

The Cat's Meow



Newsletter

Save Our Cats and Kittens (SOCKS)

Summer is Here — and So Are More Ways to Help Cats!

As we move into the heart of summer, we want to thank each and every one of you for being part of the SOCKS family. Whether you've adopted, donated, volunteered, fostered, or simply shared our mission with others, you're helping us give cats and kittens the second chance they deserve.

This quarter has been filled with success stories, community partnerships, and exciting plans for the months ahead. Here's a look at what's happening at SOCKS!



Good Mews!

Billy Bowlegs Success Story

The SOCKS Krewe of Kitties had a blast handing out beads, coins, and Moon Pies at the Billy Bowlegs Torchlight Parade! Thank you for your kind words and adoption tales as we cruised by.

Shelter Slumber Pawty Raises \$5,090

Our Shelter Slumber Pawty was a huge success! Participants spent the night at the shelter raising awareness and funds for homeless cats and kittens. Thanks to their efforts and generous donors, the event raised **\$5,090** to support the cats in our care.

Mother's Day Bake Sale Sweet Success

From homemade favorites to specialty desserts, our staff bake sale at the SOCKS Thrift Store raised **\$1,021** to support shelter operations. Thank you to everyone who baked, donated, and shopped!

Penny Fix Grant Supports Spay & Neuter Efforts

SOCKS recently received a **\$2,000 grant from Penny Fix** to help fund spay/neuter surgeries. These funds will directly support our efforts to reduce cat overpopulation and improve feline welfare throughout our community.

SOCKS Featured in National Delectables Study

SOCKS was one of only **10 shelters nationwide** selected to participate in a marketing study for Hartz Delectables lickable treats. Our own Fiona impressed the interviewers by demonstrating the many ways the treats help shelter cats—taming spicy kittens to spreading it up her arm to keep cats occupied during medical appointments.

Financial Giving Spotlight

Required to Withdraw... Inspired to Give

Many of our supporters may not realize that once you reach age 73, the IRS generally requires annual withdrawals from traditional IRAs, known as Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs).

One meaningful and potentially tax-smart option is to direct all or part of your IRA distribution to a qualified charity like SOCKS through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD may count toward your annual RMD while potentially reducing taxable income.

If you're interested in learning more, we encourage you to speak with your financial or tax advisor. Your generosity helps support adoptions, medical care, TNR efforts, and community education programs.

2026 By the Numbers

- Cats adopted so far this year: 305 happy stories
 - Cat intakes so far this year: 454 cats taken in
 - Pounds of food distributed: 1109 lbs
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Did You Know?

SOCKS Board Meetings Are Open to the Public!

Interested in learning more about how SOCKS operates and plans for the future?

Our Board of Directors meets monthly via Zoom, and supporters are welcome to attend.

 Email Board President for upcoming meeting dates and participation details:
president@saveourcatsandkittens.com

What We Need Right Now

Kitten season is ramping up, and our supply needs are growing! We're currently in need of:

- Adult & Kitten Purina dry food
- Laundry detergent (any kind)
- Simple Green and Odoban cleaners
- New spray bottles
- Adoption bags
- Volunteers
- And...a transport van that runs well with air conditioning!

Monetary donations are always appreciated and can be made with [just a few clicks on our website](#).



Upcoming Events

Meowsterpieces Art Show & Competition

June 12 – July 10

 Fort Walton Beach Public Library

Enjoy artwork created for our annual feline-inspired art competition.

- People's Choice Voting: June 12–26
- Online Auction: June 26–July 10

Voting and auction information will be available at:
www.saveourcatsandkittens.com

Pet Supplies Plus Adoption Event

June 13 | 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Meet adorable, adoptable SOCKS cats and kittens looking for forever homes.

Read for Rescue at the Fort Walton Beach Library

July 18, 2026 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Join us for a unique event celebrating books, history, and adoptable cats! Meet the authors of *Luna the Cat*, hear the story behind the book, and get your copy signed. Paperback editions will be available for purchase, and a portion of each sale benefits SOCKS. [See it on Facebook!](#)

Show Us Your Kitties 2027 Calendar Contest

Begins August 1

Start gathering your favorite cat photos now! More details on entering, voting, and sponsorship opportunities will be announced soon.

SOCKS

(Save Our Cats And Kittens Shelter)

PRESENTS

BLACK CAT



A CHARITABLE GALA



Save the Date: Black Cat Ball

♥ Black Cat Ball 2026

October 17, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

📍 Fort Walton Beach Elks Lodge

An elegant evening. A lifesaving cause.

Mark your calendars now for SOCKS' premier fundraising gala of the year. More details, sponsorship opportunities, and ticket information will be announced soon.



🐱 Staff Spotlight: A Q&A with Kim White, Shelter Manager

Q: How long have you been working at SOCKS?

I started in November of 2019, so this fall will be seven years.

Q: What's the best part of your job?

There are so many great things about working at SOCKS, but I think the best is hearing updates, sometimes years later, on cats that have been adopted and how fabulous they are doing in their homes.

Q: How many cats/pets do you have? What are their names?

Walter, our senior dog, is 13 and is the best boy. I have four cats, Jasmine (almost 10), Mystic (at least 10), Maxwell (11 1/2), and Bob (just turned 6!). We also have four aquariums and a variety of freshwater fish.

Q. You have a background in psychology. How has that helped you in animal rescue?

I do have a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. I joke with my mom all the time that I actually do use my degree here at the shelter. I think the main thing that stands out is dealing with people frustrated with the lack of resources in our area. I may not be able to actually help, but most of the time, people just want to feel heard.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

When I'm not at the shelter or spending time with my own critters, I like to read and knit. Ed, my partner of 20 years, and I enjoy fostering dogs for PAWS and fishing. Well, he fishes — I enjoy nature and cheer him on!

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to add about SOCKS or yourself?

It's so rewarding to see how SOCKS has grown and changed in the time I've been involved. We're always thinking of new ways we can help the cats (and people) in our community.



Thank You for Being Part of Our Story

Everything we accomplish is possible because of supporters like you. Whether you donate, volunteer, foster, adopt, or simply spread the word, you're helping create a brighter future for cats and kittens throughout our community.

With purrs and gratitude,

The Team at Save Our Cats and Kittens (SOCKS)

[Website](#) | (850) 863-5756

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P.S. Want to join our [foster](#) or [volunteer team](#)? Email us or stop by. We'd love to have you!