



**Vol. 35 No. 5 • SPCA of Central Florida  
Holidays 2010  
Your Local Humane Society . . .  
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www.orlandopets.org**

# Pet Talk

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You'll learn the latest information on special pets  
for adoption as well as useful animal care tips.

## WIGGLE WAGGLE WALK 2010

### Most Successful Ever!

The cats & dogs here at the SPCA of Central Florida are still partying from our major success with "Wiggle Waggle Walk" 2010! This year's event raised more than **\$91,000** to assist with the care, fostering and home placement of the thousands of pets we see yearly as well as providing support for all of our great community outreach programs.

#### How did we do it? We're glad you asked!

On Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> animal lovers of all shapes and sizes (and, of course, those with two, three and four feet) joined together at Cranes Roost in Uptown Altamonte to participate in THE biggest and best pet walk in Seminole County, "Wiggle Waggle Walk"! Since it was the tenth anniversary of this event, and for a grand celebration, we decided to move it to a proper place to party—Cranes Roost of course!

Vendors lined Cranes Roost Boulevard with the finest in pet and people products; we had everything from orthodontists to one of a kind cat trees for the



"other" four footed! It was a grand set-up and for our emcee, Fraily Rodriguez, the Manager of the Education Team, it made the morning perfect for walking up and down (on microphone) to promote these special small business owners!

The walk started that morning at 10 am, with Tom Terry, Chief Meteorologist for WFTV 9 of 9 Family Connections, a proud partner & supporter for all of our events, leading the way! After all of our walkers enjoyed a leisurly stroll along the boardwalks and sidewalks of Cranes Roost, folks gathered near the floating stage for our fantastic Halloween costume contests!

#### The winners for this year's event are as follows:

**Funniest Costume** went to Shari Gray, with her troupe: Maggie, Jackson, Bailey and Riley (they were dressed as Lady Gaga and her—"puparazzi's").

**Scariest Costume** went to—Karen Umperovitch with her dog Brooklyn (Brooklyn was a spooky skeleton).

**Most Unique Costume** went to Veronica Puttman with Oreo (Oreo was dressed as a matador with Valerie pulling a bull! You had to see it folks!)


**Best Group/Pack Costume** went to a group that dressed to the tee from the **Wizard of Oz!** Including people and pet costumes and even a few kitties! Wow!

Of course you would not have a successful event without fundraisers and "Wiggle Waggle Walk" has the best in this category too!

**Dr. Monisha Seth**, Pack Leader of "Franklin's Friends", raised a total of **\$32,623!** How? Dr. Seth starts planning months before the WWW; she also plans and coordinates lots of outside events before Wiggle Waggle Walk; and she asks every one she knows to join her in reaching her personal fundraising goal. But there's more.

**Franklin's Friends Pack** organized some great pre-walk fundraising events this year. Here are just a few:

 **Brittany Armstrong** with her Seacoast National Bank "Yappy Hour" and the "Rummage for Rescues."

 **Melinda Meyers** with her "Inaugural" Sherlock Hounds, Scavenger Hunt" in Avalon Park!

 The whole Pack did a second year of "Tails on the Town" a month-long coupon, filled with discounts for dining, shopping and more!

And of course the list goes on & on . . .

— Continued on page 6 —

# PetTalk

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Editor: Barbara Wetzler, Barbara@orlandopets.org  
Website: www.OrlandoPets.org

Founded in 1937, the SPCA of Central Florida's mission is to promote responsible human behavior toward animals.

## ORLANDO HUMANE SOCIETY/ORANGE COUNTY

Located at: 2727 Conroy Road, Orlando, 32839

Shelter Hours:

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday

Noon – 4:00 p.m. Sunday

Public Vet Clinic Hours:

The Orlando Public Vet Clinic is open 7 days/week.

