

Pawsitive Tales

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Central Brevard Humane Society

No Kill for Space

New Philosophy, New Policy Adopted in 2005



In fall 2005 the Central Brevard Humane Society Board of Directors adopted a policy that has significantly changed the organization's long-held open admission standard, a 50-plus-year practice of accepting any stray or owner-surrendered animal.

Until last fall, CBHS was the only other open admission shelter in Brevard and, unlike the County's Animal Care Centers in Melbourne and Titusville, is not funded through tax dollars. "Our funding comes through donations, adoption fees, product sales, fundraisers and our thrift shops," said Executive Director Theresa Clifton.

"It's not for a lack of desire to care for strays but we were financially overwhelmed by taking care of so many. All these years we thought our open admission policy was helping animals by providing a safe haven for them off the streets but we were actually reinforcing the ideas of animals' disposability. We have been trapped by our good intentions. The former open-door policy meant short-changing adoptable animals because there is a holding period for strays. When at capacity, we had to make room for strays that may or may not be adoptable after their holding period by killing animals we knew we could find homes for. Deciding who lives and who dies is a terrible decision to force on staff who care so very much about every animal's life," said Clifton.

"The Board decided that a significant change in the way we operate was in order," explained Board President Teresa Munroe.

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"At first we thought our financial situation wouldn't allow us to accept any strays but we just couldn't live with that decision, so the new policy does make allowances for strays, as long as there is room. We hope that what we are doing proves to be a good compromise for the animals and will be enough to turn around our bottom line so that we can continue to find forever homes for thousands of homeless animals," Munroe said.

"We know that our actions are adding to the burden at the north and south animal care facilities," added Munroe. "But our actions are not the reason so many dogs and cats are killed each year in this county. The reason is that there are too many being born each year and there aren't enough homes for them. We hated euthanizing healthy, adoptable animals solely because we didn't have room to house them all, or the money to take proper care of them.

We are trying to focus the attention of Brevardians on the basic problem of irresponsible pet owners who do not spay or neuter their pets, and to begin to change a community attitude that it's okay to dispose of dogs and cats at will."

For that day to come, there will need to be a concerted effort by all of Brevard's animal welfare groups to keep promoting the message of spaying and neutering and fighting community apathy. 🐾

Coming Events

Listen to the Music....

The Central Brevard Humane Society Band performs the fourth weekend each month at the Frontenac Flea Market

June 3...Paws of Distinction

FS - Come see our fashion able shelter animals strut their stuff with the models of La La Modeling Agency Bid on clothes and support CBHS. Call 321-636-3343 ext. 207 for more info.

June 23...Lucky Paws Casino Night

Join us for exciting casino action aboard Sterling Casino Lines and help raise funds for CBHS. A VII Tiki Party will be held before the ship sets sail. Afterward those who choose to cruise will enjoy a silent auction private deck party and the best gaming this side of La Vegas. Call 321-636-3343 ext. 207 for more info.