

PAW PRINTS ACROSS CENTRAL FLORIDA



South Lake Animal League, Inc. 4648 Baptist Island Road, Groveland, FL www.slal.org (352) 429-6334

Thank you! Supporters, Volunteers, and Members!

Together, we have accomplished great things this year!
However, there is much more to be done! Please take a few moments to read about our success and be reminded of what we are working to accomplish.

See pg 2
for The Story
of Chance

- ✦ Since January 2011, the South Lake Animal League has found homes for over 200 dogs and cats. Adoption rates have doubled in the last half of the year averaging 24 adoptions per month. This is great news!
- ✦ The Animal League renewed its membership drive and brought in over 200 new members. Welcome to the family! We are constantly learning and growing and are pleased to have so many new friends to join in our mission!
- ✦ The cost for veterinary care alone has been over \$50,000 - and that's not counting food and other necessities to keep the dogs and cats safe and comfortable. We've been able to save these precious animals because of your continued support and generosity.
- ✦ Each day countless dogs and cats are dumped on the side of the road. Animal Control tries to get them adopted or transferred to no kill shelters but there are too many so thousands are euthanized. In 2010, almost 9,000 dogs and cats in Lake County lost their lives because there was nowhere for them to go. This is unacceptable. Together we can work towards giving these precious animals another chance to find a loving, forever family.
- ✦ On behalf of the animals, please be as generous as you can during this season of giving - so that we can make their dreams of a safe, happy home come true.



South Lake Animal League Adoption Center
4648 Baptist Island Road
Groveland, FL 34736
Phone: (352) 429-6334
www.SLAL.org



Adoption Center Hours:

Open
Saturday & Sunday 10AM – 4PM
Monday, Tuesday, Friday 10AM – 6PM
(volunteers needed 7AM - 6PM)
Closed
Wednesday, Thursday
(volunteers needed 7AM – 10AM and 3PM – 6PM)

**Come out
and share
your love!**



South Lake Animal League Thrift Store
770 W Montrose Street
Clermont, FL 34711
Phone: (352) 394-1818

Store Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm
Sunday 9:00am-2:00pm

Donations accepted:

Tuesday – Saturday 9:00am-2:00pm

See our wish list for the items we can accept.



The Story of Chance

by Doreen Barker

When I was just a little baby a man took me away from my mom and brothers and sisters. It was very exciting, I had a new family!



At first things were pretty good. We played and had fun but it wasn't very long before he didn't play much anymore. Soon the man put me outside and I was tied to a tree all day and night. It was really scary out there all by myself.

From my yard I could see people walking by with their dogs, laughing and playing. It looked like they had fun so I'd try to greet the man when he came home from work, thinking he would come and play with me. Instead he just walked by me as if I wasn't there.

I didn't like being outside, alone, all the time. It was really hot in the Florida sun then I shivered when it rained on me. I was bitten everyday by mosquitoes and got heartworms from them. My whole body was itchy from fleas. I was thirsty a lot and sometimes he didn't feed me for days. It was lonesome and I was so sad.

Doesn't he see me? I'm here! I'm his little puppy. We were supposed to be great friends!

I did have another person. This nice neighbor lady would talk to me sometimes. What a great friend!

I heard that she made a phone call and a policeman showed up and talked to the man. Soon after, a box showed up so I could get out of the rain but it was still really cold in the winter.

One cold night the lady came over. I think she was afraid of me at first; I had grown up a lot. So I gave her a wag and smiled and she knew it was ok to come closer. I was so happy! Somebody cared!

She brought me blankets and yummy treats. A nice policeman liked me too and would sometimes come by to pet me.

I lived there tied to that tree for more than a year. The chain that was around my neck became embedded in my skin.

One day my owner did not come home at all. I waited and waited but he had just up and left leaving me chained to the tree. I was all alone and so scared. There was no food and not even his truck coming home to look forward to. You see, even though he did not care about me, *I still loved him.*

My policeman friend found out the house was abandoned and told the nice neighbor lady. If they hadn't been looking out for me I would have died out there all alone.

My "little sister" Maggie



Soon after that some people came by and took me to a place called Lake County Animal Services (LCAS). I was happy someone was giving me attention but where were they taking me?

At LCAS, I was put in a cage. All around me dogs were barking and whimpering. Sometimes I would see dogs walk by my cage but never come back. That made me really scared. So far my life had been pretty awful but I didn't want to die.

It seemed like had been there for a long time when one of the workers at LCAS came and took me out of my cage. I thought this was the end. I was going away like the others.

When I walked out I couldn't believe it! It was the nice lady who used to give me water! She was part of something called the South Lake Animal League (SLAL). That lady took me to her home and told me I was going to be okay. I was so happy to see her!

This lady was fantastic! She gave me food and water every single day! She also gave me hugs and kisses and told me she loved me and that I was safe and no one would hurt me.

She cried and said how sorry she was that I had been treated so badly. I knew it wasn't her fault, so I gave her kisses to tell her how happy and grateful I was that she had saved me.

When there was room, I got to move to the Adoption Center and play with the other dogs that the SLAL was helping. Young, old, sick and healthy, animals no one wanted anymore. All given another chance, like me.

When I was feeling better I got to go to adoption days with the other animals. One day someone saw me and knew I was just right for her friend. That friend was someone really special.

