

## Animal Sanctuary Spotlight: Ybor Chickens Society (YCS)

By Kim Gronemeyer



Dylan Breeze

Local animal rescues and sanctuaries are struggling for support during the pandemic. Donations are down and volunteers are scarce. Consequently, FVA wants to put a spotlight on local sanctuaries in need. This quarter we are putting a spotlight on the Ybor Chickens Society (YCS) run by Dylan Breeze! We had the pleasure of interviewing Dylan to learn a little more about him and his rescues.

### **Tell us a little about you.**

I'm Dylan, and I started the YCS. I spent my first 25 years in small-town Ohio and never saw a live chicken until I moved to the center of Tampa. Recently, my animal efforts have expanded and now include the Ybor Misfits Microsanctuary (YMM). This is at my home and is where I keep the animals who are (1) receiving care, (2) awaiting adoption, and/or (3) part of my own little family of rescues. I've begun the process of forming a non-profit called the Pro Animalium Group which will manage the YCS and YMM.

### **Tell us about the origins of the YCS.**

The YCS came about through a series of events. There was (1) falling in love with one particular family, (2) rescuing a baby chick with a defective leg and becoming her doting dad, (3) seeing people treat the street chickens awfully (which I was and will always be intolerant of), and (4) fearing that someone would try to remove the ones I originally cared for. Once the last one occurred, I started an Instagram profile for the birds, thinking I could get 100-200 followers who could be tapped for petition signatures, and it ended up with over 1000 in a very short time, so I saw that the community was as passionate as I was about these birds. I started to seize on that passion, getting others involved, and the YCS was born.

### **How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the YCS?**

At first, it was nice, because less people were out – so fewer people harassed the birds. But quarantine boredom kicked in, and I ended up building a sanctuary at my home. I'm happy about this development, but now there is a lot of maintenance work, and I'm still cautious about volunteers coming to help. Once things settle down, I hope to have volunteer opportunities, both at the sanctuary and in the community, and general visiting days so people can hang out with the rescues.

### **How do you work with Ybor businesses to gain their support of YCS?**

Most businesses reach out to me, actually. They have volunteer teams or want to make a donation. I've gotten to know a few well because they had their favorite families who needed some care. The birds are a huge draw for many businesses, so everyone benefits when we work together.

### **Can you share an example of how you rescue or help a chicken?**

If I come across one who has an impairment that makes it unsafe for it to remain in the street, I take it in. Usually, catching these particular ones isn't difficult, because the nature of their illness or injury is such that they can't escape on their own. I have a rooster named Wobbles, for example, who is just a bit unsteady on his feet. So he moves cautiously and slowly, which made him easy to grab. An event was going to be held at Centennial Park, and I pulled the trigger on bringing him in, knowing he'd be unable to escape if he were chased by the attendees. Now he's the king of my main pen.

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## New FVA Advisory Board member Laura Weiss



Laura is a retired hairstylist of 37 years from NY/NJ. She moved to Tampa in 2015-16 with her husband David. They are married 20 years. Together, they have 5 daughters.

Vegan 14 years this year and is a Certified Vegan Lifestyle Coach & Educator. She earned her certificate at Main Street Academy in NYC and is an Animal Rights advocate every day of her life! She immediately sought out her "Vegan peeps" after moving to Tampa and joined **Florida Voices for Animals** where she met so many friends acting on the same mission in life!

She became active in various events with the group including Tampa Bay VegFest, protests, tabling at the college & supermarkets, park clean up, attending dinners, fundraisers & Hillsborough County Court to represent FVA to end greyhound racing & for pet stores to discontinue selling animals for profit from breeders.

Volunteer at Tampa Bay Humane Society from 2016 -2018.

Laura & her husband moved to Bradenton in 2017 where they plan to stay permanently. She has and will continue to join in on FVA events in Tampa because FVA is her Florida family!

Volunteer at Humane Society of Manatee County and Bishop Animal Shelter.

She now has a FB group "Manatee & Sarasota County Vegans" with over 500 members and knows this area desperately needs more Vegan awareness & Animal rights support.

'Thank you, Florida Voices for Animals! You have been and always will be MY mentor!'