7:30 a.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Orlando/Orange County Main Phone Number: 407-351-7722

For Adoption Desk: X 221, X 284

For Animal Receiving Desk: X 235

For Business Office: X240, X273

For Cruelty Investigations: X 275

For Medical Clinic Appointments: X 226, X227

For Medical Clinic Cancellations: X 279

For Volunteer Services: X 236

Main Fax Number: 407-352-2070

## HUMANE SOCIETY OF SEMINOLE COUNTY/SANFORD SHELTER

Located at: 2800 County Home Road, Sanford, 32773

Shelter Hours:

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday

Noon – 4:00 p.m. Sunday

Public Vet Clinic Hours:

The Sanford Public Vet Clinic is open Mon. – Sat.

7:30 a.m. – 4:15 a.m.

Sanford/Seminole County Main Phone Number: 407-323-8685

For Cat Adoption Desk: X 222

For Dog Adoption Desk: X 221

For Cruelty Investigations: Call Orlando number above

For Medical Clinic Appointments: X 226, X227

For Medical Clinic Cancellations: X 228

For Clinic Operations Manager: X223

For Shelter Operations Manager: X224

For Volunteer Services: X 246

Main Fax Number: 407-323-3792

All facilities are closed on major holidays.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Advertising accepted by the Society is not an endorsement of product, service or company.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

If you decide to include the SPCA of Central Florida in your will, please be sure to use the full legal name:

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Central Florida, Inc.



# From the Desk of the President

Dear Friends of the SPCA of Central Florida,

Ever since last year, when we completed much needed renovations to our Sanford facility, it became clear that we now needed to focus on some small, but significant, improvements to our Orlando facility. Last year's renovations and construction in Sanford dramatically improved their vet clinic and cat shelter facilities – two areas that also need attention at our Orlando facility. And so, the "Little Dig" began on November 1 in front of our Orlando vet clinic.



Our plans include: doubling the size of the lobby of our vet clinic, adding two more exams rooms, making a clinic restroom more handicapped accessible, increasing the size of our two indoor kitty free-roam-rooms, adding three kitty meet and greet mini-rooms, AND best of all, creating two new outdoor kitty free-roam-rooms that will connect to the indoor rooms through tube-walkways at ceiling level.

No construction project – even a small one – ever happens without inconveniences to access, etc. Please be assured both staff and T & G Constructors will all do our best to minimize problems for you. The inconveniences should be relatively short term as the target date for completion is the end of December 2010.

Below are two pictures depicting a few of the changes just to the kitty areas.

Of course, we would be grateful if you would like to donate to assist the agency with the costs of renovations (\$285,000). Check out our website homepage ([www.OrlandoPets.org](http://www.OrlandoPets.org)) for picture updates and for ways to donate in support of this project.

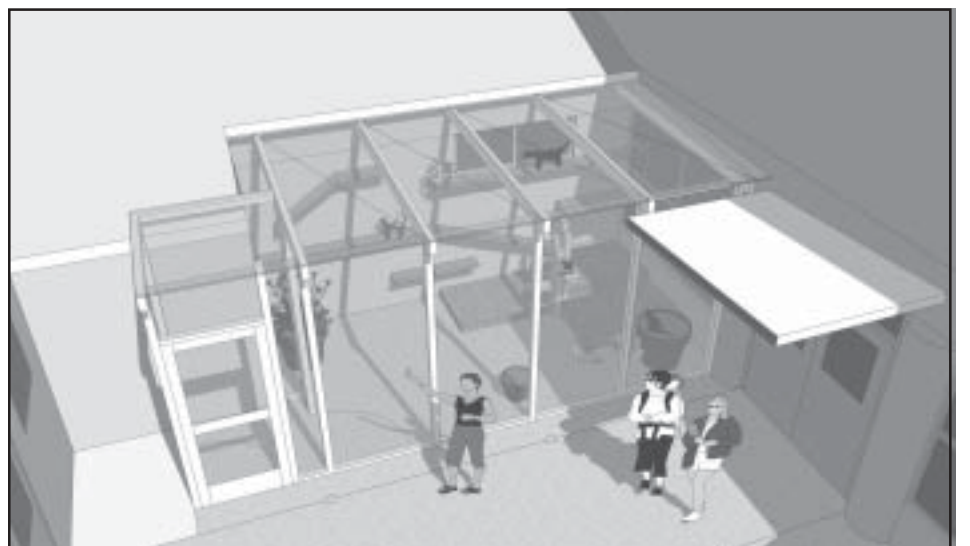
Thanks for your support of the SPCA of Central Florida.

