



# Humane News

**News for the friends and supporters of the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast**

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## MISSION

To provide compassionate care and nurture the bond between people and pets.

## MUTT MARCH

March 23, 2019

6:00 am  
Memorial Park, Stuart

We are combining efforts to turn two great events into ONE fun-filled day, starting with our annual 5k walk/run!

**Continue reading to learn more.**

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## HSTC: a “Class Above” in Face of Natural Disaster

**Being a coastal town in south Florida, the Treasure Coast has experienced firsthand the devastation of many hurricanes.** So, when Hurricane Florence raced toward the United States in September with a path not toward Florida, but toward the Carolinas, the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast knew we needed to step up and reach out to the affected communities.

Days before the massive storm made landfall, 45 pets from the county animal control unit in Beaufort — one of South Carolina’s coastal island cities — arrived at our shelter, where staff had been eagerly awaiting them. Taking in nearly 50 animals with just two days’ notice would be accomplishment enough for most shelters, but at HSTC, we’re more than a shelter. Of the 45 displaced pets, 26 were cats infected with ringworm and upper respiratory infection. Most shelters across the country don’t even attempt to treat such contagious infections,

but we were able to appropriately quarantine these ill cats to provide both adequate treatment and containment of the disease.

It was through the incredible determination and effort by our vet and animal care team that, over the course of the seven weeks that these pets received our care, not one additional animal contracted the infection.

“I am so grateful to my hardworking and dedicated staff that allowed us to safely provide care for these 45 animals in the face of a disaster,” Dr. Diskant said of the effort. It’s also a testament to great leadership that we were entrusted to provide treatment for these zoonotic (contagious to both humans and animals) cases. It is too often that I have seen animals euthanized for this treatable disease in other shelters, and it’s wonderful that the HSTC has the compassion and skill set to be a class above.”

# One Saved Life Results in Professional and Personal Success for HSTC Employee



**A nearby animal shelter was going to euthanize sweet Adele, a whippet mix, after her owners surrendered her at just 3 months old because of apparent leg issues.** Fortunately, our shelter intervened and transferred the puppy here. HSTC Director of Humane Education, Jessie Clifford, volunteered to foster the pup in her home while Adele got the care and treatment she needed to grow healthy enough for adoption. After many weeks, and a whole lot of compassionate care and love, Adele grew stronger and started to run and play without any traceable signs of pain.

When Adele was ready to go up for adoption, it was a hard separation for her foster mom. After a week in adoption, Jessie felt that fate had brought Adele to her and the Clifford family ended up making Adele an official member of their family. It's now been eight months, and Adele continues to improve and enjoys wrestling with her big siblings, Sadie and Dobby.

**"I cannot imagine our life without her," Jessie said.**

With the help of generous donors, the HSTC was able to save the life of a young puppy and bring together a family.

This has been both a personal and professional victory for Jessie. "I am so thankful to be working for a shelter that does everything they can to rehabilitate animals," Jessie said, looking back at the experience. "Seeing Adele get the chance to grow from her fragile state as a puppy to the thriving dog she is today is something that we can all be proud of. Not every shelter is able to save animals like Adele, so I'm just really thankful for our animal care team and our supporters who recognize that lives like Adele's matter enough to preserve."

**"Combining our efforts allows us to present an even bigger, better event that will be both fun and educational."**  
**– Courtney Zanetti, HSTC Director of Community Outreach**

## 2019 Mutt March

The Humane Society of the Treasure Coast is partnering with the City of Stuart and Students4H2O to combine two great signature events — Mutt March and Waterfest — into one free event on March 23rd at Memorial Park in Stuart. Mutt March will continue to offer a 5k run for people and their furry friends, a pet costume contest, a "flea-less" market, a lure course, mini-derby races and a photo booth where people can get a "pet pic"! Students4H2O will continue to focus Waterfest on promoting awareness of water conservation and environmental stewardship. For more information, please call (772) 600-3211 or visit our website at [www.hstc1.org/muttmarch](http://www.hstc1.org/muttmarch).

# HSTC Supporters Pave Way for Advancements in Medical Treatment



Meow

**Meow and Odie came to our shelter from two separate owners for owner requested euthanasia due to each cats' medical needs.** Meow's owner self-diagnosed the 4 year old with arthritis, and 9-year-old Odie had been diagnosed with diabetes by a local veterinarian. As weak and sick as these cats were when they were brought in, our animal care team knew they could help. So, rather than accept this death sentence, we convinced the owners to surrender their cats to us.

Our vet and her team got to work treating the two felines and noticed quickly that Meow was having trouble walking. While his owner attributed the issue to arthritis, we discovered that it was actually because of his incredibly flat feet, which is commonly associated with diabetes in cats. After running a blood spot check to test sugar levels, we confirmed that Meow was indeed diabetic. With the proper care and resources, the HSTC has been able to regulate Meow on diet alone, meaning he does not need any insulin.

Odie's diabetes was so unregulated when he came to us that he could hardly move — too weak from system failure — and his fur was matted and covered in fleas. As soon as our cat technicians gave him wet food, though, he had no issues eating, and we were quickly able to get him stronger in a matter of days. Today, Odie is a healthy weight and he has renewed his strength and energy. His diabetes is

properly regulated with the right dosage of insulin.

While they will continue to have diabetes, both Meow and Odie now exhibit positive health statuses, and our animal care team is confident that they will continue to live long, healthy lives. One of our cat technicians, Reagan Johnson, attributes much of our success in this case to the continued support in funding of our medical clinic, noting that:

**"We have been able to put more animals with medical needs up for adoption in this past year than in any other year at this shelter."**



Odie

# Dogs get New Lives in Local Hoarding Case



**Every so often, we receive an influx of vulnerable pets from a hoarding case.** This past spring, Deli — presumably an 8-year-old mini-poodle mix — and 39 other dogs were brought to us from a nearby rural community following a hoarding case.

These helpless pups had been neglected and forced to roam around in their own defecation, causing severe coat matting and urine scalding, which burns and rots the skin. Additionally, our veterinarian found obvious evidence of inbreeding, and it was clear to her that none of these animals had been socialized with humans before. The dental conditions of these dogs were also inhumane, with most of their teeth already rotted out entirely.

Our clinic shaved and cleaned the matted coats, performed spay/neuter procedures, provided skin treatment and removed whatever rotted teeth they had left. From there, most of the dogs had to stay in foster homes for weeks to get socialized.

As devastating as these cases are to hear about, Dr. Diskant thinks our ability to take them on is what sets us apart from the rest of the pack. She said, “It took a lot of time and patience for our animal care staff to be able to get these animals in a healthy condition for adoption, but it says a lot about our shelter that we’re able to provide the necessary care for this large group of helpless animals.”

Of the 40 dogs we received from this single hoarding home, we are so proud to say that every single one, including Deli, has now been adopted through our shelter.

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## THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER



**2,273**

Animals were adopted this past year.



**6,600**

Animals received HSTC care.



**2,022**

Public spay & neuter surgeries were performed by the HSTC clinic.



To learn more about how you can help homeless animals along the Treasure Coast, please visit [www.hstc1.org](http://www.hstc1.org)