



ARC Barks & Meows
P.O. Box 62605
Fort Myers, FL 33906

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www.AnimalRefugeCenter.com



VOL IV 2020

🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 **Welcome Back!** 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Early in March, ARC made the difficult decision to shelter in place for the safety of our staff and the 400 cats and dogs they care for. We have faced hurricanes, economic disasters and the mass exodus of Lee County citizens during the economic collapse of 2000-2008. Nothing really prepared us for this but we knew if COVID-19 entered our gates our entire staff, as well as Board members, would have to quarantine. For this reason, we closed to the public and also asked our volunteers to “take a pause” in order to protect themselves and remain our second “line of defense.”

During this period of time ARC continued to intake pets that needed emergency care or whose owners suddenly and urgently were no longer available. By utilizing area veterinary clinics for initial intake, pets could receive their initial assessment and either move straight into surgery or be transferred to ARC. Daniels Parkway Animal Hospital, Blue Pearl Pet Hospital and VCA Coral Veterinary Hospital played an instrumental role in flowing pets in need to us in a “protected” fashion. We are deeply grateful for all their safety protocols that kept us both safe!

It has been a rocky road for all of us and one of ARC’s largest fundraisers, Casino Night, fell victim in April to social distancing. We had high hopes this event could take place in July but in an abundance of safety it is far too apparent this would not be a wise decision. Meantime we cling to the belief that you will find a way to continue to support ARC’s mission to Rescue, Rehabilitate and Re-Home. If you feel you are in a position to help keep our foundation secure, during this critical time, we’d be profoundly grateful.

As we return to full operations once more, we have implemented some changes. You can now submit an adoption application online and be pre-approved and assigned a dedicated time slot to come to ARC and engage in meet and greets. In this way, your experience is streamlined and personalized. These new procedures worked so well in May and June that we are making it a permanent part of operations. No rush, fuss or bottlenecks so sign up and come visit us! We missed you!

Animal Refuge Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 62605
Fort Myers, FL 33906

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 | Dogs Wish List |
| Canned Food | Biscuits & Treats |
| Dry Food | Nulo Canned & Diamond Dry |
| Temptation Treats | 6’ standard leashes |

Shelter Wish List

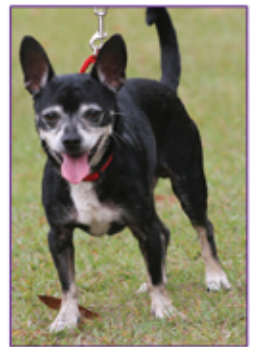
Disposables: Paper towels, tall trash bags, dish soap, laundry detergent, bleach, Clorox Bleach Wipes, and linens.

Equipment: Industrial washable mop heads, brooms, buckets, and dust pans. We can also always use new or nearly new washers, dryers, and pressure washers. We can also always use NEW air conditioners/heaters for our residents’ housing. Please contact us for model # details!



You shop. Amazon gives.

Your purchases, made through Amazon Smile, can help support ARC. Simply shop on Amazon Smile (instead of Amazon) and select the Animal Refuge Center as your charity to support. A percentage of your purchase will be sent to ARC through the Amazon Smile Foundation!



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 (239) 225-2198



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 North Fort Myers, FL 33917
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 P.O. Box 62605
 Fort Myers, FL 33906

Adoptions 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
 Weds-Sun (except major holidays)
 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

E-mail us at:
 bettyhughes@comcast.net
 or visit us at:
 www.AnimalRefugeCenter.com

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Doc's Painting Gives the Casa Luis a Facelift!