Barbara Wetzler  
President

## Meet and Greet Rooms



## Outdoor Cat Kennel



If you haven't seen us lately, you haven't seen us at all. Come by for a visit. You'll be glad you did. And ... PLEASE ... Spread the word!

# SPCA VETERINARY CLINICS: ORLANDO AND SANFORD

THE HOURS FOR ORLANDO'S CLINIC ARE: 7 days a week. 7:30 AM-6:15 PM.  
THE HOURS FOR SANFORD'S CLINIC ARE: Monday-Saturday. 7:30 AM-4:15 PM.

## PLEASE NOTE PHONE EXTENSIONS

### SPAY/NEUTER SURGERY:

Spay/neuter surgery appointments, Orlando Vet Clinic: 407-351-7722, X226  
Spay/neuter surgery appointments, Sanford Vet Clinic: 407-323-8685, X226

### GENERAL MEDICAL CLINIC SERVICES:

Medical clinic appointments, Orlando Vet Clinic: 407-351-7722, X227  
Medical clinic appointments, Sanford Vet Clinic: 407-323-8685, X227

### CANCELLATION LINES:

Appointment cancellations, Orlando vet clinic: 407-351-7722, X279  
Appointment cancellations, Sanford vet clinic: 407-323-8685, X228

### POST-SURGICAL COMPLICATIONS OR FOR COMPLICATIONS FROM HEARTWORM TREATMENTS:

Medical/Post-op, Orlando vet clinic: 407-351-7722, X225  
Medical/Post-op, Sanford vet clinic: 407-323-8685, X225

### THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Clinic services are available for the pet of any person regardless of County of residence.
- General vet care services are available only for spayed/neutered animals or those with a medical deferment.
- Pets must be at least 3 months of age or 3 pounds for spay/neuter surgeries.
- Only healthy animals should undergo surgery. If your animal is not feeling well (sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.), please reschedule your appointment.
- When entering or leaving our clinics, for safety's sake, all cats must be in a pet carrier and dogs on a secure leash.
- SPCA of Central Florida Society members receive a discount on general vet services (**excluding** the spay/neuter surgeries).
- SPCA members must present their current year membership card at check-in time to receive the lowest cost general vet services.
  - Membership cards are not transferable.
  - Membership in other humane organizations will not apply for our Clinics' discounts.
  - Non-members may use the low-cost medical clinics, but please note the fees charged to non-members will be higher than those charged to SPCA members.
- Ask about our special senior citizens' (65 years of age or older) discount for wellness services only.
- Because of the high-volume of phone calls received by the Medical Clinics, you may reach voice mail when you call the numbers listed below.
  - If this is the case, please leave a detailed message on the voice mail.
  - The message should include your name, a daytime phone number, the time when you will be available for a callback, the reason for your call, and when you hope to schedule an appointment.
  - The staff are committed to providing you with excellent service. Your thoughtful use of voice mail will help in this process.
- You may pay by cash, check, debit, Discover, Visa or Mastercard.
- There is a \$10 charge for "no shows" or for cancellations with less than 24 hours notice.
- Full payment is expected at the time of service.

