

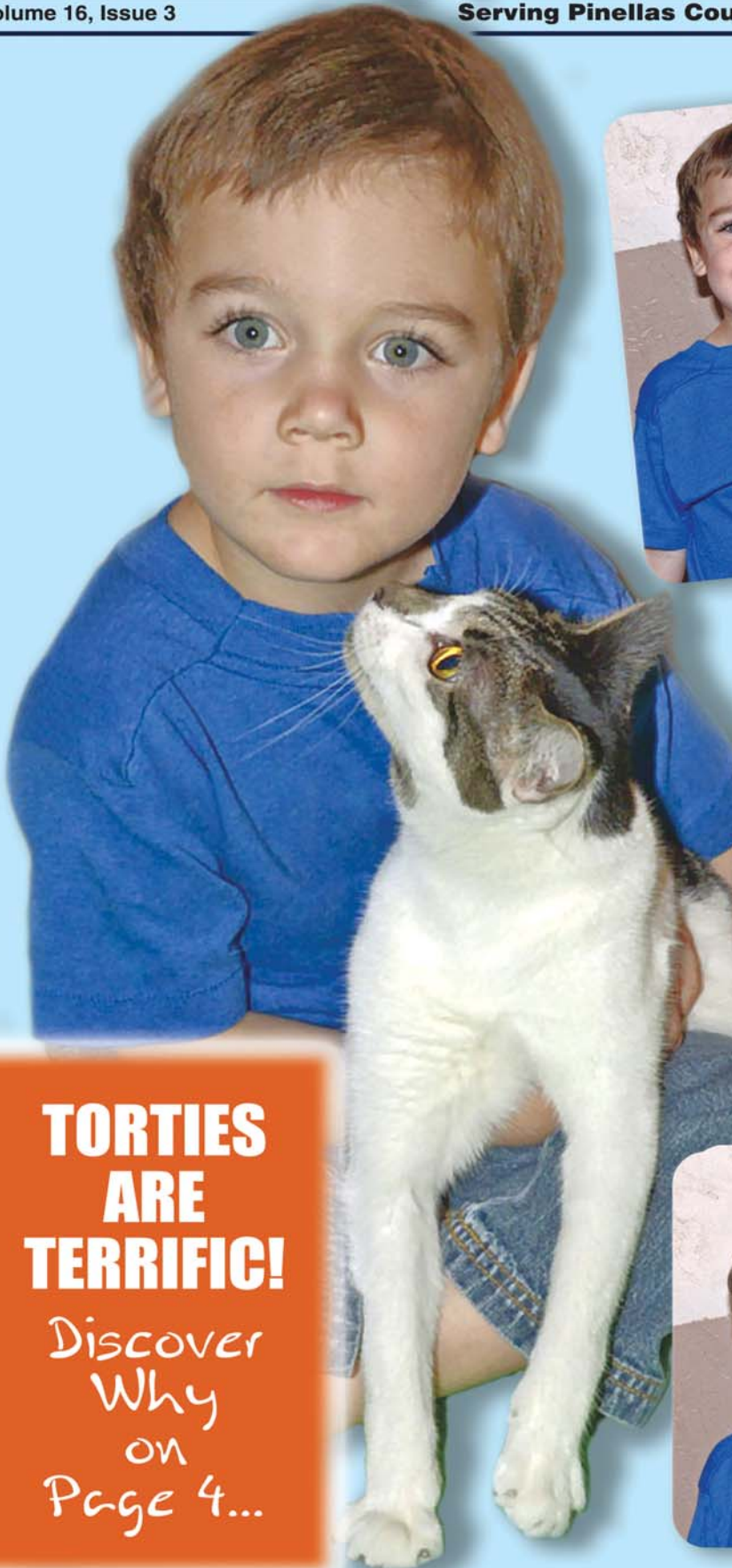
Kitty Kat Mews

The Newsletter of Save Our Strays, Inc.

Volume 16, Issue 3

Serving Pinellas County, FL

Winter 2011/2012



**TORTIES
ARE
TERRIFIC!**

Discover
Why
on
Page 4...

Save Our Strays, Inc.



A no-kill, non-profit organization dedicated to rehoming abandoned cats and kittens.