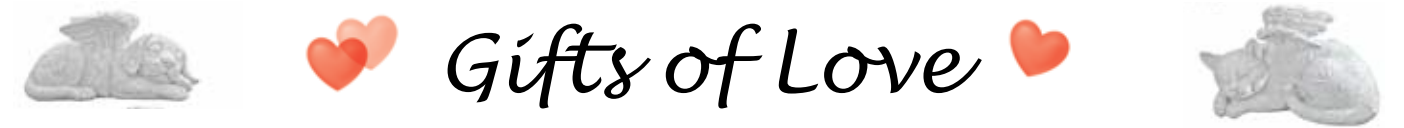
After fifteen years of providing shelter to over twenty cats on any given day, it was the Casa Luis's turn for some renovation. Armed with paint for the interior and exterior, Doc Woods came to our rescue! In addition, Doc pulled up all the linoleum floors, patched worn plywood and then poured an epoxy floor on the entire interior. Our FIV kitties now have flooring that is easier to clean in order to maintain their health!

This was no small task and we'd like to thank Doc for donating his materials and labor to this big project. Next time you have a home project, please keep **Doc's Painting** in mind! He is the cat's meow!



Details available at www.animalrefugecenter.com/become-a-volunteer/

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. ARC's General Membership Meetings are held annually on the 3rd Tuesday of both June and December at 6:30pm. Meetings are held at: Home-Tech, 6400 Techster Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966



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 62605, Fort Myers, FL 33906. Your listing will be featured in our next issue. Please accept our apologies & 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:
Revered 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 compassion and concern for animals:

<p>Memorials for Pets: Bailee Bodhi Gihotto & Boots Kirby Leo Maxine, Abby, Coby Poospy Simon Tucker & Fellow Fur-Babies Willow</p>	<p>From: Donna & Russell Wolf Martha & Larry Hammond Rose Marie Caskey Janine & John Boardman Carla & Ron Bailey Rose Marie Caskey Perley & Anita Putnam Harriette O'Brien Loretta & Richard Pinkett Ann & "Phoebe" Fuller</p>	<p>Sandra Carsley Sandra Carsley Marilyn Mills Corder Roger Cooke Carol Davis Carol Davis Carol Davis Kelly Shannon Higgins Janine Leduc Bob & Farrell Lotts Gen Lotto Mamaw Martin Jackie Murray Debbie Traugott</p>	<p>James & Carline Carsley Friends at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Elizabeth Brasfield Nancy Cooke The Mahjong Ladies Susan Milne Debbie & Gordon Schmaus Richie & Jane Grethey Todd Adams John Shaw Don & Rose Marie Caskey Cindy Martin Don & Rose Marie Caskey Joshua Lobdell</p>
<p>Honors for Pets: Shane</p>	<p>From: Kelly & Shane Cassidy</p>		
<p>Memorials for People: Georgina Adams Rebecca Brenton Sandra Carsley Sandra Carsley Sandra Carsley Sandra Carsley Sandra Carsley Sandra Carsley</p>	<p>From: Todd Adams Eric Bromley Edna Fadden Chalmers Realty Robert Boulrice & Margaret Carsley Helen Schreiber & Francine Reynolds Susan & Daniel Cobb</p>	<p>Honors for People: Lynn Kirby Marleta Kokotilo Bob & Farrell Lotts Charles M. Frey & Shelby Nichole Spencer Karen Young Vera</p>	<p>From: Kathleen Adler Carol Beaty John Shaw Joan Walters Comcast Katherine Von Rodeck Paul Adamick</p>

