



Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.

PO Box 17523 Tampa FL 33682
727-656-8368

www.FloridaVoicesForAnimals.org

fvaonline@yahoo.com
Jul/Aug/Sep 2021

“VEGAN DELIS” are popping up everywhere!

By Laura Weiss

Delicious fresh food served daily and NEVER does their food EVER include animals or animal by-products! 100% Vegan!

Cuban sandwiches with freshly sliced “pourk, pizza (whole pies and by the slice), breakfast sandwiches, deli meats by the pound, Phillies, burgers, “Blarby’s roast beeph,” Crackaroni, Sriracha macaroni salad, corned beeph reuben and MANY delicious deserts daily!

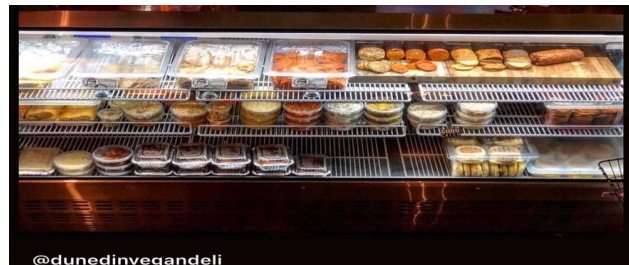
Each Deli has their own FB page and feature their own specialties!

Easy pre-ordering online for pickup or delivery available by GrubHub or DoorDash!

Dunedin Vegan Deli

2340 Main Street, State Rd 580-St B, Clearwater
727-754-6002

M-F 9am-8pm Sat 11am-8pm Sun 11am-4pm
Sidewalk dining and limited inside seating/masks



Brandon Vegan Deli

859 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Brandon
813-654-5926

M-Thurs 10am-9pm Fri & Sat 10am-10pm
Take-out food only



Ybor City Vegan Deli

1903 N 19th Street, Tampa
813-930-5968

M-F 9am- 8pm Sat 11am-8pm Sun 11am-4pm
Outside dining available

*They make their own “in house” Seitan here!



Sarasota Vegan Deli (Order Pickup only)

5119 N Tamiami, Sarasota
941-706-0477 407-844-7332

M-S 10am-7pm Sun 11am-4pm



Outside seating and limited inside seating/masks

All Delis are currently accepting job applications, looking to hire experienced, exceptional people!

FVA in Action - Quarter 2, 2021

Dear FVA members, friends & readers, once again we share with you our FVA Meetup events! We now have 4,328 Meetup.com members. As you can see below, we continue to have a variety of opportunities for you to become involved. WHERE ARE YOU? Join our Meetup group at www.meetup.com, sign up for events that interest you, and then PLEASE attend those events to help the animals! (If for some reason you find that you are unable to attend, *please* be kind enough to change your RSVP. This will help us to better know what attendance to expect at our events and plan appropriately.)

FVA in the Community/Tablings:

4/1, 5/6, 6/3 - Vegan Support Groups, Open Forums, held virtually via Zoom. We have great discussions with some regular attendees and new folks each time. No pressure to chat, but we always like everyone to introduce themselves. Join our hosts, Kim Gronemeyer, Psy.D., Myriam Parham, RD, CDCES & Cathy Unruh, Journalist, Author & Animal Advocate

Media & Other Activities:

4/10 – Shelter Farm Sanctuary visit, Arcadia – 2 FVA Board members attended their 2nd Annual fundraiser to support and meet their staff and animal family.

FVA sends a \$200 donation to a different local shelter each month: April - Critter Creek Farm Sanctuary, Gainesville; May - The Critter Place, Weeki Wachee; June – The Horse Protection Association, Micanopy, FL

FVA Demos for the Animals:

4/17 - Tampa Bay Downs Protest against the cruelties and abuses of horse racing. This year, TBD has already had 2 deaths at the track: Da Alpha on 2/7/21 and Smart Warrior on 3/3/21. May they Rest in Peace. **There were a total of 21 deaths at TBD in 2020.** For more information, go to <https://horseracingwrongs.org/killed-2020/>