My new dad.

When I saw my dad, we knew right away we were meant for each other. He brought me home and he says I am the best thing that's happened to him in a long time.

Well I can definitely say the same about him!

We do everything together – go for long walks by the lake, sleep inside where it's cool, and play together all day. He even takes me to work where they make me homemade cookies!

We're a real family.

Now that I know how great life can be I want all my friends back at the Adoption Center to get families too.

Will you please go out and visit. You might be lucky like me and my dad.

Oh and when you're there, make sure you say hi to Maggie. We were really great friends, she's like my little sister.

She's shy so I worry about her a little bit. It's tough when your family abandons you but now I know how great things can be!

*That wonderful "neighbor lady" is our very special Thrift Store manager, Ronda Cline. Thank you Ronda for caring so much!





Thrift Store Update

by Ronda Cline

The dog days of summer are finally gone and it's no wonder that dogs and volunteers alike are thankful for that. The donations this summer were great. So much came in thanks to our community and surrounding ones that we were never without something to do. The parking lot behind the shop was a busy place most days.

Thankfully we were blessed with a few new volunteers this summer. They really helped fill in the gaps when some of our volunteers that are snowbirds headed north in the spring. We welcome Marie Betko, Niria Holroyd, Louise Poplawski, Carol Baker, Dawn Grawey, and Nell Corbin to our great team. There is always dusting to do and items to shelve so if you have any spare time and would like to give us a hand just come on in!

Our local residents kept us busy this summer, always coming in to check out the \$1.00 clothing. They know that we put out new items throughout the store every day and some of them are in to see us several times a week just so they don't miss any thing.....and then there is Cassandra! We see her every day and sometimes more than once a day! She's like family. It's funny....some of our great customers are like family. Without their support we wouldn't have been able to accomplish all the goals that we have seen through to the end. With their help, I'm sure we will reach the next set of goals in the future as well.

And speaking of future.....can you believe Christmas is almost here? Don't miss out on all the Christmas items that we have been saving up all year. We add to the display every few days and you can't beat our prices!

From our entire team at the Thrift Shop we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday season.

Thank you!



Volunteer Spotlight

by Sally Guggino

Our Volunteer Spotlight is shining on the Thrift Store. Meet Jean Porter.

Jean was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She played softball in high school and college, graduated from Western Michigan University, and later earned her Masters degree in education from the University of Michigan in 1955. Jean greatly enjoyed teaching physical education and health education in elementary school for 30 years. She admits that the happiest time in her life was getting married and having children. Jean first lived in the Clermont area as a "snow bird" and then moved here permanently in 1996. She was looking to help the community through volunteer work when she found the South Lake Animal League Thrift Store. She began volunteering with us in 1997 and has been with us ever since. She has had pets of her own in the past and liked our "no-kill" mission.

Our thrift store manager, Ronda, has these kind words to say about Jean: "I've known Jean Porter for many years but it wasn't until 2008 when I came to work at the thrift store that I really came to know her well. I can always count on seeing Jean at least once a week and it's not uncommon for her to swing by if she's out and about just to check up on us to see whether or not we're "buried". If we are, she'll always stay for an hour or two to help us dig out. She has been a part of the League for so long and we value her expertise and her support. Her smiling face and her endless energy are always a welcome sight to see coming through that back door. She is a friend to us all and a true asset to the Animal League. Thank you, Jean; we love you!"



South Lake Animal League

Wish List

Shelter Wish List:

Cleaning:

Paper towels
Liquid laundry detergent
Bleach / Pine sol or generic brand
Clorox wipes / Sponges
All size trash bags
Mop heads
Dish detergent
Liquid hand soap & sanitizer
Long handled squeegees & scrub brushes

Pets:

Nylabones, Kongs, durable toys
Harnesses & Leashes
Large litter boxes
Scratching Posts, Trees, & Kitty Toys
Purina Kitten & Puppy Food
Any Brand Senior food
ANY BRAND CANNED DOG FOOD
Kennels & Crates , Kuranda beds
Cypress Mulch & dirt for the play yards
Gift Certificates for Home Improvement & Pet Stores
Puppy training pads
Pill Pockets

Donations can be delivered to:

A Haven Before A Home Adoption Center

4648 Baptist Island Road
Groveland, FL 34736
Phone: (352) 429-6334

Hours:

Mon, Tues, Fri 10am – 6pm
Sat & Sun – 10am – 4pm
Closed Wed & Thurs

Thrift Store Wish List:

Clothing / Collectibles / Books
Kitchen & household items
Small electrical appliances in working order
Designer clothes and collectibles

Donations can be delivered to

South Lake Animal League Thrift Store

770 W Montrose Street
Clermont, FL 34711
Phone: (352) 394-1818

One time donation:

Stainless steel table
Microscope
Vehicle for pet transport
Laser color printer
Misting Fans and industrial hoses
Folding or stackable chairs
STORAGE SHEDS
Mobile building for temporary isolation wing
Vending machine
Chain Link Fencing
Universal chip scanner
Pop-up tents
Large wheeled toolbox
Tall ladder
Flashlights

Office:

Printing paper & HP 920 ink

deliver to shelter
or call
(407) 340-8698
for pickup



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