Thank You to Our New and Renewing Members

<p>FRIEND: Kathryn Abbott Patricia Hofer Lee Anderson Gilbert Hornung Majorie Barstow Daniel Jones Marc Benzing Linda Knight Kathleen Boynton Shari Ledoux Phyllis Brodsky Eugene McCarthy Kathryn Chapman Jane McKenzie Pauline Chusid Philip Morsman Nancy Colby Sandra Rotfort Vera Conner Thomas Russell Janice Cross June Santangelo Sharon Daumer Robert Settles June De Mars Christine Sofijchuk</p>	<p>M.J. Flaherty Builders LLC Donna Strohecker Renee Gareau Fran Synder James Gruca Wendy Taibbi Linda Hanzevack Marilyn Trainor Richard Adams Jr. Diana Baker Sharon Bauer Deborah Buck Jaclyn Burgess Fred Busch Martha Campbell Barbara Carlin Debra Cook Colleen Deane Elizabeth Duff Donna Flammang Kathryn Gaeta George Gagne Darlene Gerue Stephanie Giles</p>	<p>Uwe Heinrich Andrea Helms Sandra Hodonos Dr. Gary & Anne Ingalls Judith Kaufman Mary Koontz Kathleen Lamotte Hannelore Lee Carol Lis Lynn Marie Mahr Linda Marcelli Karen McGee Patrick Meehan Phyllis Morsman Linda Mount Marsha Norman Patricia Parker Patricia Petrie Kristan Repnyek Nancy Rowe Robin Rusk Judith Russell Bonnie Scariot Sandra Scullion Judith Seymour Eileen Severs</p>	<p>William Smith Carole Snyder Ronald Spindler Vicki Sullivan Bob Thinnies Anthony Troia Deborah Wainey Sandra Walker Thomas Willey Robert Young Sharon Zebly PATRON: Rose Marie & Donald Caskey Kelly & Shane Cassidy Heather & Michael Frushon Sarah & Jeffrey Jarabek Michaele & Dennis Jones Laura & Wayne Leinen Jr. Linda Maxwell Jack Peterson Suzanne Prytherch &</p>	<p>John Discepolo Beverly Taht Robert & Phyllis Wells SUSTAINING: Amy's Something Special - Amy Horton Virginia Avery Blue Ridge Cotton Company Jeanne & George Richter Michael Weiss Charles & Karen Young KRIEGER LEADERSHIP SOCIETY: Paul G. Arpin Dr. Steven & Elizabeth Bernstein Manuel & Joanne Fernandez Arlene Horvath Brenda & Howard Sheridan</p>
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Join the "Save a Life" Club – Become a Member!

There are lots of reasons to let your membership renewal slip by or forget to join. We all lead busy lives and sometimes just don't get around to mailing that envelope in. You might say to yourself, "It can wait, my one membership isn't that important." Perhaps you feel there are enough "other members" who ensure a safe haven for so many homeless animals in and around our neighborhoods.

Your one membership means more to pets in need than you could imagine. A single membership contributes towards veterinary care, food, shelter, building expansions, programs in the community and so much more. The success of a no-kill shelter such as ours hinges on the participation of every person on our mailing list. The number of pets in need may eclipse our current member list but if you believe in making a personal difference in a life then please, become an ARC member! Your support promotes spaying and neutering, teaches responsible pet ownership and helps provide critical vet care for an abused or neglected pet. If you are passionate about giving the less highly adoptable cats and dogs more time to find their special home, please become a member.

While it is true that ARC can't save them all, we can, with your active support save thousands. Your support maximizes our effectiveness in healing the sick, mending the broken, and soothing the abused. PLEASE, check your membership date on your mailing label today, and renew your pledge or join anew to aid our efforts. Cats and dogs in need rely on your generosity and they thank you!



Our Best Friends Deserve Better Plans



Membership in The Legacy of Hope Club is a program that helps pet guardians place a safety net under their pet's care in the event they can no longer do so. Plans are tailored for cat and/or dog care and based on accommodations that your pet needs to live the rest of their lives in comfort and safety.

The Legacy of Hope Club is also our way to recognize people who have made a lasting gift through a will, estate plan, life insurance, or other deferred gift to the Animal Refuge Center. Please contact Betty Hughes at 239-841-0810 or email bettyhughes@comcast.net to discuss how you can make a lasting gift to our shelter/sanctuary. Your estate planning can ensure ARC is there, in the future, for thousands of pets in need, including your own!

Please consider making a donation to ARC using the enclosed envelope, or online at www.animalrefugecenter.com/donate.

