



Animal Talk



Fall 2008

Volunteer Services for Animals, Inc., 6017 Pine Ridge Road, #330, Naples, FL 34119



We Need Your Financial Help!
VSA has issued many more spay and
neuter vouchers than ever before.

The Great Kitty Transport

VSA feels that all animals have the right to live if they can do so without suffering. While FIV and feline-leukemia-positive cats and kittens are often euthanized, they can live happy and productive lives. Charlotte, Landon, Noah and Sadie are now in Tennessee living happy lives.

Our prayers were answered when we got a call from Lisa Smallwood Frizzell of Madison after she noticed our appeal for special homes on www.petfinder.com. Thanks to their VSA foster mom, Kathy Avery (pictured at right just before loading up) the kitties were transported to Madison in the cab of the 18-wheeler of Joel Moskowitz who makes a regular run from Marco Island to the Nashville area. We thank all who helped with the transfer and to Lisa for her devotion to providing happy lives for special-needs animals.

Kitten Thrown From Vehicle Survives

Arrives In Stunned Condition

Cathy, pictured at left, must have had a guardian angel watching over her. She was saved by someone also named Cathy who noticed a limp kitten lying on the side of the road. Apparently, the kitten, about four weeks old, had been thrown from a vehicle.

When VSA received the kitten, it seemed stunned. She was breathing, but her eyes were lifeless. She obviously had suffered major trauma. But before we could get a veterinarian to see her, she opened her eyes and began sitting up. Shortly thereafter, Cathy, named for the person who saved her, was expressing great displeasure about being in a cage. She continues to be very vocal about her likes and dislikes. We don't mind.

Cathy will be placed in a forever home soon. Information was not adequate to report this mistreatment to Domestic Animal Services.



**VSA volunteer Kathy Avery loading kitties to go
their new Tennessee home.**



“Piper,” Got Milk?
(Actually, it’s kitten formula)

VSA Gets Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Grant

May Prevent as Many as 127,000 Births in 5 Years

Florida Animal Friend is providing \$13,160 to VSA for a feral cat sterilization program in Collier County.

VSA applied for the grant funds to spay or neuter 280 feral cats in addition to those VSA already is funding. VSA has funded feral cat sterilizations through its voucher program for several years and continues to do so. Grant funds will result in additional sterilizations.

Grant-funded sterilizations will prevent an estimated 127,000 births within five years. Feral cat vouchers are available to applicants as long as the cat or kitten is in Collier County and is feral.

Funding was provided from the Florida Animal Friend license plate surcharge which is administered by the not-for-profit corporation, Florida Animal Friend, Inc.



VSA urges our members, supporters and volunteers to purchase the Florida Animal Friend tag. The \$25 additional fee is used to fund programs such as the feral cat sterilization program.

Record Number of Vouchers Issued

VSA’s spay and neuter program issued a record number of vouchers in the first nine months of this year. The additional expense has resulted in VSA having to draw from its reserve fund.

Overall, 1003 vouchers had been issued by September 30, 70% more than in 2007. The increase is mainly being experienced in dog vouchers which have almost doubled compared to last year.

The totals per year through September each year are:

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Vouchers Issued	395	508	588	1003

The upward trend appears related to the number of animal owners out of work, but who are acting responsibly by getting their animals sterilized.

VSA offers the program to animal owners in financial need. Owners apply and are interviewed each Saturday morning by VSA volunteers at Collier County’s Domestic Animal Services on Davis Boulevard from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Gemini Goes to New Home Near Gainesville



VSA volunteers sometimes meet out-of-area adopters halfway. Pictured are D. J. and Christopher who met our volunteer near Tampa to pick up Gemini for their parents who live in Newberry, near Gainesville.

VSA's Rescue Program Continues to Expand

Adoptions Increase About 40%

Despite families moving from the Naples area and a declining economy, VSA adoptions continued to grow in the third quarter of 2008. Adoptions including July through September increased about 40% over the same period in 2007. Year-to-date adoptions in 2008 remain more than double those in 2007.