5/8 - The 9th Annual Empty the Tanks Worldwide

6/5 – Puppy Mill Protest, Petland-Largo, “Adopt Don’t Shop” Protest

6/12 – FVA & Mercy for Animals (MFA), Costco Exposed Demo, Clearwater. MFA investigators uncovered dark, crowded barns; chickens struggling to walk under their own unnatural weight; dead days-old chicks; and piles of rotting birds. This is Costco Chicken. Over 200 companies have adopted Better Chicken Commitment standards to ban the worst cruelty from their operations. Costco has failed to do the same. See more details and urge Costco to adopt the Better Chicken Commitment at <https://CostcoExposed.com>

In addition to the events above, some of the monthly activities held at several local vegan restaurants are on hold. Please check our calendar or call the restaurant to check their schedules. These include: **New Leaf Café** breakfast buffet, **Loving Hut** buffet, & **Lotus Vegan** buffet. In the meantime **PLEASE support these and other vegan restaurants during this critical time by ordering take out.**

Donations from Smile Amazon Prime

Team, This is what you will receive when you designate FVA as the recipient of your Amazon purchases:



“This is the quarterly notification to inform you that AmazonSmile has made a charitable donation to the charity you’ve selected, Florida Voices for Animals Inc, in the amount of \$27.56 as a result of qualifying purchases made by you and other customers who have selected this charity.

Thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com, or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, everyday purchases have generated over \$266 million in donations to charities worldwide so far.”

Please consider FVA in your purchases at <http://Smile.Amazon.com>.

S.O.S. for Feeding Cat Colonies!

HELP NEEDED feeding community cat colonies at Al Lopez Park. To help, please call Tom at 813-287-0468 or Suzanne at 813-857-2329. Thanks!



FVA Board at Have-A-Heart Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction held at Solid Rock Community School

FVA's BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Myriam Parham - President
Diane Koon -Vice President
Marie Galbraith -Treasurer
Brittany Livingston - Secretary
Trevor Chin
Suzanne House
Kim Gronemeyer
Ellen Jaffe Jones

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Myriam Parham - Editor
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Susannah Sherman
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Tom Bird
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Mindy Lasley - Legal Advisor
Melissa Zepeda - Legislative Advisor

Shelter Farm Sanctuary



Mike & Jenni Presley with Abel the rooster



Patricia Massari, Myriam Parham & Diane Koon give belly rubs to Shelter Farm Sanctuary resident who is hog-wild about the attention!

Unsung Hero for 3 Decades: Bill Samuels

Founder and President Florida Panther Project

Interview by FVA Board member, **Ellen Jaffe Jones**

Why and how did you get involved in this project?

Back in the late 80's and early 90's, the state of Florida didn't know how many panthers were here. The panther was named the state animal and yet no one knew how many there were!

We knew they were shrinking so fast that we recognized that we may not have had any idea how many were left in state at that time. So the state undertook efforts and realized the population was very low. I wanted to do something about it.

I was working as volunteer with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. I formed a 501c3 non-profit in 1993 as the Florida Panther Project. It was one of first non-profits dedicated to advocacy of recovery of the panther.

We traveled before the days of the internet in person to festivals and fairs to set up. The climate was not universal in welcoming us. There were lots of places in the state we weren't welcomed at first. They said, "we don't want them."

Hard to imagine that now because of current mainstream thinking about reintroducing them.



What made them change?

General groundswell as more news stories and documentaries focused on local wildlife...like in California, the condors, in Colorado and elsewhere, the grizzly bears. We began to realize that we desperately need these animals here, that we don't want them to become extinct and we have to change! The cougar, puma, mountain lion...we should do something about them too. We began to see how all of our local habitats were so interconnected and to remove one link from the chain spells disaster for other species as well.

How many were there when you started?

When we started we had the possibility of completely losing them...there were 20-30 left. Today as they have rebounded, the estimates are that we have 200-300.

Why is it so hard to know?

It's not that they're hard to tag, but they are very territorial. When they are crowded out, they move out very quickly and they travel around a lot. Trail cameras show they can move up 100 miles away. It is very difficult to track them even though we have plenty of volunteers. There's no shortage of help, just difficulty in tracking. Bobcats account for 75-80% for panther sightings...they are not panthers.

How are bobcats different from panthers?

Bobcats full grown are the same height, but just smaller. A bobcat is 40 pounds standing tall, but a male panther full-bodied is 150 pounds, and is longer and larger. Their long tail is what gives them away. It's a real long tail. We get these breathless calls, "There's a panther in our yard!" Having said that, because the population has rebounded we are having more sightings. They have gone northward from south Florida into central Florida into Desoto, Manatee and Seminole counties.