CONTACT US:

**PO Box 373
Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785**

727 481-5091

727 481-5262 (Surrender Line)

E-mail: sos@saveourstraysinc.com

On line:

www.SaveOurStraysInc.com

www.Petfinder.com

ADOPTION LOCATIONS:

Debi's Puppy Love

9673 Bay Pines Blvd.

.....Seminole 727 392-7662

Saturdays Only

These **PetSmart** stores:

Every Saturday; 11:30 am – 4 pm

♥ **CountrySide**

26277 US 19 North at

Enterprise Rd,

Clearwater 727 799-3311

♥ **Largo Mall** Ulmerton Rd.

Largo 727 518-2600

Various Saturdays, 11 am - 2 pm;

call 727 328-1291 for exact dates

♥ **Tyrone Blvd & Park St**

St. Petersburg 727 343-7900

Board of Directors & Officers

Co-Presidents: Linda Hartnett &
Nancy Skoney

Secretary: Jackie Bell

Treasurer: Robin Bass

Directors: John Hartnett, Val Laking

Newsletter

Editor: Donna Johnson

Photo Editor: Paula Hays

Cover Design: Glenna Boyette

Website Administrator: Fluffy Cazalas

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.

Holiday Happenings

You can support Save Our Strays and have fun at the same time.

Eat at Chili's

Chili's supports non-profit organizations with its "Give Back Night." When ordering on the designated dates listed, patrons present vouchers, available from Save Our Strays or from hostess, and *10 percent of the meal amount* is donated to SOS.

The special offer is from 11 am to 11 pm. on the following dates:

The Tyrone area restaurant at 6798 Crosswinds Dr N. will aid our cause on these dates: **Mon. Dec 19, Tues. Jan 3, Tues. Feb. 7, Tues. Mar 6**

"Give Back Night" at Chili's Largo Mall – 13359 Seminole Blvd, includes **Tues. Dec 20, Tues. Jan 10, Mon. Feb. 6, Mon. March 5**

Let's patronize Chili's on these dates and be sure to mention SOS.

Enhance presents with gift wrapping

SOS volunteers will create beautifully wrapped presents for shoppers. Donations are appreciated.

Sears – Tyrone Mall, St. Petersburg

Sunday, Dec. 4, 5 pm – 9 pm Sears Family & Friends Night

Dates and times for weekends before Christmas to be

determined. Call 727 545-1116 for details or to volunteer.

Pet photos with Santa at PetSmart

Your pet can pose with Santa and you can receive a framed colored 4-by 6-inch print for only \$9.95 with your PetPerks card. For every photo purchased, \$5 will be donated to SOS. Our volunteers will be at the following PetSmart stores from 11 a.m. - 4:00 pm.

Saturday & Sunday Dec. 3 & 4 Largo Mall

Saturday Dec. 10 Tyrone Blvd.

To help with the photo sessions, call 727 418-0820 for Largo store and 727 381-1291 for Tyrone store.

2012 Events - Mark your calendars

Get Rescued in Gulfport

Saturday, February 25, 2012

Beach Blvd., Gulfport

Street festival: 10 am – 6 pm; Gulfport Casino fundraiser: 7 – 10 pm

The International Cat Association shows

Saturday & Sunday March 10-11 and April 21-22, 9 am to 4 pm

Minnreg Center, 6340 126th Ave No, Largo

Editor's note: SOS cat Monkey won Best Household Pet Kitten Award at Nov. show. See photo on back cover. A total of five SOS cats received awards.

PetSmart Adopt-a-thon - Saturday & Sunday, February 11 & 12

Adopters receive special bonuses when selecting a pet.

Cover: Jonah Williams, age 4 of St. Petersburg, loves cats and the feeling is mutual. Abby, a 1 ½ yr old tabby and white cat, gazes at Jonah. This Save Our Strays kitty still acts like a kitten and is available for adoption. Inset photos: top – Jonah poses with Tinsel, a grey tabby; center – Jonah hugs blind kitty Jasper; bottom – Jonah relaxes with Alex, a 6-month old SOS kitten looking for a great home.