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

## New FVA Advisory Board member Dani Hall



Dani had the privilege of marrying her best friend and they have two amazing boys. She's a biologist, a full-time student and a long-time activist in human, environmental, animal, and food rights. She has been involved with the Natural Resources Defense Council, Tampa Bay Watch, Audubon Florida, United for Care, Mothers Advocating Medical Marijuana for Autism, PETA, Seaside Seabird Sanctuary, and FVA. She's a scientist who loves animals and the natural world and she wants to ensure that 'there is a habitat left for them when we're through mucking things up.'

### ***FVA's BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

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### How can readers support the YCS?

They can like our social media profiles, where we post about volunteer events, petitions, and other happenings. They can also purchase items for the sanctuary on our Amazon wishlist (<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/K0XDECOH0Z2Y>) and/or make a donation on our website (<https://www.yborchickens.org/>). Also, the Ybor Misfits Microsanctuary has its own Patreon ([www.patreon.com/theybormisfits](http://www.patreon.com/theybormisfits)), where monthly subscribers see much more detailed and honest content, including nearly all rescues and the emotions that come along with them. Lastly, one can consider opening their yard to a rescued rooster, if the law permits where they live.

### Anything you would like the community to know about the YCS chickens?

Many are direct relatives of the same chickens you see to this day in Cuba and Key West. Cigar workers migrated from the former to the latter and brought them along. After a large fire destroyed many factories in Key West in 1885, Vicente Martinez-Ybor decided to migrate North to rebuild and brought his workforce with them. These people brought their birds. Today, they are largely self-sustaining and self-regulating. They were around long before the YCS and will be around long after, as long as they remain protected under the law.

### People think you are a rescue. Can you explain why you are not?

This is a tricky one. I rescue a ton of birds (and some other animals, too.) However, I don't post about most of them on our regular social media, because identifying the YCS as a rescue means expectations will be set within the community that I'm unable to guarantee I can live up to. The main reason for this is simply that I work 2 jobs, outside of my animal efforts, and I can't always be available to take a call. I don't want someone to feel like their call, or a particular bird, isn't important to me if I'm unable to respond. So, for now, we are a *de facto* rescue working on becoming a *de jure* one (via the YMM).

### What happens when people dump chickens?

When people dump chickens, they are setting up a bunch of potential scenarios, none of which are positive. They are diluting the historic and culturally significant feral bloodlines with domestic breeds. These domestic birds are often heavier and cannot seek safety as effectively or swiftly. Domestic birds don't have the same foraging skills, nor the same awareness of the dangers that streets and people may pose. Different diseases and parasites are transmitted between the two populations and the biological defenses for these are not always shared. And territorial disputes occur between roosters, leading to fights, which are frequently fatal.

### What should people do if they find a chicken? Injured or not?

They should take a video, if possible, of the nature of the injury or illness if there is one and pan up to the surrounding area, so I can easily locate it. There's nothing worse than getting a message that says something like, "there's a hurt bird in Ybor," and getting ghosted when I try to find out the details.

### What's the best way to reach you?

Website: [www.yborchickens.org](http://www.yborchickens.org)

Socials: @yborchickens

Phone: 330-727-7127

Email: [yborchickenssociety@gmail.com](mailto:yborchickenssociety@gmail.com)

### Vegan Restaurant of the Quarter : Cider Press Cafe



Mac N Cheese



Raw Lasagna

Covid times call for comfort food. But they have also upset restaurant apple carts with major touch-the-serving-spoon buffets like Sweet Tomato closing their doors for good. Surviving in social distancing means at least half the room capacity from the good old days. Florida Voices for Animals is dedicated to beginning a monthly column on our fav vegan or vegan-friendly restaurants and how they are adapting to the incredible economic and social changes.

This month we feature Cider Press Cafe in St. Petersburg. Co-owner **Johan Everstjin** says "we are always evaluating our business hours and have been adapting as things change. As of now we are open daily from 12 to 8 for takeout, and outdoor seating. We also have touchless pre-ordering and payment, and a dedicated parking spot on Central Ave for pick-up orders. We are also selling some vegan staples and hard to find items as retail. Our full menu and order system can be found at [ciderpresscafe.com](http://ciderpresscafe.com) We also have delivery through BiteSquad."

Be sure you call restaurants before making a trip if you're not sure about hours.