What's your biggest obstacle now?

For the panthers, the biggest problem is Interstate 4. It's hard enough for people to move safely on I-4, let alone panthers and black bears. There's no connected habitat or cover. How are they going to migrate to north Florida where they used to be and develop a sustainable population? The legislature approved 300 million dollars for the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act to connect pieces of habitat from south to north Florida. Large patches of habitat such as Avon Park Bombing Range (the US Air Force facility) which is a beautiful big piece of land...70 acres connected to pathways is serious good news! This needs to happen everywhere and distribution needs to occur. Another big problem is we're gaining human population at a thousand a day and will probably be more due to Covid. It's booming like we've never seen before...a new golf course, more housing, shopping and as a result, more highway deaths. We are gaining more support for wildlife crossings, but there's no magic answer. So many roads, so many people, and with so many cars we're going to lose a lot of animals. On one hand, we're optimistic animals are moving north, but we're losing habitat daily, so it's a clouded future at best.

What has been your scariest moment...either coming face to face with a panther or anything else in the wild, or with humans who perhaps didn't support you and your efforts?

The scariest moment was in the early days. I showed up in Jacksonville and some good old boys came by our agricultural fair...a huge fair. People would come by our booth and lots of people didn't take to the idea of welcoming the panthers back, and the scary moments I had were with people, not animals. They said, "not in our backyard, keep your panthers down south." I was never physically threatened but they made it clear, "take it on back to south Florida, boy."

Sentiment has really changed though. I want to stress that. If it's possible to save the panthers, we should. We'd like to think that all our field trips and everything we do to educate have paid off...all of our news stories and fairs...that we made a little bit of a difference. We went around the state to take up the recovery of the panther. But there is still a lot of misinformation. Many more groups are doing it now via Facebook, social media and the internet.

What have been your biggest obstacles and how have you dealt with them?

We had noble goals to raise lots of money and buy land. We realized that there were other groups and did that much better like Nature Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife and others that could set up land trusts because they have better resources. So we've become mostly an education group. We go around showing slide shows with old school Kodak photos and people love it. People learn where panthers were 50-100 years ago and where they are today. We give away shirts to kids. It's not a college lecture...it's a fun, history trip to pre-Disney Florida and what's happened since then. We offer this to any group that wants to have it. Last year was a complete washout for any event due to Covid. In 2018-19 we had more invites than we could accept. At 69, I still work full time, but we were doing 20-30 events all over Florida each year. We try to do several big events a year like vegfests. We have giveaways at our table.

Any takeaway messages?

In 30 years of doing this, it's the wonderful people I've met. I'm so grateful to have met so many caring, committed people. You often hear many negative things about people in positions of authority. But I've met so many dedicated individuals and I always want to thank all of those who have brought me up to speed in the early days and have always been willing to give information.



Recent tabling by Bill



FL Panther Project, circa 2004



Florida Panther



Florida Panther mom with cub

FVA Demos



Empty The Tanks



Empty The Tanks



Horse Racing Demo



Horse Racing Demo



Puppy Mill Demo

You can receive this newsletter via email or download it from the FVA website. To go paperless, please email fvaonline@yahoo.com and let us know. You will both help the environment and to enable FVA have more resources for helping animals.

YES I want to support Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.

Enclosed is my annual membership fee or donation:

☐ \$300 Teddy* Lifetime ☐ \$100 Patron ☐ \$50 Family ☐ \$30 Individual ☐ \$15 Student ☐ _____ Other

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to volunteer for:

☐ Phone Tree ☐ Attending Demonstrations ☐ Staffing Outreach Tables ☐ Website ☐ Newsletter

☐ Investigations ☐ Other: _____

I prefer to receive my Newsletters: ☐ Electronically via email ☐ Regular Mail

** In loving memory of Keith Roghair's dog, Teddy*



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½ Page	\$125	\$220 Save \$30	\$315 Save \$60	\$380 Save \$120
Full Page	\$200	\$360 Save \$40	\$520 Save \$80	\$640 Save \$160



GOOD NEWS



☺ **Jun 2021: Kroger Suspends Purchases of Coconut Brand Linked to Monkey Labor.** Grocery giant **Kroger** has suspended purchases of **Chaokoh** coconut milk after hearing from thousands of concerned shoppers like you. Tethered by the neck with a metal collar, the monkeys are forced to climb up and down trees and pick coconuts.

