



ARC Barks and Meows
 P.O. Box 6642
 Fort Myers, FL 33911

Non-Profit Org.
 U. S. Postage
PAID
 Fort Myers, FL
 Permit No. 407

Return Service Requested



February/March/April 2016



Baby Noel

Dakota

Josephine

Braxton

Love Changes Everything!

The Animal Refuge Center is excited to announce an adoption promotion in celebration of Valentine's Day! At ARC, we believe that "Love Changes Everything" and we are ready to help you find your furry soul mate. From now until **March 15th**, the adoption fee for dogs and cats will be reduced to just \$14. "Slightly Senior" cats, those ages 6 and older, will continue to have adoption fees of just \$6. There are nearly 400 cats and approximately 55 dogs available on site, as well as a few cats available for adoption at the PetCo at 9380 Dynasty Drive in Fort Myers (Forum Shopping Center).

With this many options available, there truly is someone for everyone! To learn more about this and other Animal Refuge Center events and promotions, please visit www.animalrefugecenter.com or our Facebook page.



Animal Refuge Center, Inc.
 P.O. Box 6642
 Fort Myers, FL 33911

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____

- \$25 Friend
- \$50 Supporter
- \$150 Patron
- \$ 500 Sustaining
- \$1,000 Krieger Leadership Society
- \$5,000 Guardian
- Other _____

Cats Wish List
 Canned Food
 Dry Food
 Temptation Treats

Dogs Wish List
 Biscuits & Treats
 Pedigree dry & Canned food
 6' standard leashes

Shelter Wish List

Disposables: Paper Towels, tall trash bags, dish soap, laundry detergent, bleach, Clorox Bleach Wipes, and linens.

Equipment: Industrial washable mop heads, brooms, buckets, and dust pans. We can also always use new or nearly new Shop Vacs and pressure washers.

Off Site Adoption Centers

Dogs and cats are available for adoption every Saturday at Petco (the Forum store off Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers) from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help transport and showcase our available residents at Off-Site Adoption Events. Contact our Executive Director, Wayne Leinen, at dep_rep@msn.com!



Jewels

Taquito

Munchie

Rose

Board of Trustees

Laura Braun Leinen, President
 Bonney Leckie, Vice President
 Betty Hughes, Treasurer
 Tracy Palin, Co-Treasurer
 Christina Hollis, Secretary
 Wayne Leinen - Exec Dir & Trustee
 Lee Allor, Trustee
 Peggy Gore, Trustee
 Casey Erny, Trustee
 Rob Spicker, Trustee
 Kathy Totterdale, Trustee

Editors - Wayne & Laura Leinen
 dep_rep@msn.com

A special thank you to our friends at:
ALL AMERICAN PRINTING
 4621 Bayshore Rd.
 North Fort Myers, FL 33917
 (239) 225-2198



For donating the printing costs of ARC's newsletter.

Animal Refuge Center, Inc.
 18011 Old Bayshore Road
 North Fort Myers, FL 33917
 (239) 731-3535

Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 6642
 Fort Myers, FL 33911

Adoptions 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
 Weds-Sun (except major holidays)
 or by appointment.

E-mail us at:
 BettyHughes@Comcast.net
 or visit us at:
www.AnimalRefugeCenter.com

Follow us on Facebook:
 Animal Refuge Center
 Phoenix and ARC

ARC is a non-profit, no-kill animal welfare organization and sanctuary operated by tax deductible donations and volunteers.

ARC also promotes animal welfare advocacy and employs education to teach responsible pet guardianship as well as kindness to all creatures.

ARC is a tax deductible, 501(c)3 status organization, funded by individual and corporate donations and memberships, and operated by volunteers.

CASINO ROYALE
 007

Presented by
Bonney Leckie
Century 21 Selling Paradise

A Bond Themed Gala To Support The
Animal Refuge Center

Saturday, May 21 2016 at 7p.m.
 Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa

Bonney Leckie, Realtor
Century 21
 SELLING PARADISE
 (239) 699-5197

For More Information Contact
Betty Hughes at 239-841-0810
 Animalrefugecenter.com

Join ARC at Pet Walk!

ARC will be participating in Pet Walk Fort Myers!
 Pet Walk begins Feb. 26, and will be held from 6pm to 8pm every
 fourth Friday of each month.