Photographs by Paula Hays

Gifts for pet lovers

Pick a personalized present and support Save Our Strays

Pet portrait created on downtown Gulfport building

The Gulfport Pet Project features pet portraits on the outside walls of local businesses. The group's artists created this pet art project in Gulfport to raise funds for two local animal welfare groups: Limbo Chihuahuas and Save Our Strays, Inc. Simply submit a photograph of the pet you want to honor. You may also reserve wall space from the participating businesses. Check out muralsformutts.com for details. E-mail muralsformutts@gmail.com or call Dawn at 727-902-1671. The fee is \$100 for a dog or cat; other pets are priced accordingly.



Personalized pet murals

Caricature of pet or person painted on rocks

Wittywicks offers quirky hand-painted faces of pets and people on rocks. Check it out at Wittywicks.com. Artist Adria Bernstein will donate 5 percent of sales to SOS. Prices start at \$60 and vary depending on size of rock. She also honors a child with cancer (via Children's Cancer Center) for each rock that she paints. Call 727 643-6622 to order a one-of-a-kind Wittywick.



Personalized Wittywicks created from photographs

Cat- and dog-related T-shirts

From *Cats rule* to *Got Puppy Love?*, Save Our Strays shirts offer great sayings that bring a smile. One hundred percent cotton, shirts range from small to X-large. Available shirt styles are listed on our website. Prices are \$15 each or two shirts for \$25. Shirts are available at our PetSmart adoption site on Tyrone Blvd on Saturdays and at Safety Harbor's Third Friday series in downtown Safety Harbor from 6 – 10 pm – next up is Dec. 16. **Catnip mice** (\$2), **kitty kickers** (\$5) and **colorful pet collars** (\$4) also make great stocking stuffers for cats. To send for shirts, see Order Form on page 7.



Colorful T-shirts

Catnip pillows

Cats love our pillows. Created with coordinating cat-motif prints, the 20- by 20-inch pillows are washable and feature Velcro closures for easily adding more catnip. The colorful pillows go for a \$10 donation.

Pillows are available at SOS's PetSmart adoption sites on Saturdays at Largo Mall and Countryside area. They can also be found at Safety Harbor's Third Friday events.



Catnip pillows

Torties are terrific

Tortoiseshell (Tortie) cats are unique with brindle coloration, distinctive personalities and they are usually females



Tyra



Dana



Olivia

A tortoiseshell cat is not a breed. The term describes a coat coloring that is mottled with patches of orange, cream, chocolate and black with few or no white markings. Cats of this coloration with larger areas of white fur are called calicos. The brindled coat is found mostly in female cats; a male tortie is a result of a mutation. Torties almost always have copper or yellow eyes. In addition to their distinctive coloring, torties also have a reputation for their unique personalities and temperament, sometimes referred to as "tortitude".

Torties are often very affectionate, and can be quite possessive of their human. They're usually very talkative and make their presence and needs known.

These beauties tend to be strong-willed, fiercely independent and a bit hot-tempered.

While they are very sweet and loving when their world is calm, they can become nervous and riled up.

Tortoiseshell cats are believed to bring good luck in the folklore of many cultures. In the United States, torties are sometimes referred to as "money cats".

A SOS contributor referring to his Tortie remarked, "She is the most affectionate cat I have ever had; she is always near me."

Adopt a beautiful tortie

All of the torties & the calico shown on this page are ready for their forever homes. Please consider making one of these delightful and colorful beauties a part of your family. Call 727 481-5262.



Paris



Tanya



Tortelina



Reese - calicos have white fur, too

“We need a second chance”

Due to the economy we have adult and senior cats coming back at an alarming rate
Can you give one of these sweet displaced cats a new home?

B.C., Cash, Charlie, Luca, Leo, Lucy, Maggie, Mikey, Karie, Sophia, Seth, Suzy Q, Thomas and Ziggy. These are all beautiful loving cats that were recently given up by their families through no fault of their own. Ranging in ages from 8 months to 8 years, most had lived with their adoptive parents since they were kittens. These kitties don't understand why their lives have been uprooted. They have been stressed by the changes in their lives.

We retrieved them from the SPCA, Pinellas Co. Animal Services, Gainesville (FL) Animal Services and a couple kitties were located in Pasco Co.

The high number of returned cats also puts a burden on Save Our Strays. We do not have enough foster homes to absorb the influx of kitties. The cats, therefore, must be boarded, which is costly. SOS's veterinary costs have skyrocketed, too. Cats are always retested on return. Health issues on a number of these cats have resulted in vet bills totaling nearly \$5000 this year.