VSA's rescue program accepts homeless kittens and cats which otherwise would not have the opportunity to live. We provide them temporary homes with VSA foster volunteers until permanent homes can be found. Adopters are viewed as rescue partners.

Unfortunately, VSA has been at capacity since mid-summer. We can only accept additional kittens when others are adopted.

The adoption fee continues to be \$70 per kitten or cat which includes spaying or neutering, age-appropriate vaccinations, testing and a microchip.

VSA does adoptions at PetSmart on Pine Ridge Road near Airport Road and Petco at U.S. 41 and Wiggins Pass Road (please see adjacent story)



VSA Opens Second Adoption Center

VSA is offering kittens and cats for adoption at a second location. VSA now has a partnership with Petco at U.S. 41 and Wiggins Pass Road. Both the Petco and PetSmart adoption areas have VSA kittens and cats available each day of the week. The centers are staffed on weekends and volunteers are on-call during the week. VSA volunteers Helen Imo, Kathi Mattsson, Angela Feiger, and Christina Spevak are pictured above.

VSA appreciates the support of its contributors and the hard work of its many volunteers, replacing fear with love for homeless animals



VSA volunteer Christine Avery sells baked goods to raise money during the recent PetSmart Adopt-A-Thon.

On any given day, VSA has dozens of homeless cats and kittens waiting to be adopted and needing care. VSA also provides spay and neuter vouchers to reduce the pet overpopulation. Here is how your specific donations can help:

- \$325 for 5 dog spays
- \$300 for an order of vaccines
- \$255 for a box of microchips
- \$150 for 5 cat spays
- \$80 for box of flea treatments
- \$65 for a spay of dog
- \$30 for a spay of a cat



Meet "Miami"

VSA has wonderful rescue stories. "Miami" was found on I-75 east of Naples, emaciated and malnourished. He was actually on the roadway, not moving. VSA volunteer, Jan DeJarnette and her daughter, Kathryn, had to bottle feed him because of his condition. As is evident, "Miami" is now a healthy cat. Jan and Kathryn have adopted him.

Contributions

Michelle Vogel in honor of Barb Poorman and Pam Hughes

Upcoming Events

Photos of Your Pet with Santa at PetSmart, Pine Ridge near Airport Rd.

December 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 20 & 21

Bake Sale on These Dates (PetSmart only)

Petco, U.S. 41 N. at Wiggins Pass Rd.

Call 261-4768 for Dates

Volunteer Services for Animals

VSA is a not-for-profit charitable organization which is working to bring about a time when there will be no more homeless pets.

Our efforts are on two fronts--rescuing and adopting homeless cats and kittens and encouraging animal owners to sterilize their animals.

VSA's efforts extend throughout Collier County. Our efforts are collaborative with other non-profit animal organizations and Collier County Domestic Animal Services.

We have little administrative overhead. We do not maintain an office or have any paid staff. Rescued animals are housed in volunteer homes. Our work is supported entirely by donations and occasionally with grant funds. Thank you for being part of this work of love.

Contact Information:

6017 Pine Ridge Road, #330

Naples, FL 34119

597-4930 (information line)

261-4768 (donations & adoptions)

261-4768 (fax)

VSArescue@aol.com VSARescue@aol.com

www.volunteerservicesforanimals.com

-----Please Clip Here and Return-----

[] Become a VSA Member (\$20 annually) [] And/Or Make a Special Donation \$ _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Street/P.O Box/Unit # _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

VSA has tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service tax code, tax identification number 59-2197365. VSA is registered as a State of Florida non-profit organization, registration number SC-05661. 100% of your contribution is retained by VSA which does not contract with any solicitors. 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.

**Please make Checks Payable to Volunteer Services for Animals, Inc. and mail to
6017 Pine Ridge Road, #330, Naples, FL 34119**