If you have a fav vegan restaurant you'd like to nominate, email with photo and verification of Covid adaptations/changes to [ellenjaffejones@gmail.com](mailto:ellenjaffejones@gmail.com)

Thanks! Ellen



## Florida No-Roads to Ruin



FVA has proudly joined the No Roads for Ruin Coalition. Per the coalition, earlier this year, the Florida state legislature passed a bill to fast-track three major new toll roads that will destroy large swaths of Florida's last remaining rural lands, pollute waterways, and threaten endangered wildlife including the iconic Florida panther. If completed, 330 miles of toll roads could be constructed by 2030. This ill-planned road system is known as the M-CORES (Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance) program. Road building alone will immediately destroy more than 52,800 acres of undeveloped areas and promote unsustainable sprawl, destroying hundreds of thousands of additional acres. These disastrous toll roads would be bad for our economy, our health, our rural communities, our state's future, and, of course, for Florida's wildlife.

Florida is one of the most ecologically diverse areas in the world with over eighty distinct habitat types that supports a multitude of different species. Florida's remaining green space is under constant attack from increased anthropogenic land-use and development, and the M-Cores project will pass through some of Florida's last undeveloped wilderness. Persistent development and habitat loss have been particularly devastating to many animal species including the endangered Florida bonneted bat, which is an endemic species only found in south Florida. Bonneted bats are non-migratory and have a limited habitat range which makes them sensitive to extinction from habitat disturbance or loss. These bats are valuable members of the ecosystem because they eat large quantities of insects during their nightly flights. We know very little about this incredible species and if their remaining habitat is destroyed these bats will be lost to us forever.

Another species under threat from the M-Cores project is the crested caracara which is a neotropical raptor with a subspecies that is endemic to south-central Florida. Their breeding range once spanned most of the state from Brevard county south to Hendry county, but that range has contracted due to human development and agricultural land-use. Crested caracaras provide ecosystem services in the form of scavenging carrion and by controlling the populations of other small animals. Both state and federal agencies list these magnificent birds as threatened and their main threat is habitat disturbance and loss. Disturbance near their nesting sites could result in the abandonment of the nests or their entire home range if the disturbance is widespread.

The Florida panther is another species that is at extreme risk of extinction from increasing human development. Florida panthers are a subspecies of puma that require large contiguous areas of suitable habitat to thrive. Historically, panthers once roamed throughout the entire southeastern United States, but today their range is less than five percent of that original area. The M-Cores project could further isolate already stressed populations. These small populations are cut off from other panther populations and pose a problem for their successful recovery. A lack of genetic diversity within a population results in inbreeding depression which could lead to the loss of that population. Inbreeding depression is an issue that many of our wild animals face due to increased isolation from other suitable breeding populations. These animals simply do not have enough connected space to breed and thrive and the M-Cores project will significantly impact valuable ecosystems that these imperiled species rely on. The preservation of our natural green space areas is vital for the health of our wildlife, our clean water, our clean air, and us.

Please join us in the fight to preserve Florida's remaining natural areas and wildlife. Check out <http://noroadstoruin.org> and the Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund page to take action. You can send a quick email to the Florida M-CORES Task Force via this: <https://www.fcvedfund.org/no-roads-to-ruin/> or <https://www.facebook.com/NoRoadsToRuin/> Contact the FDOT at <https://www.fdot.gov/agencyresources/contactus.shtm> or contact M-CORES at <https://floridamcores.com/>

Dani Hall

## FVA In Action

Dear FVA members, friends & readers, once again we share with you our **FVA meet-up** events! **We now have 4,238 signed up as 'interested' in our group & activities.** As you can see, we continue to have a variety of opportunities for you to become involved. **WHERE ARE YOU?** Please join our Meet-Up, please sign up for events that interest you, then **PLEASE attend the events and 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 type of attendance to expect at our events and plan appropriately.)

### FVA in the Community/Tablings:

**7/2, 8/6 & 9/3, Vegan Support Groups, Open Forums,** have been held virtually on Zoom. We have had some great discussions with some regular attendees and some 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, CDE and Cathy Unruh, Journalist, Author & Animal Advocate

**7/11 - FVA Quarterly Al Lopez Park Clean Up was a huge success! We had one of the largest groups attend, a total of 21 helpers!** The usually start at 9am and last 1 1/2 – 2 hours. Please check FVA meet up for future dates. The location is 4810 N. Himes Ave., Tampa. We meet by the front entrance area to distribute trash bags. Please bring gloves and wear shoes you won't mind getting dirty or wet.

