



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Nikole Wilson, 352-797-3680  
**Re:** Hernando County Sheriff's Office Animal Services: A Year of Progress  
**Date:** December 31, 2025

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One year ago, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office assumed operational responsibility for Hernando County Animal Services. We embraced this duty with a commitment to transparency, compassionate care, and measurable results for the animals and residents of our community.

Upon transition, we inherited an animal population of 260 (with 159 in foster care) in our care. Today, through proactive placement and streamlined operations, that number stands at just **83 active animals in the shelter** - with only 11 currently in foster care. This significant reduction reflects our sustained focus on moving animals efficiently into positive outcomes.

#### **2025 Operational Highlights:**

- **Live Release Rate:** 92.17%, **surpassing the 90% industry standard for a No-Kill shelter** and representing a marked increase from the 85% rate recorded in 2023. This progress reflects our focus on positive outcomes through adoption, transfer to rescue partners, and return-to-owner, made possible in large part by the addition of a full-time veterinarian providing consistent, on-site medical care.
- **Key Outcomes:** 1,511 adoptions, 591 animals transferred to rescue organizations, 468 pets reunited with their families, and 256 cats released through TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return) programs.
- **Efficiency:** An average length of stay of 15.6 days demonstrates our effective processes in moving animals swiftly toward placement.

Leading this dedicated team is our new Director of Animal Services, **David Paloff, MAS, CAWA**. Director Paloff brings over 25 years of executive leadership in public safety and animal welfare, most recently serving as Chief Executive Officer of the Humane Society of Pinellas. As a Certified Animal Welfare Administrator and a graduate of the Executive

Leadership in Contemporary Animal Services program, he ensures our shelter operates at the highest professional standards. Director Paloff also represents our community on the Board of the Florida Association of Animal Welfare Organizations.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our devoted volunteers, whose countless hours of service, compassion, and support are invaluable to our mission and success. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks everyone who contributed to a successful first year. We remain steadfast in our commitment to animal welfare, public safety, and the continued growth of this positive trajectory of service.

*"This milestone is a direct reflection of the incredible dedication and compassion shown by every member of our Animal Services team, and by our vital volunteers. From the Animal Care Technicians who provide hands-on care every day, to the command staff who problem solve and mitigate risk, as well as ensure we have the resources and processes to succeed. Their hard work has transformed our shelter into a place of hope and positive outcomes. I couldn't be more impressed with what they've accomplished in just one year, and I'm confident this progress will continue to benefit both the animals and the residents of Hernando County."*

– Sheriff Al Nienhuis, Hernando County Sheriff's Office

#### ***Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips***

***If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!***

***Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or \*\*TIPS from a cell phone.***

***You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .***

***You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!***