Waiting for Someone to Love

Ishia waited and waited, but no one came home that night, or for that matter any other night. The person she loved, the one who fed her and took her for car rides, was never coming home. That night someone who decided to drive after having one too many drinks took the life of Ishia’s owner.

This beautiful dog was now relegated to a crate for the majority of her day, as she was not fond of the other dogs in the home where she had been taken after that fateful night. While her new family cared for her, they knew this was not a good life and wanted Ishia to be the queen of her castle. They knew we could find just the right family to adopt and cherish her.

Ishia is very affectionate towards people and has never met a stranger she didn’t like. She loves going on car rides and gives great doggie kisses. She is the happiest dog in spite of all she has been through and would be a grateful and loving companion to whoever is lucky enough to adopt her. If you, or anyone you know, are looking for unconditional love and a snuggle buddy, Ishia is the girl for the job!

Ishia’s story is one of many we hear on a daily basis. Through no fault of their own, dogs and cats find themselves in the shelter, dependent on the kindness of strangers to care for them. It is because of your generous support that these helpless animals get a second chance for happiness. Thank you.
Thanks to the amazing support from the community, donors, volunteers, and staff, 2018 was a great year for the animals at the Humane Society of Manatee County. The Second Chance Adoption Center found new homes for 734 cats and dogs and the veterinary clinic provided medical care for more than 13,500 animals. Adoption retention continues to be close to 98%, in part due to improved behavioral assessments and training as well as a very successful sleepover program. The average length of stay for dogs was 34.6 days in our shelter before finding their new homes and for cats, the average length of stay was 40.3 days.

Humane Society of Manatee County’s strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency earned our third consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. Another significant milestone in recognition was achieved last year when Humane Society of Manatee County was selected as the Manatee Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Non-Profit award winner for 2018.

Our mission of saving lives four paws at a time is only possible because of the support that we receive from so many in the community.

One example of many of community support for the animals is the Sarah and Yofi Hall - Schneiderman Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation. Leslie and Henry Schneiderman are very involved donors who have a special place in their hearts for the community’s animals and the causes important to animals. This fund supports the Clinic Angel Fund as well as grooming for the Second Chance Adoption Program animals.

We are proud of the work that continues on behalf of the animals at the Humane Society of Manatee County and excited about what the future holds. We do know that we are blessed by your and the community’s support and will continue to dedicate ourselves to saving lives four paws at a time.

With my thanks from the animals,

Rick Yocum
Angus

Angus had a home until he didn’t. Through no fault of his own, he found himself at the shelter and as a result of undergoing a complete examination, it was found that he tested positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). FIV attacks the immune system of infected cats, making them more vulnerable to other infections. The primary mode of transmission for FIV is through bite wounds, non-aggressive contact does not appear to spread the disease. Cats in households where there is no fighting are at little risk of acquiring the disease.

Cats infected with FIV can live normal lives for years, as evidenced by Angus, who at six (6) years old, had not shown any signs of illness. They do need to be kept indoors and monitored closely for illness and infection. While there is no reason to minimize the seriousness of Angus’ situation, it is important that potential adopters are aware of all the facts. Along with his FIV diagnosis, Angus’ adopter pool was impacted by the fact that he also needed to be on a special diet to help prevent urinary infections.

Angus was an affectionate cat with beautiful long black fur. He craved human attention and loved to be petted and brushed. He patiently waited for just the right person to come along, someone who would love him in spite of his potential issues. One day his dream came true – a wonderful woman came to HSMC with a request that we show her the cat who was the hardest to adopt. It was love at first sight!

If I Could Turn Back Time

This song was made famous by Cher, but not the Cher in this story. Cher was a six-year-old, 126 lb. bull mastiff who was suffering from a horrible uterine infection called pyometra as a result of not being spayed. This condition manifests itself when bacteria collect and multiplies in a female dog’s uterus and has no way to escape. If left untreated, pyometra is almost always fatal.

Her owner had just lost her husband, and Cher was all she had left. She couldn’t afford the cost of emergency surgery required to save her beloved dog’s life. Did we mention Cher weighed 126 lbs.? Thanks to generous support from our donors, the HSMC Angel Fund was able to cover the cost of treatment. Surgery was a challenge for such a large dog, but Cher came through with flying colors, thanks to the skilled veterinarians here at HSMC, Dr. Ashley Gillett and Dr. Lindsay Rollend.

If she could turn back time, Cher’s mom would have had her spayed at an early age and avoided this close call. She is grateful to have her best friend back, healthy and happy.
This year’s Paws in Motion Walk-a-Thon Fundraiser was held on March 2 at Caddy’s of Bradenton. Hundreds of dog lovers came out with their best friends to walk along the riverfront, shop at the many vendors in Vendor Village and enjoy the beautiful spring weather. Thanks to the walkers, donors, vendors, and sponsors more than $21,000 was raised to help the animals at the shelter.
Many Ways to Help

There are so many ways to help the animals at HSMC in their journey from the streets to a loving home. From walking dogs and cuddling cats for socialization to financial support in order to provide food, shelter and medical care, our donors and volunteers are the heart of the organization. Two special people, Leslie and Henry Schneiderman, decided to think outside the box when it came to providing the extra touch needed to make dogs more adoptable.

They created a grooming fund, paying for the dogs whose appearance might be a little rough, and giving them a day at the spa. Our partnership with Bayside Pet Resort made this the perfect win/win situation. Their expert groomers can transform dogs like Elvira from shaggy to stylish, allowing their beauty to shine through. It is with support from people like Leslie and Henry that help the animals at the shelter in inventive ways.

![Elvira Before](image1.png)  ![Elvira after her spa day](image2.png)

Check out our brand new Community Outreach Van

The Humane Society of Manatee County continues to expand our Humane Education and Community Outreach Programs, and in 2018 more than one hundred (100) events and offsite adoption events have taken place. The purchase of a new Community Outreach vehicle in December of 2018 was made possible by the generosity and support of The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation. Impact kennels were also installed in the new vehicle to ensure the safe transport of our valued shelter animals.
### Wish List

- Canned & dry food
- Cat litter - non clumping
- Cat treats & catnip
- Dog treats
- Large Kong toys
- Large Nylabones
- Bully sticks
- Tough dog toys
- Bottles & nipples for baby kittens & puppies
- Creamy peanut butter
- 2-8 second thermometers
- Digital SLR camera
- Copy paper 8.5” x 11”
- Postage stamps
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Garbage bags
- Gift cards
- Check out our Amazon Wish list too!

### AED wall mounted units (this is a defibrillator for humans)

### Upcoming Events

May 17-19 PetSmart Adoption Weekend
4942 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
10 am — 3 pm

May 24 Adoption event at Nissan of Bradenton
1611 Cortez Rd. W, Bradenton
10 am — 1 pm

Second Saturday of each month
Adoptions at Pets Plus
8943 US Hwy 301N, Parrish
9 am — 12 pm

Third Saturday of each month
Adoptions at PetSmart
4942 S. Tamiami Tr, Sarasota
10 am — 3 pm

Last Saturday of each month
Dog Adoptions at Caddy’s of Bradenton
801 Riverside Dr. E
1 pm — 3 pm

August 3 — Christmas in August at LECOM Park
August 17 — Clear the Shelter at HSMC 8 am — 5 pm