Bentley - A Beautiful Journey

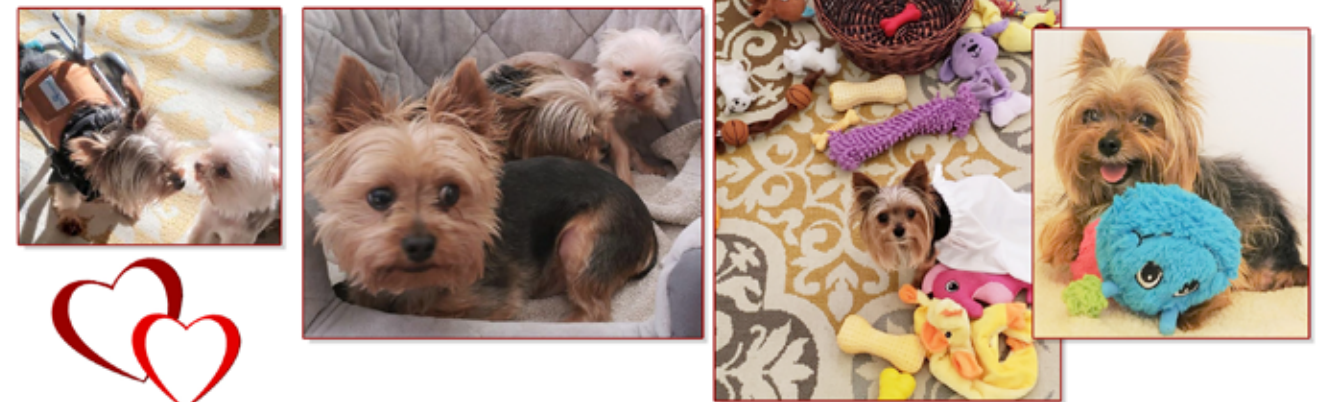
What began as a very unfortunate accident could easily have been the end of Bentley's story, but it wasn't! We were told a tool box fell off a bar stool and crashed onto Bentley's spine causing hind leg paralysis. We were told it was a recent injury but no skin wounds or fractures. Both back legs had severe muscle atrophy, his tail and hind end had severe hair and skin loss due to dragging.

Whatever Bentley's story was he was of little use to his owners as a breed dog and being incognizant this tea-cup Yorkie was isolated on a brick patio. He needed ARC fast and entered foster care. First item to concentrate on was an exam to confirm his paralysis. Next, we focused on emotional issues. He was afraid of touch, fearful of noises, reluctant to eat, never barked and rarely moved. Within a week he welcomed head pats and daily brushing to tame his mats. Bentley learned to eat and drink out of dishes, accept the noise of kitchen activity and family room gatherings. He even made some feline friends! Critical to his health was acceptance of bladder expression and allowing us to flex his semi-frozen joints.

And then, Bentley won the "lotto"! A new long-term foster home consisting of an amazingly kind hearted woman named Jean and her two Yorkies, Paris & Prince, agreed to help Bentley continue his journey to recovery! This trio really brought out Bentley's friendly personality and he definitely preferred Yorkies to cats!

Jean shifted the focus to Bentley's physical rehabilitation. Schedules for physical therapy three times a week and acupuncture twice a week began. Gunnar's Wheels Foundation loaned a mini-wheelchair for Bentley's long-term usage and he was off to the races! Oh, the glee of watching three Yorkies racing around the family room is just beyond words!

We are thrilled to report that nerve feelings are returning to Bentley's back legs, he can now wiggle his tail and can balance on all four paws when eating. Recently he tried to take his first step on a treadmill! We feel certain that continued physical therapy and acupuncture will result in further progress. If you are as hopeful as we are please consider a donation towards Bentley's medical care which runs \$210 week for therapy and \$130 a week for acupuncture. Any amount helps towards Bentley's future success!



Volunteering During a Pandemic

It all happened very fast, we were just gearing up for 2020 and next thing we know we heard the news: A new disease, an outbreak that is spreading quickly through countries, then continents and from one day to the next, we had a pandemic. According to dictionary.com, a pandemic is a disease prevalent to an entire country, continent or the world. The consequences will be unprecedented.