The event will be on Hendry Street in the grassy area between
 Edwards and Bay streets. Come out to support the shelter and
 meet some of our beautiful canine residents!

Please see our website and Facebook pages for more information.



Gifts of Love

All gifts to ARC "In Honor" or "In Memory" of a person or an animal are gratefully accepted. Send contributions to ARC, PO Box 6642, Fort Myers, FL 33911. Your listing will be featured in our next newsletter. Please accept our apologies and notify us immediately if your gift has been overlooked.

Always alive in the minds of their owners,
 the following pets have been memorialized
 through donations:

Referred for their kind hearts and the
 joy they bring, the following people
 have been honored through donations:

Contributions have been received in memory
 of the following persons for their compas-
 sion and concern for animals:

Honors for People:

Trasi Sharp & Liza Clouse
 Roxanne Hino
 Lisa & Arthur Jalkanen
 Nicole & Natalie Kelley
 Terry Mainous

Janet Marderness
 Vicki Howell Marlee
 Beth Marlow

Jodi McWilliams
 Nancy Partridge
 Bev Penny
 Shirley Wayne

From:

Mary Laser
 Shelly Kern
 Pamela Martin
 Greg Poltrock
 Lee Memorial
 Staff, Super User
 Team,
 Danielle & Diane
 Rattay\$\$
 Regina Kilhefner
 Lynn & John
 Cantisano
 Andrea Mead
 The Cornue Family
 Ruth Elko
 Joy Truax

Memorials for People:

Georgina Adams
 Mary Louise Bleser
 Richard Cole
 Richard Cole
 Thomas Doyle
 David R. Driver
 Charles Hoxie

William R. Hubble
 Janine LeDuc
 Moira Phillips O'Brien
 Alex Rosete
 Eark Paul Williams

From:

Todd P. Adams
 Don & Rose Caskey
 Patricia Waters
 Cynthia Garrett
 Edward Doyle
 Don & Rose Caskey
 Margaret Buell, Ted & Stacy Braasch
 Laurie Jans, Jack & Mary Mulligan
 Tom & Vicki Ott,
 Charles & Shirley Thompson
 Zoe Cohen & Wade Robert
 Todd Adams
 Peggy Gore
 Paul & Randolyn Rosete
 Salvatore & Virginia Dickinson

Memorials for Pets:

Brix & Samantha
 Elli
 Lola
 Molly
 Pru
 Red Baron

Honors for Pets:

Grumpy the Dog
 Pooh & Scruffy
 Riley

From:

Daniel & Elizabeth Lucke
 Betty Hughes
 Belinda Smith
 Patricia Appino
 Michelle Myers
 Karen Young

From:

Jennifer Nielsen
 Shelly Kern
 Gregg Toomey

Thank You to Our New and Renewing Members

Friend:

Charlotte Brejc
 Heather Casavant
 Dr. Leonard Coleman
 Camille Coopriider
 Carol Craine
 Janice Cross
 Dennis Deininger
 Margaret Dohan
 Amy Dolan
 Marlene Gayek-Laskey
 Salon Gustav
 Diane Haida-Johnson
 Joyce Heckber
 Ruth Howland
 Geraldine Kerwin
 Cindy McCullough
 Charlene Myers
 Joann Ostrowski
 Angelina Pasquale
 June Paulsen
 Wendy Piascik
 George Propps
 Mary Pugliese
 Dorothy Rankin
 Michelle Robbins
 Marilyn Rock
 Patricia Six
 Ann Slachta
 Marilyn Trainor

Supporter:
 Marianne Adams
 Judy Lee Alcorn

Donald Black
 Helga Bosson
 Elizabeth Brasfield
 Helen Britton
 R. Bush-Taylor
 Martha Campbell
 Barbara Carlin
 Vera Conner
 Nancy Cooke
 Critter Sitters - Jennifer Semro
 Therese Dobrowolski
 J. Eastman
 Joseph Edwards
 Margaret Enders
 Richard Gartner
 Holly Gerber
 Steven Greenstein
 James Gruca
 Bette Harig
 Paul Hoffman
 Ronald Horne
 Jeffrey Jarabek
 Sophia Kafeez
 Karen Kovaz
 Rosalie Langley
 Norman Marasco
 Linda Marcelli
 Stephen Marcsi
 George Miller
 Patricia Neumyer
 Mark O'Brien
 Tracy Palin
 James Parker
 June Paulsen

