitlyn says, and they love him very much. Mikey has finally found his forever home. As the ancient saying goes: “Fourth time lucky!”



Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 12

Yappy Hour and Stroll
6 – 8pm
Bell Tower Shops
Fort Myers

FEBRUARY 13

Adopt-a-Thon
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Gulf Coast
Humane Society
Fort Myers

FEBRUARY 20

Pet Fair
1 - 4 p.m.
Animal Wellness Center
of Bonita Springs

FEBRUARY 28

Adoptable Pets
at Pet Supermarket
Del Prado Parkway
Cape Coral

Volunteers are always needed for events!

A Home for Cape?

More often than we'd like, we have animals that can spend years in our shelter. Cape is one of those animals. He came into the shelter because his owners moved, an all too common excuse to rid themselves of their "best friend." That was in February 2008. Prior to coming to the GCHS he had to live outside, something not too pleasant in a Florida summer. He had no idea about inside living, never mind potty training. That has changed. He is now one of our most potty-trained dogs and will not go unless taken outside.

Until that moment he will pull as hard at the leash as possible, but once "relieved," he walks on the leash quite nicely.

We would very much like to see him go home this year, so please contact our adoption center at 239.332.0364 if you have the home and the heart for Cape.



Valuable Volunteer

Valerie Sattler is our super serial fosterer.

In the past four years, Valerie, her husband Carlos, and their son Christopher

have fostered 37 kittens, four adult cats and three puppies.



They began fostering because they wanted to help animals, but did not have a lot of extra money to adopt. What they did have though, was time, love and resources to foster. They also thought it would be great fun to have kittens in the house. They loved their prior experience with the Broward County Humane Society, so when they heard about the Gulf Coast Humane Society, they knew right away they wanted to work with us.

Tears are always shed when they return a "batch of kittens," but the joy of knowing the difference they have made far outweighs the pain. The most rewarding things that you do in life are often the most difficult, but fostering is something Valerie says her family is passionate about. Fostering, she says, has changed their lives for the better. Valerie's son, Christopher, now plans to be a wildlife rehabilitator thanks to the fostering experiences he has had with the GCHS.

Volunteer Orientation

Sunday	March 14, 2010	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday	April 14, 2010	5:00 p.m.

Every new volunteer must go through volunteer orientation at the Gulf Coast Humane Society. You will be told all you need to know about the GCHS and get the opportunity to ask lots of questions.

For more information contact Andrea at 239.332.0364, ext 301 or AndreaC@GulfCoastHumaneSociety.org.