These abandoned felines deserve to be loved again. Can you open up your heart and your home to help one of these disposed cats? Please call 727-481-5262 to meet & adopt.



B.C. turned up at Gainesville (FL) Animal Control. With a gorgeous fur coat and no health issues, he is ready for a forever home. Rehoming costs: \$35.



Ziggy was one of five kittens born C-section. He was adopted and abandoned at Pinellas Co. Animal Services. He has recovered from a severe respiratory infection and now this 1-yr old boy plays like a kitten. Ziggy would be great as a family pet. Vet bill: \$85.

Lucy was adopted and returned very ill. After two weeks of veterinary care, this tabby recovered and is back with her adopter. Vet bill: \$800.



Moon Shadow, born in March 2011, developed an upper respiratory infection that caused damage to his right eye. Cool and mellow, Shadow is a total lap cat - ready for a home that wants lots of love from a kitty. Vet bill: \$ 200.



Cash, adopted in May 2011, was returned by his family. An infection sidelined him for awhile, but he was adopted again in November. Vet bill: over \$250.



Thomas was adopted in July 2011. He was returned *after* his infected eyes were beyond healing. His left eye required removal; his right eye has limited vision. In spite of his ordeal, Thomas is a playful, affectionate kitty. Vet bill: over \$750.

Maggie, an 8-yr old, was returned by her owner because she was ill. This sweet cat tested positive for GI lymphoma. She will now spend her limited time with a board member. Vet bill with surgery and testing: \$630.



Latest contributors

Effective through November 15, 2011



Blue Ribbon Membership

(\$100 - \$999 donation)

Maureen Ballinger
Jack & Frances Bargert
Grace Clark
Gene & Amelia Cowles
David & Melanie Craig
Annina Donaldson
Chuck & Ann Gibson
Michael Giglione
Sam & Cindy Gray
Kimberly Mahoney
Naomi Malone
Catherine Rasmussen
Joe & Sue Reina
Claire Schmidt
Pat & Richard Smith
John and Nancy Stafford
Style Lines Hair Designers

Paws Membership

Jacquelyn Baylies
Sarah Bergstrand
Mary Anne Blackburn
Bridget Breland
Sharon Bridges
Juanita Cannara
Judith Dipolito
Nancy & Doug Doll
Robert Gerwig
Raymond Hanke
Ray & Marge Hill
Janet Holmes
Daniel Hood
Ron Jackson & Mel Rue
Betty Jones
Betty & Roy Jowers
Susan Killam
Lisa C. Konrath
Janet Korn
Joann Kreitman
Michele LaMontia
Fran McDermott
Nancy Oakley
Mary & Monte Palmer
Evelyn Perna
Nancy Price
Anita Rallo
Katharina Slaght
Rita & Lee Tami
Marilyn Weaver
Stacy Web
Diana Wells
Ruthe Yow

In Memory of Pets

Alley & Portia From
Anita Rallo

In Honor of People

Robin Bass From
Sylvia Gilbreath
Tyler Wells'
Fourth birthday Jennifer & Joey Bower
Juliet Cate
Carolyn Huffer
Michael & Samantha Lewis
Sara Nicholson
Lyn Reitz
Arliss J Wells
Arliss & Timothy Wells
Lisa Wells
Matthew & Christina Wells

Wish List Contributors

Annina Donaldson Books of postage stamps
Ron Jackson & Mel Rue Cat food and litter
Jolene Near Cat food, medical and misc. items
Ken & Mary Wanner Ten bags of Hills Science Diet cat food

Our Wish List



PetSmart gift cards
Postage Stamps
Scoopable clay litter
Pee pads
Pet stain & odor remover
Canned & dry adult cat food
Canned kitten food
KMR (kitten milk replacement) & bottles
Humane traps for feral cats
Catnip toys
Grant writers
More dedicated foster homes & volunteers



Please bring items to our PetSmart space on Saturdays

Pet population control supporters

Low-cost spay & neuter clinic – SPOT, SPOTUSA.org,
727-329-8657
Trap, neuter & release (TNR)-- Sue, 727-504-2343
of feral cats

Newsletter sports added color

We splurged this issue and printed our center spread (pages 4 & 5) in color to spotlight our colorful tortoiseshell cats and other kitties. If you would like to see future issues with more color, please help us underwrite this additional printing cost. Seeing our good-looking cats in color makes a difference.