☺ **Jun 2021: MORE Brands Ban Alpaca Fleece After Hearing From PETA.** Fashion retailer **Vince Holding Corp.** has made the compassionate decision to stop using alpaca fleece across all of its brands, including **Rebecca Taylor and Vince**. They join more than 50 other brands that banned alpaca after PETA let them know that alpacas are mutilated and abused by the cruel and environmentally destructive alpaca-fleece industry.

Media Manager Wanted!

Florida Voices for Animals (FVA) is a local 501c(3), non-profit, animal-rights organization based in Tampa Bay. Our primary mission is to educate the public about animal abuse and promote the benefits of a vegan lifestyle. FVA is looking for a volunteer (with the potential to be hired!) to represent FVA on social media and press issues to increase community awareness of our mission. FVA needs a media manager who has excellent writing and speaking skills for effective community management and facilitation of our social media accounts. This individual would be responsible for the creation and adaptation of written content for specific social media networks. As our media representative, you would need to be engaging and motivating to encourage membership enrollment as well as online and in person involvement in FVA. Experience with digital media, social media metrics analysis, and customer service is preferred. In order to represent FVA genuinely, the right person for this position must be ethically vegan, live a vegan lifestyle, and be knowledgeable about veganism, animal rights, and animal exploitation. This volunteer position has strong potential to transition into a paid position. If you have always wanted to work for the animals, please send your cover letter and resume to fvaonline@yahoo.com.



Our mission is to educate the public about animal abuse and exploitation. Please renew your membership if it has expired. Check your label.

M Paid membership and renewal date **L Lifetime member**
X Newsletter exchange **C Courtesy**

FLORIDA VOICES FOR ANIMALS, INC.

PO BOX 17523

TAMPA, FL 33682

A NONPROFIT TAXEXEMPT

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Go Green!
 Have me emailed to you!
 fvaonline@yahoo.com



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

All events are posted on our Meetup Calendar so if you haven't signed up for our meetup, go to www.meetup.com, search for Florida Voices for Animals, and then sign up.

Visit <https://newdaynewchef.com/episodes/> to watch **New Day, New Chef** vegan cooking show hosted by **Jane Velez-Mitchell**
 Every Tue & Thu at 10:30am WUSF Ch 16.3 **Christina Cooks** cooking show with **Christina Pirello**
 Every Wed at 11am WMNF 88.5FM **Talking Animals** radio show with **Duncan Strauss**
 Every Fri at 11am WUSF Ch 16.1 **Jazzy Vegetarian** cooking show with **Laura Theodore**

Check out the **Vegan Myth Busters** radio show hosted by **Ellen Jaffe Jones** anytime by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667198786868267/> or live every Tuesday at 6PM EST on The Dr. Don Show on KAAA and KZZZ at <http://www.talkatoz.com>

7/1, 8/5, 9/2 **Vegan Support Group** Zoom Mtg. FVA is hosting a series of vegan support groups on the first Thursday of each month to help you cope with the challenges of living in a non-vegan world. Please check FVA Meetup Calendar.

1st Sat / month Postponed **Loving Hut Vegan Buffet** Sat 11am-9pm (Meetup at 6:30pm), 1905 E Fletcher Ave, Tampa FL 33612, 813-977-7888. Loving Hut's website is http://www.lovinghut.us/tampa_01/ This all-vegan buffet is on the 1st Saturday of the month.

3rd Sat / month Postponed **Lotus Vegan Meetup Buffet**, 11am-9pm (Meetup at 6pm), 6575 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL Enjoy an all-vegan buffet at Lotus Vegan Restaurant. This buffet takes place 3rd Saturday of the month.

* * *

We regret to inform you that Tampa Bay Veg Fest will not be returning this year. Thanks to everyone for your support and we hope to return in 2022. If you are interested in being part of the Tampa Bay Veg Fest organizational team, please let us know at info@tampabayvegfest.com. Please continue to support all vegan businesses and pop-ups.

Thanks,

Tampa Bay Veg Fest team

