Humane Society of Manatee County

Second Chances...Saving Lives!

By Rick Yocum, Executive Director, Humane Society of Manatee County

The Humane Society of Manatee County Shelter, located at 2515 14th Street W. in Bradenton, is home to our Second Chance Adoption Center. We are a non-profit 501(c)3 public charity and no-kill facility that has been serving the Manatee County community for 50 years since our inception in 1970.

The adoption center boasts a diverse population of dogs and cats where, on average, dogs spend less than 40 days and cats less than 50 days at the shelter before finding their new adoptive homes. The overwhelming majority of the animals in the adoption program are transferred in from neighboring Manatee County, Sarasota County and Hillsborough County shelters or are local owner surrenders.

All breeds—NO breed restrictions here—ages and sizes are accepted into our adoption program. Animals with medical challenges also are regularly accepted since the Humane Society of Manatee County Veterinary Clinic is adjacent to the shelter on our campus. Medical and behavioral issues are identified and addressed by shelter staff and the veterinary clinic medical team throughout the rehabilitation process, ensuring that adoptable animals are ready for their new homes.

Providing the highest quality of care for shelter animals during their stay at the Second Chance Adoption Center is made possible by a well-trained and dedicated shelter staff and a team of compassionate volunteers. Innovation and change have led to many new programs and an improved use of our facilities to better serve the animals.

Smallville, for example, is an area in the shelter where small dogs are housed in separate quarters from larger dogs, which leads to a higher comfort level for our smaller guests.

Relaxation Station Kennel, made possible by an Innovation Grant from Maddie's Fund, is a segregated, stand-alone kennel featuring a larger, more spacious area, low lighting, music, aromatherapy and a quiet space for dogs having difficulty transitioning into a shelter atmosphere.

Significant upgrades were made possible by the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation. The outdoor agility and training area was created, featuring new fencing, artificial turf and shade canopies. This same outdoor area was chosen by Architecture for Animals in 2018 for a project that brought together GCBX, AIA and CSI members working together to create and donate interactive stations to help dogs conquer fears, build confidence and gain human trust, thereby speeding their rehabilitation.

Our New Community Outreach Transport Vehicle & Other Improvements

Another program enhancement was recently made possible by a grant from the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, helping to fund the purchase of a new vehicle for our Community Outreach Program, which can be used as a transport vehicle for off-site adoption and educational events.

One of the shelter's most popular and most serene rooms is Meow Manor, a free-roaming cat room. This room allows for volunteer and staff cat cuddling, as well as a great atmosphere to socialize the cats.

Behavioral training programs for both cats and dogs remain a priority at the Humane Society of Manatee County.

The dedicated shelter staff and volunteers are committed to helping you find your perfect match. Adoption counselors will work to ensure that your new companion animal is a perfect fit for you, your family, your lifestyle and your home.

Our Sleepover Program allows you to take home an animal you are considering adopting to see if that animal is a good fit for you and your family prior to adoption.

Rick Yocum, Executive Director of the Humane Society of Manatee County. Photo by Ezekiel Photography

By adopting, you're saving the life of a homeless animal and, at the same time, opening a spot for another homeless animal to enter the adoption program. Adoption is a selfless act that saves animals' lives and, in return, your new animal companion will thank you with unconditional love.

Every adoption is a cause to celebrate as individuals—like you—open their hearts and homes to shelter animals. Adoption fees are low to moderate in cost, thanks to grants and donations received from caring foundations and donors. In some instances, the adoption fee has been sponsored (paid for) by members of our community.

Humane Society of Manatee County's New Community Transport Vehicle

If you would like to donate to help support our shelter animals, visit www.humanemanatee.org, or speak to your adoption counselor about making a donation when you finalize your adoption.

The Humane Society of Manatee County is located at 2515 14th Street West in Bradenton and can be reached by calling 941-747-8808. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.humanemanatee.org online, or send an e-mail to info@humanesocietymanatee.org.

Open to the public, Humane Society of Manatee County Veterinary Clinic is located at 2415 14th Street West in Bradenton and can be reached by calling 941-747-8808, Option #1. The veterinary clinic is open by appointment Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For additional information about the clinic, visit www.humanemanatee.org.