Joanne Schott
 Wanda Shipp
 Clara Terrana
 Rosemarie Tritto
 Anthony Troia
 Betsy Vandercar
 Mercedes Verhulst
 Kathleen Wagner
 Dona Zeuli

Patron:

Paul Bator
 Stephen Carter
 Cynthia Cooper
 Dorothy Donaldson
 Carol Erbe
 Gladys Fields
 Lisa Franks
 Iris Gerstle
 Martha Hammond
 Bette Harig
 Irma Hudik
 Laura Koehler
 Eileen McGlynn
 John Pittenger
 Barbara Pizzini
 Susan Riley
 Carol Schoenhals
 Don Schuler
 Beverly That
 Mercedes Verhulst
 Charmaine Yeadon

Sustaining:

Lisa Bernstein
 AJ & Lynda Scribante
 John Shaw
 Lisa Viola
 Diane Zabell
 Sue Robb
 John Shaw
 Joseph Spielman
 Gregg Toomey
 Karen Young

Krieger Leadership Soc:

Anonymous
 Edward Kielty
 Eleanore Kleist
 Bonney Leckie
 Lisa Petruska
 Jonathan Silverman
 Julia Smith
 Kathleen Totterdale
 Lisa Viola

Guardian:

Lisa & Steven D'Amico



Letter From the President



As we begin 2016, I am thrilled to become the Board President for the Animal Refuge Center. We were fortunate to have Bonney Leckie, our long-term Vice President, step up to become the interim President in the fall of 2015. She did a fantastic job, and now I am ready to take on this new exciting role.

I have been involved with animal rescue since I was 16 years old as a volunteer in St. Louis, Missouri. Volunteering at a local shelter is what propelled me to become a veterinarian; so I am forever grateful for that experience.

When I moved to Fort Myers in 2010, I was introduced to ARC by my then-boyfriend (now-husband and ARC's Executive Director) Wayne Leinen. I joined the Board of Trustees in 2012 and have enjoyed increasing my involvement since that time. My profession allows me many different ways to help out at the shelter and ensures that the animal care and well-being is always top priority in my mind. A recent highlight for me at ARC was performing the intake medical exams for the animals we received from the flood-ravaged Carolinas in October of 2015. I have delighted in seeing many of these animals find homes so quickly.

One of our biggest achievements in 2015 was the improvement to our on-site medical care for our resident animals. We brought on a new veterinarian, Dr. Nichole Nichols, who is absolutely passionate about animal rescue causes and has been a major asset. Our other recent addition in the medical department was Amanda Hosny, an extremely skilled Certified Veterinary Technician. Between these two talented women, and our Shelter Director Jerri Howard with years of Veterinary Technician experience, the residents at ARC are definitely in good hands!

For 2016, we are excited to improve our volunteer program. Our new Volunteer Coordinator, Sue Miller, will be working tirelessly to recruit, retain, and encourage our volunteers. She has been one of our most active volunteers, so this new role for her will be a very natural transition. Having an active and organized volunteer base is so critical to the success of our shelter!

This year ARC's Board of Trustees aims to increase adoption numbers through off-site adoption events, adoption promotions, and social media marketing. Everyone can do something to help the Animal Refuge Center with our mission! Please consider helping us by volunteering, fundraising, adopting or fostering an animal, or simply helping to spread the word about ARC in our community. Thank you for your ongoing support. I am committed to the Animal Refuge Center and am pleased to begin this new role!

Laura Braun Leinen, DVM

Our Best Friends Deserve Better Plans



Many people name the Animal Refuge Center in their estate plan and never let us acknowledge their invaluable support. If you have named us as a beneficiary, we hope you will share this with us. We feel strongly about expressing our gratitude and would be honored to welcome you to **The Legacy of Hope Club**.

Membership in **The Legacy of Hope Club** is open to anyone who has made a lasting gift through a will, estate plan, life-income or other deferred gift to the Animal Refuge Center. It is our way of recognizing such a thoughtful gift.

