

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Flagler Humane Society
Palm Coast, FL
July 15, 2025



Setting The Record Straight

To the Flagler County and Palm Coast Governments, the General Public, and our Supporters:

Since 1982, Flagler Humane Society continues its mission to transform the lives of animals through compassionate care and services, outstanding educational programs, and advocacy for all animals.

We would like to take this opportunity to clearly state the **facts** to the false, inaccurate, and inflammatory assertions about Flagler Humane Society (FHS) that have been circulating in social media, at County and City workshops, and in some local media outlets. **We'd like to set the record straight.**

FICTION	FACT
FHS employs over 40 full-time employees at the shelter	The shelter employs 21 FTE's and 10 part-time employees. Our thrift store employs 4 FTE's and 5 part-time employees. We also are grateful to our cadre of engaged and passionate volunteers who support us in countless ways. We work with the Flagler County Sheriff's Office to assist inmates in applying their skills to real-world applications, and we also accept Court-appointed community service work.
FHS is not transparent with documentation	Please visit our website where you will find financial audit reports, animal rescue data, staff information, and much more up-to-date information. FHS has consistently and timely provided to the County and City all documentation contractually required.

FICTION	FACT
Palm Coast City paid 50% of the cost for a new generator for FHS	We appreciate the City’s contribution of \$2,500 towards the \$159,000 purchase price of our generator. The generator allows us to operate in our hurricane-proof building when power is down during extreme weather occurrences.
FHS euthanizes animals	FHS euthanizes animals only in the rare and very specific circumstances outlined in our euthanasia guidelines. We are proud to be consistently recognized as a no-kill shelter year over year (most recently, 2024) by Best Friends Animal Society , the nation’s leading authority on animal rescue & adoption. If you would like a copy of our guidelines, please contact us.
The dog kennel area is overcrowded	Due to our open intake policy, at times, we do have an influx of animals. For example, in June 2025 FHS took in a hoarding case of 26 animals from one Palm Coast household alone. Or, during Spring “kitten season”, we may take in 3 dozen kittens in a single day. So yes, at times our shelter gets crowded and staff does their utmost to ensure every animal is cared for regardless of their location within the shelter.
Nepotism exists on the Board	Nepotism, as defined by the Oxford Languages Dictionary, is “the practice among those with power or influence of favoring relatives, friends, or associates, especially by giving them jobs”. Non-profits are generally not subject to Florida’s anti-nepotism law (Florida Statute 112.3135). A FHS Board of Director position is unpaid, and requires time, effort, and financial commitment. Consideration is through an application and interview process.

FICTION	FACT
There is a lack of strategic and capital planning	FHS has secured reserves through judicious fiscal management by the Board. We are in the process of completing a 5-year Strategic Plan which will be made available on our website.
FHS Board denies Board seats to County and City officials	FHS has never denied a City or County official a seat on its Board, since FHS has never received an application for membership from a City or County official. All are welcome to apply.
FHS keeps dogs in crates for months at a time	Most dogs spend their first day in a crate since dogs are den animals and feel safer in a confined space, especially in an unfamiliar place like a shelter. This is also done for health purposes, as dogs are vaccinated upon arrival and crating allows vaccines to take effect prior to exposure to the larger population in kennels. All dogs are handled every day with time out of their kennels.
FHS Animal Control Services has only one truck and its AC Officers don't work hard	FHS has two fully outfitted trucks and employs two officers and one dispatcher. We typically receive 15-20 calls a day. The AC Officer also spends approx. 20 minutes of administrative documentation per call/case for FHS records and possible court submittal.
FHS hasn't supplied its by-laws to government officials	We sent our by-laws to the City via email on March 14, 2025.
FHS doesn't conduct background checks on its employees	FHS verifies information about a job candidate by checking employment and education history, contacting former employers, conducting FCSO arrest searches, and social media and internet analysis. Additional measures are taken if deemed necessary.

FICTION	FACT
FHS doesn't have a proper process to onboard volunteers	Please visit our website where you can find detailed information about our volunteer application process. All volunteers must complete an application and attend an in-person orientation session (volunteer dog walkers must take additional steps).
FHS doesn't collaborate with other local animal welfare organizations	We work with local rescue organizations to accept animals. We collaborate regularly with Halifax Humane Society, and we assist and less fortunate Florida agencies such as Putnam Animal Control and Clay County.
FHS is not in compliance with Florida State statutes requiring financial audit	According to FL Ch. 496.407 a charitable organization with annual contributions of at least \$500,000 but less than \$1 million, shall have its financial statements reviewed or audited by an independent CPA. FHS has its daily bookkeeping conducted by Storehouse Treasures LLC and its annual review completed by Certified Financial & Tax.

Flagler Humane Society envisions a community that values, nurtures and protects all animals. We are fully available to answer any questions through our official communication channel:

PublicRelations@flaglerhumanesociety.org

We appreciate the support and trust of all those who believe in our work and collaborate with us. We thank you.

Gratefully,
Flagler Humane Society

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