

May/June 2022

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



Critter Chronicles



C.A.R.E. in the
Community

.....

Doctors
Corner

.....
A Volunteer
Love Story

.....

AND MORE!!!

Come on out and see
GUS

careshelter.org

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May/June 2022



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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

CAREing thoughts



President Joann With

ON THE COVER:

Handsome Gus is an AMAZING boy. He is about 6 years old, the perfect age as he is still playful but can quickly calm down and be lazy. Gus is a short haired Bernese Mountain dog mix. He weighs about 75 lbs and is on the skinny side so he will weigh more as he fills out.

Gus LOVES to play ball and enjoys jumping through the water coming from a hose. He is a gentle giant and very friendly. A quick walk by our cat lanai gave him the chance to meet Angelina and they spent some time sniffing through the screen, overall a very positive interaction.

Come out to CARE to meet Gus. He is about as good as they get.

If you have ever thought about volunteering, now is the time we really need your help. We desperately need Wednesday and Friday afternoon kennel volunteers who are responsible for afternoon exercise, socialization, and end of day cleaning. We also need cattery volunteers on Saturday and Tuesday mornings who clean the cattery and our isolation unit, while providing companionship for our feline guests. There is also a need for office staff. We would love to meet you and answer any questions about requirements and duties. I hope you will consider joining our family and experiencing with us the joy in caring for our furry guests. Contact volunteer@care.org, or call 813-645-2273

We are always vigilant about safety and security, and you may have noticed some improvements at the shelter. We have installed new 6' fencing with barbed wire and two locking gates at the front and rear of the shelter thanks to the generosity of two local vendors. We are grateful to Melinda at Specialist Fence donating time and fence materials and to Wayne at Witt Fencing and Locks for greatly discounting and installing the two locking gates. Thank you both for keeping us safe and secure.

By President Joann With

become a business partner

FOR \$300 A BUSINESS PARTNER GETS THE FOLLOWING:

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- Their name in Critter Chronicles as a CARE Business Partner
- Their business card in our waiting area on bulletin board
- Hyperlink on our website for one year
- 50% off vendor registration at our events

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**BECOME A PART OF
SOMETHING BIG**



be a part of something big

become a member of C.A.R.E.



Why you should consider becoming a Sustaining Member

Many of you may already be regular or premium members of C.A.R.E. and we appreciate all of you. To those of you reading this who are not members, why should you consider it? The prime reason is that membership fees help us to pay our overhead bills. So when we receive your renewal fees, that is a good month for us. But that is only once annually.

What I would like you to consider is becoming a Sustaining Member. What does that mean?

A Sustaining Membership means that you are committing to donate a set dollar amount every month. We have the ability to set this up automatically for you so that your account or card will be debited for the same amount on a specific day of each month. The benefit for you is that you “set it and forget it” and may actually be able to give more by splitting up the payments. The benefit to C.A.R.E. is that we know we can count on that regularly donation every single month to pay electric bills, telephone bills etc.

No amount is too small and no amount is too big. Become a part of something bigger and make that commitment now. **Call 645-2273 for assistance.**

Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort , Inc. Membership

Name:		Date:	
Address:	City	State:	Zip:
Email:			

Automatic Recurring Monthly Donation of \$ _____ (Credit Card Only)

\$35 - Basic Annual Membership (Includes car magnet)

\$50 - Premium Annual Membership (Includes car magnet + t-shirt)

Please check shirt size: S M L XL XXL

Check # _____ (Please make check payable to C.A.R.E.)

Visa Mastercard Discover Credit Card # _____ Exp Date: ____ / ____

[Sign up online](#)

[Donate online](#)

Signature: _____

NOTE: The annual membership period is January 1st through December 31st of each calendar year. For any membership initiated during the fourth quarter (October 1 - December 31) the new member receives their membership that quarter for free.

C.A.R.E. is a 501(c)(3) organization (59-3678003) registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Registration No. CH-14526. 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.



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.

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Prrrrrrr-fect for a family

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10 AM to 3 PM • Tuesday - Saturday



▼ Marta

Marvelous Marta is a young female that was brought in as a stray and was found to be pregnant. She delivered three sweet kittens on October 21st. She was a wonderful momma to her babies.