Here at ARC, our Board of Directions made sure that all precautionary measures were in place to keep the staff healthy so they could care for the cats and dogs. Protecting them was crucial in order to protect over 350 cats and dogs that call ARC home. At this point, and as hard as it was for everybody, we closed our doors to volunteers and the public. This meant no adoptions, intake of new animals (except into foster homes) and no tours.

The office was very quiet most of the time, but outside the staff worked tirelessly and you could see in their faces how drained they were. Some efforts to cheer them up were made, a pizza party from management, a BBQ and another pizza party donated by volunteer Brandi Smith. These gestures helped greatly to lift spirits.

Volunteers were deeply missed and appreciated more than ever. Our dogs really felt the impact and were feeling lonely. Randall Schoonover, Peggy and Lisa (Board members) and even I jumped into action to bridge the gap and give staff a hand. Finally, after a month and a half of being closed, we opened our doors to volunteers again! Lisa Viola (Board Secretary) and senior volunteer Siobhan Raven, along with Glyn Raven, organized a celebration that included a BBQ. This day was made a very special one indeed.

We could not be more grateful for all the help we receive from our volunteers! Socialization makes a world of a difference for our residents and prepares them for adoption! Thank you, volunteers, for all the help and dedication to our organization as we just could not accomplish all we do without you.

Here's to many more years of improving the lives of homeless cats and dogs in SWFL. Looking forward to seeing you at ARC! Zuliana Salerno – Volunteer Coordinator



Casa Luis Cats - a Very Special Group Indeed

As I walk up to the FIV house, I see and hear numerous faces and meows warmly greeting me. I reply, "Good morning Gent, Rudy, December, Carhart, Yogi....I could go on and on. These are some of the nicest and sweetest cats on property at ARC....BUT, they live with a "stigma", as they all test positive for FIV "Feline Immunodeficiency virus." This is a virus that weakens the immune system and is spread by two ways: being bitten deeply by an infected cat during a territorial fight or during mating. FIV cannot be transmitted to humans or dogs!

Although these cats live with FIV, many will never show symptoms and can live a long and symptom free life, just like any other cat. All an FIV cat asks for is what any other cat requires: quality food, fresh water, annual wellness exams and the safety of living indoors! Veterinary studies have now concluded that an FIV positive cat can cohabitate in a home with another cat who is negative for the virus, as long as there are no fighters and all cats are spayed/neutered.

So next time you call to make an appointment to view our kitties for adoption, please consider adopting one of our FIV kitties. You just might fall in love, as I have. Peggy Gore – Executive Director ARC.



Can Our Summers Get Any Hotter?

It sure seems so. One of the biggest dangers to your pet? Heat stroke, which occurs when excessive body temperature takes place. In serious cases, irreversible damage and even death can occur.

Common causes of heat stroke include dehydration, elevated body temperature, confinement in hot unventilated spaces and prolonged exposure to sun. It is also important to restrict exercise and walking to early morning or late evening times. Keep in mind that hot pavement surfaces can burn the pads of your pet's paws. If you cannot place your hand on the blacktop for more than 7 seconds do not walk your pet on it. Short legged pets feel the heat radiating off pavement even more so than tall pets!

Symptoms of over-heating can include weakness, muscle tremors, excessive salivation, elevated heart rate, dark blue or bright red tongue and/or gums. If you suspect your pet is over-heated, move them into a shady or air-conditioned area, place a cool wet towel underneath and offer small amounts of water frequently. If body temperature is over 104, spray cool water on him and create a breeze. Once lowered to under 103 degrees, get your pet to the nearest veterinarian. Be sure your car is pre-cooled!

Very young kittens and puppies cannot regulate their body temperatures so providing a safe temperature is even more critical for them. Protect your pets and enjoy the summer in safety!