### SPAY/NEUTER SURGERY COSTS

- *Because of the risk of contagion to other animals, proof of recent feline aids/feline leukemia tests is required at the time of surgery or clients may have their cats tested at our clinic on the day of surgery at an additional charge.*
- *Proof of dog's recent heartworm test or testing at clinic on the day of surgery, for an additional charge, is highly recommended.*
- *There will be additional charges for complications such as pregnancy, obesity, age, undescended testicles, etc.*
- *There will be additional charges for post-operative pain medication and e-collar if needed.*
- *Pets 5 years of age or older must have a blood test before surgery (super chem CBC - \$37.50 - \$67.25) per our vets' requirement to help determine the overall health of the pet.*
  - *Pets 5 years of age or older will first come in for a pre-surgery consult (\$25). A pet this age is considered a geriatric animal, and SPCA vets will first perform an exam to determine the overall risk to the pet of performing the surgery.*
- *Pets under 5 years of age have the option of having blood work done, but it is not required.*
- *According to County Code, all pets must be vaccinated against rabies. Pet owners must bring with them documentation of rabies vaccination or have their pets receive a rabies vaccination on the day of surgery.*

### BASE SPAY/NEUTER SURGERY RATES: CATS

Male Cat Neuter \$25  
Female Cat Spay \$35



### BASE SPAY/NEUTER SURGERY RATES: DOGS

#### Male Dog Neuter:

Under 30 pounds \$35  
31-70 pounds \$45  
71-100 pounds \$55  
101 - 125 pounds \$65  
125 pounds or more \$75



#### Female Dog Spay:

Under 30 pounds \$40  
31-70 pounds \$50  
71-100 pounds \$60  
101 - 125 pounds \$70  
125 pounds or more \$80

Drop-Off Time for Surgery Appointments: 7:30 AM.

Pick-Up Time from Surgery: Afternoon of same day. Receptionist staff will inform you of pickup time at "drop-off," but must be before 5:00 PM.

There will be an additional boarding fee/penalty for animals that are not picked up by the end of the day and must be held overnight.

Pet Talk



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# Ten Tips for Giving Wisely

- 1. Budget for giving.**  
Plan your philanthropic activities right into your budget just as you would other financial obligations.
- 2. Be an informed giver.**  
Don't be afraid to ask questions when you're asked to give. Give only when you feel comfortable that your dollars will be going to support an organization you know and believe in.
- 3. Keep the right records.**  
For gifts less than \$250, a cashed check or receipt from the charitable organization is sufficient proof of contribution.
- 4. Be aware of how much is really tax deductible.**  
If you receive a premium in exchange for your gift, the amount of your tax deduction is reduced by the fair market value of the premium. You can turn down the incentive item if you wish to claim a deduction for the full amount of your gift.
- 5. Ask about matching gifts.**  
Many employers match gifts made by their employees or make grants to organizations recommended by employees. Be sure to ask your company how it can help your gift go even further.
- 6. Consider alternative forms of giving.**  
Don't overlook the benefits to you and your cause received from bequests, charitable gift annuities, gifts in kind, endowments and many other creative forms of giving. Ask your tax advisor or attorney to help you make the best plan for you and your family.
- 7. Remember your gift can be confidential.**  
If you prefer to have your gift remain confidential, you can expect the charitable organization to honor your request.
- 8. Volunteer!**  
In addition to financial support, consider giving your time and skills. Not only will you help the organization, but you'll also make contacts, gain experience, and learn more about the charitable cause to which you're committing your time and money.
- 9. Don't forget you have the right to say no.**  
Give generously when you can, but if you're unsure or feel uncomfortable - or if an organization simply falls outside your plan for giving - don't be afraid to say no. Or, ask for more information and take more time to think before making your decision.
- 10. Be a proactive giver!**  
You don't have to wait to be asked. Plan a giving strategy in advance. Contact the charitable organizations of your choice to discuss how your gifts can be most effectively used and help make a difference in your community.

Source: Adapted from *INDEPENDENT SECTOR*, [www.IndependentSector.org](http://www.IndependentSector.org).

For more information on donating, please go to our website, [www.OrlandoPets.org](http://www.OrlandoPets.org), or contact Alison Elig, Executive Assistant/Business Office, at 407-248-1741, [alison@OrlandoPets.org](mailto:alison@OrlandoPets.org).