**9/12 – Cypress Pointe Park Clean up, In observance of National Clean Up Day USA + Earth Day + Keep America Beautiful. Seven Volunteers,** joined together in the annual National Clean-up Day. Five large trash bags were filled in a little over an hour! According to the national organizers 190+ Countries and millions of participants, individuals and organizations joined coast to coast, to clean up parks, trails, beaches, mountains & open spaces throughout the month of September. Maybe you can help us plan an ever bigger event next year!



### Media & Other Activities:

**Suncoast Corridor letter writing on proposed toll roads** sent to our Constant Contact members. Hope you joined us and wrote a letter. You can still write to FDOT or a letter to the Editor on this issue. If the 3 proposed Toll Roads do go through Florida, as planned, they will be an environmental disaster for our entire state, many endangered and threatened species and millions of innocent creatures who currently live in the proposed areas. **PLEASE** don't sit back on this one. **PLEASE** speak up before it's too late!

**This vital letter writing campaign was initiated via Constant Contact** to our FVA members encouraging them – **YOU** - to write letters to **FDOT opposing these 3 proposed toll roads through critical wildlife habitat in Florida.** For more information please check our website.

### FVA Demos for the Animals:

No activities in this area this quarter, primarily due to the COVID-19 concerns.

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. Order Take out!!!** Please check our FVA calendar to join us at these events so we can get to know each other. We hope to see you soon!



## Tampa Bay Veg Fest 2020 Update



Dear Friends of Tampa Bay Veg Fest

In lieu of our usual Tampa Bay Veg Fest, due to all the COVID-19 concerns, FVA is joining forces with Central Florida Veg Fest for an exciting virtual event over the weekend of 10/31/20!

We are bringing some amazing and well-known speakers, virtually, of course, to share stimulating and informative presentations and answer your questions. Our presenters include:

•**Neal Barnard, MD**, PCRM president and co-founder, author, and international speaker is scheduled on Saturday, 10/31 at noon. Dr. Barnard will be presenting a very timely talk on “How foods help the underlying conditions (diabetes, hypertension, weight problems) that can make COVID more deadly.” He will also be speaking on the surprising ways foods affect our health and hormones, addressed in his new book, "Your Body in Balance." Dr. Barnard has led numerous research studies investigating the effects of diet on health which contributed to the acceptance of plant-based diets in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. He has authored over 90 scientific publications and 20 books and is the editor in chief of the Nutrition Guide for Clinicians.

•**Christopher Sebastian McJetters**, Author and Activist. He is a staff writer at Vegan Publishers, and a part-time lecturer on speciesism at Columbia University. Christopher sits on the advisory board for Black Vegans Rock. Plus, he provides part-time writing and research support for A Well-Fed World. His work focuses on examining the complex relationships between animal violence, anti-black racism, queer liberation and classism. He will share his thoughts on many of the above issues that will help provoke dialogue and change to make this a better world for all.

Stayed tuned for more speakers, times and details!

We appreciate your support and we look forward to seeing you next year at Perry Harvey, Sr. Park! Please stay healthy and safe!

Tampa Bay Veg Fest Organizing Committee (Please note that there will **not** be a ThanksVegan Potluck this year)

### FVA Invites You to Relax and Have a Cup of Tea



Now that you have had time to unwind, please take a few minutes to:

- ◆ Become a member of Florida Voices for Animals
- ◆ Re-new your membership
- ◆ Support one of the many projects that help our animal friends.



**Diane** (left) & **Suzanne** (right) present **Michele** (Solid Rock Community School) with 72 free books.

**Solid Rock Community School (SRCS)** is a K-12 private school that is Green School and Ocean Friendly certified. They have a strong environmental focus, humane education classes, and offer their students a free plant-based lunch everyday. Scholarships are available

### Billie (Fix & Feed Feline Ferals) Needs Help!

Billie is with Fix and Feed Feline Ferals and is on Facebook. Billie has cerebral palsy since childhood. She is now in a wheelchair and somehow feeds about 100 kitties a day which includes her cats and the colonies in Tampa. Billie puts the big bag of food on her lap while in the wheelchair. She also stays in her car when she feeds the feral colonies since she can not walk anymore. This woman has her hands full. Many of her kitties have passed since she has been doing this for over 20 years. She has some of her own from rescuing years ago. She hopes she outlives the ones she has left. It is getting to be too much for her. She is also on oxygen. This one colony needs to be trapped and fixed too. She is looking for people to help with this.