**SOS adoptions
for the year
through October**

Help! We are out of room

We are seeking volunteers
willing to foster our returned cats

Every week we get at least one call from an animal control facility that a turned-in cat has been ID'd as a Save Our Strays kitty. Or a plea from an adopted cat's owners that they no longer can care for their pet that they have had for years. This disposable cat dilemma is detailed on page 5.

It is unfortunate enough that so many of our cats are being cast off, but it is even worse that Save Our Strays has no available foster homes for them. All of our foster homes are maxed out.

As a result, we are forced to board numerous cats. And the cats are forced to live in cages. Now Save Our Strays is faced with boarding charges that it normally does not incur.

We are actively seeking volunteers willing to foster these displaced cats. These felines are looking for stability in their lives again and are usually very affectionate.

Foster participants must be able to drive, have their own transportation and be available for a home visit from a current volunteer prior to fostering.

Can you open up your heart and your home temporarily to help one of these disposed cats that has been uprooted from its loving home? Please call 727-481-5262 for details.

Your contributions keep Save Our Strays operational

Whether you donate to SOS on a regular basis or are a year-end contributor, your donation is vital to the daily operation of our non-profit organization.

Veterinarian care is our largest expenditure. Cat food and litter account for nearly 20 percent of our expenses. Administration costs including phones and printing round out our costs. Save Our Strays has no paid employees. The care that SOS is able to give to over 400 felines each year is all provided by dedicated volunteers.

We are proud of our accomplishments in rehabilitating and saving the lives of countless kitties. We are equally proud of our adoption rate, which is compromised by the fact we do not have a shelter that pet lovers can visit to easily adopt a cat.

As a no-kill organization, Save Our Strays offers one of the best choices for contributing to a local animal welfare entity.

Please continue to support SOS. Any general questions that you may have about gifts or bequests to Save Our Strays may be addressed to Marie Rives, an SOS volunteer and attorney, at riveslaw@tampabay.rr.com. Your support is greatly appreciated.

A cat can be right pawed or left pawed

Return envelopes provided courtesy of **Clearwater Animal Clinic**, 1639 S. Missouri Av., Clearwater FL, 727-584-1151

Please support Save Our Strays, Inc. **I'd like to Join / Volunteer**

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Zip: _____ E-mail address: _____

Home Ph: _____ Work Ph: _____ Cell Ph: _____

I would like to contribute: toward cats' medical expenses; toward cost of printing newsletter in color.

I want to support Save Our Strays, Inc; enclosed is my gift of:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 (Corporate/Best of Show) \$_____ Other

Interested in volunteering? transport cats, PetSmart on Saturdays, foster a cat, fundraising, special events, mailings)

Order Form for T-shirts

____ Quantity _____ Size (Sml, Med, Lrg, X-Lrg) (Not all styles in all sizes)

Shirts: \$15 ea or 2 for \$25. Add \$3 per shirt for mailing. Make check payable to Save Our Strays. Complete your address above.

\$_____ Amount enclosed

Shirt caption*

*List of available shirt designs/sayings is on website (saveourstraysinc.com) home page

(Rev. Nov. 2011) -7-

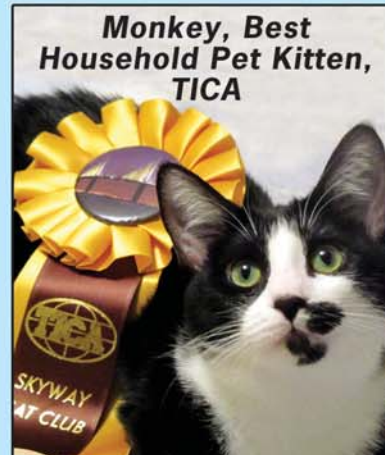
Save Our Strays Inc.
P.O. Box 373
Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

Phone: 727 481-5091
727 481-5262
www.saveourstraysinc.com

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Or Current Resident

Adopt a new friend for unconditional love



All Save Our Strays cats have been spayed/neutered, tested for feline diseases, are current on vaccines, and microchipped. Please check our web site or call 727 481-5262 to see our wonderful cats.