All three kittens have been adopted, now it's Marta's turn to find a forever home. She's extremely gentle and sweet. She's a young grey tabby, around a year old. She loves human interaction. Come on in and meet this beautiful kitty.



▲ Ceili

Sweet Ceili is a 6 year old female that was adopted from C.A.R.E. in 2016.

She's been surrendered due to no fault of her own, her owners are moving and can no longer care for her. She's a quiet, sweet kitty with a white and grey coat. Stop by and meet this great kitty, C.A.R.E. is hoping to re-home her soon.





▲ Oliver

Meet Oliver. He's a medium hair, orange and white coat tabby. His fur is super soft! He's a quiet, sweet young male that has been neutered and vaccinated.

He is ready for adoption and a forever home. Come on in and meet this sweet young fella.



▲ Liberty

Liberty is a beautiful young lady. She is super curious and is always up for having some fun. She also lives in group housing but is a bit feisty around the other kittens. She loves attention! Liberty's shenanigans are guaranteed to brighten your day. Come and meet her!



▲ Mona

Beautiful Mona loves to be up high. She is a gorgeous grey/silver color with stunning eyes.

Mona is a senior girl at almost 9 years old. As she has spent her entire life at C.A.R.E., she is shy of new people. Volunteers do have the pleasure of seeing her sweet personality. You can often find her on the high shelf or in the high bed of her room. She is the first one down for treats however, and will extend her head for some scratches behind her ears and pets. When no one is around, she is often out sunning herself on the lanai. Mona would love to meet you. Stop by the shelter for a visit.



**Become a volunteer today and
make a difference in a shelter pet!**

COME BE A
PART OF THE
Story
CONTACT



Aston Gardens Donates to C.A.R.E.

This community loves animals! C.A.R.E., a local rescue shelter, was selected for their February fundraiser. Grace Sheridan, Director of Activities, reached out to the shelter for information. From the shelter's newsletter and materials provided, residents learned about the mission of C.A.R.E. and the cats and dogs they would be supporting. The residents in the community donated \$185.00.

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.

You may learn more about C.A.R.E. by visiting their web site at careshelter.org



Pictured Linda East, Tim Rau Nick Schecodnic, Luis Hernandez, Patrick Walters, Grace Sheridan, Brenda Media

The success of our shelter depends on the support of neighborhoods like Ashton Gardens



Thank you from Sammie



Thank you from Butterscotch

Cheri Schumacher, C.A.R.E. Outreach Coordinator said, "The success of our shelter depends on the support of neighborhoods like Ashton Gardens. We are grateful for their generous donation."

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Karaoke party



Ruskin Women's Club Donates to C.A.R.E.

The Ruskin Women's Club donates each spring to a local non-profit. Kat Sherwood called the shelter to find that using the shelter's wish list was a great option for them to do so. The club shared the list with their members to select items.

In March Kat Sherwood, Jane, Wenzel, and Sharon Davis came to the shelter with many of the supplies to share with C.A.R.E.

Cheri Schumacher, C.A.R.E. Outreach Coordinator said, "The Ruskin Women's Club is an important organization in our local community. We are grateful for their donations."

msdiva326@comcast.net



Karaoke for C.A.R.E.

The Lazy Gator Restaurant in Ruskin hosted a special Sunday March 27th afternoon karaoke event on their outdoor lawn to benefit C.A.R.E.

Many local animal lovers and singers provide the entertainment along with a C.A.R.E. information table and a few vendors.

It was a fun afternoon with Lazy Gator donating proceeds and a C.A.R.E. 50/50 raising \$767.

Special thanks to Sunny and the Lazy Gator team!



Looking for a dog-gone home

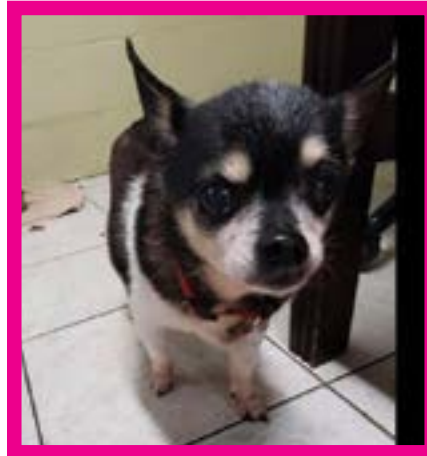
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10 AM to 3 PM • Tuesday - Saturday



▲ Annie

She's about 3 yrs old and 35lbs. Very sweet and playful. She's an active dog that loves to spend time playing in the yards with the volunteers. She would be great in a home that's active and fun.