She could use a hand with feeding one of her cat colonies located off Dale Mabry, north of Waters Ave maybe 1 or 2 days a week. They can feed the kitties anytime. Please contact Billie at [billiek@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:billiek@tampabay.rr.com) if you can help.

Cat rescuers can receive free Friskies wet and dry food by going online to [purina.com](http://purina.com). They can send you coupons for free bags of dry and also coupons for wet food.



You can receive this newsletter via email or download it from the FVA website. To go paperless please email [fvaonline@yahoo.com](mailto:fvaonline@yahoo.com) and let us know. You will both help the environment and 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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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## GOOD NEWS



☺ **Jul 2020: SB1084 passed for Emotional Support Animals** The Florida legislature passed a bill regulating the out of control problem of Emotional Support Animals in Florida's community associations. SB 1084 was signed into law by Governor DeSantis on July 1, 2020, and took effect immediately. It amends Florida's Fair Housing Act by prohibiting a housing provider, to the extent required by federal law, rule, or regulation, to deny housing to a person with a disability or a disability-related need who has an animal that is required as support. The bill prohibits a housing provider from charging a person with an emotional support animal additional fees. The bill prohibits a housing provider to request information that discloses the diagnosis or severity of a person's disability or any medical records relating to the disability. The bill creates a new cause for disciplinary action against a health care practitioner's license for providing supporting information for an emotional support animal, without personal knowledge of the patient's disability or disability-related need .

☺ **Sep 2020: Carole Baskin of Big Cat Rescue, has been chosen to participate in Dancing With The Stars!** Joe Exotic can only watch from his jail cell...

☺ **Sep 2020: Pasco County Commission passed a ban on the retail sale of dogs and cats.** The measure is meant to curtail the operations of puppy and kitten mills. The ordinance does not stop pet shops from purchasing animals from legitimate breeders or directly obtaining their new animal directly from shelters or rescues. In Florida, more than 50 cities and 8 counties, including Hillsborough, have already passed similar ordinances. Commission Chairman Mike Moore brought his small-breed dog, Jo-Jo to the meeting. Jo-Jo was relinquished by a breeder because it was born with just three legs and a malformed paw on one of those legs.

☺ **Sep 2020: Vegan Celebration Ideas: a private Facebook group** The holidays are almost upon us, and not a moment too soon! Opportunities to celebrate are plentiful, and there are three things that most of them have in common: 1) Traditional recipes 2) Fun decorations 3) The sharing of gifts. Gatherings at Passover, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, are excellent times to impress your non-vegan circle with the delights of compassionate living. 'Vegan Celebration Ideas' is a private Facebook group for sharing our veganized traditional recipes, creative decorating tips, and gift shopping pointers. 2020 has been a challenging year, in so many different ways. You're invited to help create a group that is fun to visit: for ideas, community, and inspiration!



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

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 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](http://www.meetup.com), search for Florida Voices for Animals then sign up.

Every Tue & Thu at 10:30am WUSF Ch 16.3 **Christina Cooks** cooking show with **Christina Pirello**

Every Wed at 10am 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/>

Please check FVA Meetup for **Vegan Support Group** mtg Location TBA. 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.

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/](http://www.lovinghut.us/tampa_01/) This all-vegan buffet is on the 1st Saturday of the month.

1st Sun / month Postponed **New Leaf Café Brunch**, 9am-12pm 11813 N Armenia Ave, Tampa, FL Enjoy an all-vegan brunch which takes place first Sunday 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.

Oct 24 (Sat) **FVA Fundraiser at Chipotle** 4pm-8pm, 2011 Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 813-877-4169 Order at the restaurant telling cashier you're supporting FVA Fundraiser where we will get 33% of the proceeds or order online via the following:

- 1) Access Chipotle app or website.
- 2) Choose "Pickup" and select the above location.
- 3) Build your order with your faves.
- 4) Remember to enter the "Promo Code" before you click "Apply" Promo Code 9LTFMFV
- 5) Provide payment info and submit your order for pickup.

Thank you so much for helping FVA

**Oct 31—Nov 1 (Sat-Sun) FVA Virtual Tampa Bay/Central Florida Veg Fest 2020** time TBA **FVA & Vegetarians of Central Florida** have teamed up to provide a Virtual event this year with key speakers like **Neal Barnard MD & Christopher Sebastian McJeters**, Author and Activist. More details will be provided online via Meetup Calendar and Constant Contact.