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## Six strays become pets



Levy County Animal Services Secretary III Crystal Pruitt (left) instructs Eddie and Teresa Barron in how to care for their new kitten.

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### Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 10, 2017 at 11:37 p.m.

**CHIEFLAND** -- Through the combined efforts of a retailer, a county commissioner, staff and volunteers of Levy County Animal Services and caring human beings, four dogs and two kittens found new homes on Saturday (Dec. 9).

The six furry animals will be loved and care for in their new homes if all goes as expected.

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**Teresa Barron holds her new kitten 'Peaches' after completing the adoption process on Saturday (Dec. 9) in Chiefland.**



**Two dogs 'Roscoe' and 'Kaley' that were among those not adopted Saturday rest in their cages.**

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**Animal Control Officer Nathan Mercer prepares to return 'Roy' the bulldog to his cage after a couple looked at this dog but chose against adopting him.**

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**Levy County Commissioner Lilly Rooks holds 'Kaley' a female golden retriever, who was not adopted Saturday.**

Tractor Supply Co. of Chiefland, located in the same shopping center as Winn-Dixie, LifeSouth Blood Centers and other outlets in Chiefland, allowed Levy County Animal Services Director David Weatherford and some of his team to conduct a reduced-fee dog and cat adoption event on Saturday.

Levy County Commissioner Lilly Rooks, the liaison for Animal Services with the County Commission, was present for the whole event. Commissioner Rooks is known for helping to care for cats and dogs. She is also an avid and accomplished hunter.

Animal Services Director Weatherford, Dr. Darlene Esler, the county's veterinarian; Crystal Pruitt, secretary III; and Nathan Mercer and Lamar Sears, animal control officers, were among the people working in the gloomy, damp, cold morning on Saturday to help dogs and cats find

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new homes.

They stayed at least until 1 p.m. and by 12:15 p.m. or so, they had found new homes for four dogs and two kittens that had most recently been housed at Levy County Animal Services.

New dogs and cats become available for adoption at Levy Animal Services all of the time. The dog pound is not a retreat or destination sought by dogs and cats. It is part of a necessary function of animal control, resultant in large part due to not enough people spaying or neutering their pets.

During the past decade, the service in Levy County has reduced its euthanasia rate for dogs significantly. Unfortunately, cats who reach the location in Bronson still have a 50 percent chance of going to cat heaven rather than to a home where they will enjoy being a family's pet.

There were two kittens, however, that found welcoming people on Saturday.

One of those kittens was named "Peaches." This 8-week-old female, long-haired black kitten was adopted by Eddie and Teresa Barron of Chiefland. Teresa Barron is among the members of the Chiefland City Commission.

"Peaches" has been spayed, microchipped, de-wormed, treated for fleas, vaccinated for rabies and completely vetted by the Levy County Animal Services staff under the direction of Director Weatherford and Dr. Esler.

The Barron couple also went home with extensive instructions for new kitten care, and a kitten toy as part of their purchase. "Peaches" had just

"Now we are going to buy a collar," Teresa Barron said as she and Eddie Barron walked into Tractor Supply Co.

Dogs and cats are available at the Levy County Animal Services facility.

Two websites to check out for more information about Levy County Animal Services are visible by clicking [HERE](#) and by clicking [HERE](#).