▲ Pancho & Diego

We have 2 new dogs that are a bonded pair that will be adopted out together. They are around 15 years old. They are sweet old men. The big guy named Diego-is more outgoing and the little one named Pancho -is a bit more quiet. They are senior dogs and we are looking for someone that knows how to care for seniors. They spend most of their time relaxing in the office and sleeping. The perfect work from home duo. Due to their age they need a quite calm home.

Please, if you are someone who can provide the above qualities of life for these senior dogs please consider adopting them.



MILITARY OWNED

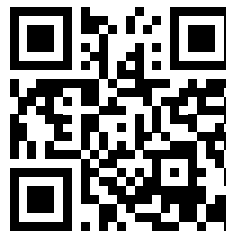
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SCAN WITH PHONE FOR INFO



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▲ Guinevere

Say Hello to Miss Guinevere she's a beautiful hound that's ready for her new home. She likes to hang out in the yards with the volunteers. It's best to come out and hang out with her for a bit, see if she's a good fit for you. Look at her cute little polka dots on her chest

▲ Sammie

Sammie is excited that the warmer weather means... Pool time!!

She is a fun loving boxer mix who is always up for just about anything. She loves to explore the shelter grounds and go for walks almost as much as she likes swimming. While she is a high energy dog she likes to sit and snuggle after play time. She is the perfect girl for an active person looking for a doggie pal to share adventures with.

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Home Alone Pets

One positive side effect of the recent Covid pandemic was a tremendous surge in pet adoptions. Shelters across the country were emptied as people suddenly found themselves at home for long periods of time. These pets provided much needed companionship for those who were isolated from friends and family, and were a source of comfort during a stressful time. Now that the country is returning to normalcy, these “pandemic pets” are suddenly finding themselves home alone while owners go back to work, and kids go back to school. For many of these pets, being alone is a completely new experience, and without acclimation, behavioral issues can develop. That same isolation that prompted the adoption is now happening to the adoptees.

The best way to help these pets adjust to the new lifestyle is to ease them into it slowly. Leave the house for short periods of time, and gradually increase your time away over several weeks. When you leave AND return, don't make a fuss. By remaining calm, you are reinforcing that leaving isn't a big deal, and aren't bringing extra attention to either event. Offering a size appropriate toy, such as a peanut butter filled Kong, will give your pet something positive to focus on. Be sure the toy is removed as soon as you return so it remains a special treat, and doesn't turn into the same boring toy they see everyday. Exercising pets before you leave will help deplete them of that pent-up energy and help them relax. Synthetic pheromone products are available that mimic the same soothing chemical that's produced by nursing mothers. And music can also be a calming influence while you're away. There are even species specific playlists available on most of the online music apps.



Destructive behavior, vocalization, and inappropriate urination/defecation can be signs of true separation anxiety. Your veterinarian will help guide you through treatments that may include medication or a referral to a behavioral specialist. By taking the time to acclimate your pet, you will hopefully avoid more serious behavioral issues in the future.

By Amanda Marcum, CVT
Boyette Animal Hospital

Help these pets adjust to the new lifestyle is to ease them into it slowly.



Why Do Dogs Chase Their Tails?

By Haylee Bergeland, KPA-CTP, CPDT-KA, CBCC-KA

Our dogs engage in all sorts of weird behaviors that make us laugh or scratch our head and chasing their own tail is just one of the many odd-ball things a dog might do. It's usually harmless, but sometimes this behavior means something

4 Reasons Why Dogs Chase Their Tails

The majority of the time when your pooch decides her own tail is super interesting all of a sudden, she is just being a silly dog. However, if she becomes obsessed with chasing her own tail or the behavior occurs alongside any of the other concerning symptoms below, it's time to seek the help of your veterinarian or veterinary behaviorist to rule out a more serious issue.