Your lasting gift to our sanctuary will provide a future filled with hope to thousands of orphaned pets that come to us for refuge or a safe haven for your own cat(s) or dog(s). We welcome the opportunity to talk with you about how to include the Animal Refuge Center in your will or estate plan.

Please contact us at (239) 841-0810 or e-mail bettyhughes@comcast.net.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus: What You Need to Know



Bailey

Kovu

Charlie

Casper

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) affects approximately 3% of cats in Florida. Cats become infected with this virus primarily through bite wounds; so feral cats tend to have a higher incidence of this illness. Mother cats may also spread this to their kittens at birth and through their milk, but this is less common.

Luckily, infected cats often remain asymptomatic for FIV for many years. Cats with FIV are more likely to develop gingivitis, upper respiratory infections, and certain types of cancer. In many animal shelters, cats with FIV are automatically euthanized because they are deemed "not-adoptable". At ARC, we have a dedicated house just for cats with this virus and can offer them a good life with all the care they may need.

Fortunately, there is a simple and accurate blood test for FIV. All cats and kittens at ARC are screened for this virus upon admission so that their status is known prior to adoption. Cats with FIV are adoptable at ARC, but we do consider them to have special needs. There is a vaccine for FIV, but it is not considered a core vaccine and is not commonly used. If you are interested in adopting one of these cats but already have a cat, we recommend discussing this with your veterinarian; he or she may recommend this vaccine for additional protection.

Please consider adopting or sponsoring a cat with FIV. These special kitties are often overlooked, but can make a fantastic addition to your family.

Meet ARC's New Volunteer Coordinator: Sue Miller

Hello! My name is Sue Miller. After living in Illinois all my life, I decided to make a change, and relocated to N. Ft. Myers this past June. I had worked in the medical field for over 25 years in positions such as patient care tech, telemetry tech and surgery scheduling. I was the caretaker of three dogs; my own, my daughter's and my brother's. I had to put my own dog, Riley, down last January for liver failure, and the other two went back to their owners before I moved.

When I moved here I looked for volunteer opportunities. I became a volunteer at ARC and Red Cross. I really missed my furry friends, and was so happy to find ARC and to be able to spend time with the animals. I have mostly spent time with the dogs here and feel very connected with several of them.

Fortunately for me the Volunteer Coordinator position opened and I was hired for that position. I'm proud to be a part of ARC and their commitment to the health and well being of all our animals. I look forward to meeting all of our wonderful volunteers, and to making our volunteer program the absolute best that it can be. My door is always open, so please feel free to come say hi!



Lights of Love: ARC's Annual Memorial Celebration

On Friday, December 18th, ARC held its annual Lights of Love memorial celebration. The event took place in the Center Court of The Bell Tower Shops in Fort Myers. The purpose of this event is to both remember the pets we have lost, and honor those that are still with us. Many Board members and dedicated volunteers came together to make the event a success. Santa Claus was present for holiday photos with beloved pets and costumed cats and dogs strolled by throughout the night. This year also had the added treat of a holiday vocal performance by the Varsity Lakes Middle School Choir.

ARC sincerely thanks all those that came out to remember and honor their cherished pets, as well as the volunteers that made this event possible.



You can make a *world* of difference in the life of one our residents... Please consider adopting your next best friend from ARC...



Purses for Pooches: Great Fashion for a Great Cause!



The 2nd Annual Purses for Pooches was held on January 23rd at the Bell Tower Shops. This event featured a silent auction with over 60 designer purses. Lunch was served from Cantina Laredo and then the real action began! A live auction with 8 truly high-end designer purses topped off this fun event. Stephanie Summers from FOX4's Morning Blend generously donated her time to be our celebrity guest and the auctioneer. Our lovely models showed off the handbags and also showcased some of our wonderful dogs while they walked the catwalk. Our beautiful mascot Lily was featured as the last special guest. Those guests that follow Lily's Facebook page recognized the final purse auctioned off at the event. It was a priceless pink tote that was given to Lily by her beloved Mighty Lou.

All in all, the event was a terrific success! Thank you to all of our donors, sponsors, guests and most importantly, our helpful volunteers, for making it all possible.