1. Your Dog Is Just Being Playful

Sometimes your dog just feels really good and is super excited about the day and this may make her quickly spin or chase her tail for a few moments. You might find that when she is especially stoked about something (a new toy or time for a walk) she will offer this behavior every time that awesome thing occurs. This is all totally normal and just a dog being an adorable dog.

2. Your Dog Feels Anxious

Feeling nervous or anxious is just as unsettling to your canine companion as it is to you. When your dog is feeling that uncomfortable anticipation, like say before going to a vet or right before you leave to go to work, she may all of a sudden engage in repetitive behaviors such as chasing her tail. If this is accompanied by other concerning behaviors like excessive whining, barking, chewing, destroying items in the home, or having potty accidents, she may be dealing with separation anxiety or some other kind of anxiety. Consult with a veterinary behaviorist or certified canine behavior consultant to determine the next best steps to help your pupper.

In situations where your dog feels conflicted or unsure of what to do, she might display displacement behaviors, which are normal canine behaviors that are displayed out of a normal context. Tail chasing or spinning can be a displacement behavior, especially in locations where your dog encounters stressful triggers. In this scenario, it's important to be a source of comfort and support and do what you can to alleviate the stressors in the environment.

concerning is afoot. Here's how to identify the various reasons a dog might chase their tail and when you may want to consider a vet visit.

3. Your Dog Could Have Canine Compulsive Disorder

Many dogs, especially herding dogs, engage in some repetitive behaviors. This usually looks like a dog that really wants you to throw that Frisbee again or wants to perform that favorite trick again and again to get another treat. Some dogs might spin in circles when they feel overly excited and others might start chasing their tail. These can all be short-term and normal repetitive behaviors tied to a specific context. However, repetitive behaviors turn into a problem when they interfere with normal day-to-day functioning. If your dog seems obsessed or fixated on something and you cannot distract her or she chases her tail at odd times over and over again, your dog may be dealing with a compulsive disorder. Canine compulsive disorder can manifest in a lot of ways but commonly appears as tail chasing, obsessive licking or chewing of an area on the body, obsessive barking, jumping up and down, or pacing.

There are lots of different causes for canine compulsive disorder including genetics, stress and severe anxiety, medical issues, or frustration. Frustration is the reason I don't recommend dog parents use laser pointers as a way to play with their pet. Because your pet can never catch the light, it interferes with their normal play sequence and leads to a very frustrated animal that may become obsessed. Your dog needs enrichment that engages both her mind and body, so instead do some trick training sessions using positive reinforcement, go for a hike, try out nose work, play a game of fetch, or offer a snuffle mat.

4. Your Dog Could Have a Medical Issue

When our dogs are not feeling well they may engage in behaviors they wouldn't normally. A dog chasing their tail repetitively can be an indicator of a health issue including, but not limited to, anal gland issues, nervous system issues, tail damage (broken bone or injury), allergies or a skin disorder, or a seizure disorder. These can all be serious issues that come on suddenly and progress quickly so it's best make an appointment with your veterinarian right away.



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a **VOLUNTEER** love story

Volunteers are the heart of our shelter



Jazmin Vargas

We are pleased to have a steady group of student volunteers who are working towards their Bright Futures scholarship hours. Our high school volunteers come from all local high schools. In addition, several of our students are also pursuing college degrees. We count on these students to help with all the responsibilities of caring for our dogs and cats. Working with our experienced adult volunteers helps our students to not only obtain knowledge in handling the animals but also enjoy interacting with many different dogs and cats. We are truly thankful for the selflessness of these students who many times start their day here at 7 AM on a Saturday!

Jazmin Vargas has been a very dependable, dedicated volunteer since January. She is here twice a week, at 7 AM to help with our dogs and has earned more than 130 hours in just a few months.

Students, 16 hours old or older, are always welcome.

Please consider joining our fun group of caring volunteers.

You can stop by the shelter 10-3; Tues-Sat to see our facility.

You can also complete an application online at www.careshelter.org or send an e-mail volunteercare@aol.com

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Please put **Critter Chronicles** in the subject line with your Ideas and substitutions.

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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.

Critter Chronicle Newsletter Ad Rates	
Full Color	Price
1/6 Page Vertical 1/6 Page Horizontal Short 1/6 Page Horizontal Long	\$75 per edition
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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.

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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