139 Harristown Rd • Glen Rock, NJ 07452  
phone (201) 816-1288 • fax (201) 818-4694  
[www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)

July 1, 2010

Barbara Wetzler  
SPCA of Central Florida  
2727 Conroy Road  
Orlando, FL 32839

Dear Barbara Wetzler:

On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate SPCA of Central Florida on achieving our coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management.

As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, highlights the fine work of efficient charities such as your own, and provides donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make.

Based on the most recent financial information available, we have calculated a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce SPCA of Central Florida has earned our fifth consecutive 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Only 5% of the charities we rate have received at least 5 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that SPCA of Central Florida consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates SPCA of Central Florida from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

*Forbes*, *Business Week*, and *Kiplinger's Financial Magazine*, among others, have profiled and celebrated our unique method of applying data-driven analysis to the charitable sector. We evaluate ten times more charities than our nearest competitor and currently attract more visitors to our website than all other charity rating groups combined, thus making us the leading charity evaluator in America. Our irrefutable data shows that users of our site gave more than they planned to before viewing our findings, and in fact, it is estimated that last year Charity Navigator influenced over \$10 billion in charitable gifts.

We believe our service will enhance your organization's fundraising and public relations efforts. Our favorable review of SPCA of Central Florida's fiscal health will be visible on our website as of July 1st.

We wish you the best in all of your charitable endeavors.

Sincerely,

Ken Berger  
President & Chief Executive Officer

[www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)

## Tips for Protecting Yourself and Your Investment in Charities

- 1. Be an informed donor.** Whether you receive a mail, telephone, or email solicitation, whether you learn about a charity from a friend or family member, or whether you seek out an organization on your own, get informed before giving. Learn about the organization and its operations, governance, and finances. Visit the organization's website or call to request information. Give only when you feel comfortable that your dollars will be going to support an organization you know and believe in.
- 2. Consult reports from charity "watch dog" organizations.** The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance ([www.give.org](http://www.give.org)) reports on nationally soliciting charitable organizations that are the subject of donor inquiries. These reports include an evaluation of the subject charity in relation to the 23 provisions of the voluntary CBBB Standards for Charitable Solicitations. Other organizations, such as American Institute for Philanthropy, make financial evaluations about charities. The state government office responsible for registering charities in your state may also be able to provide information about the charities you're interested in (for a list of state government charity offices see [www.nasconet.org](http://www.nasconet.org).) Use these resources in addition to your own criteria to determine whether you wish to invest in an organization.
- 3. Don't give your credit card number over the phone if you don't know the solicitor.** If you are not familiar with the person or the organization requesting the gift, do not give your credit card number over the phone. If you are interested in the cause, ask for information in writing. A responsible charity will be happy to answer questions and will mail you more details. Ask for the following information:
  - The name of the charity, address, and telephone number;
  - The caller's name and company and whether he or she is a volunteer or paid professional fundraiser;
  - What the charity's overall fundraising costs and administrative expenses are, and how much goes toward program expenses; and
  - Written information on the operations, finances, and outcomes of the charity's programs.
- 4. Verify with the charity.** Call the charity directly to be sure it is aware of the solicitation and has authorized the use of its name.
- 5. Refuse high-pressure tactics.** Responsible charities don't pressure you to make a decision on the spot or send a messenger to pick up your donation. Refuse to respond to callers who try to intimidate you or make you feel guilty if you don't give. These are not responsible charities. Say no and hang up. Report the problem to your state attorney general's office and file a complaint with your local Better Business Bureau.
- 6. Beware of sound-alike names.** Some phony fundraisers use names that sound like respected, legitimate charities.
- 7. Focus on results, not on fundraising ratios.** The way charities raise money and carry out their programs varies widely, depending on the type of cause, the region the organization operates in, the age of the charity, the "popularity" of the cause, and many other factors.
  - This means that there is no ideal fundraising percentage nor standard administrative cost that applies to all charities. In addition, accounting rules allow several methods of calculating fundraising percentages, and there is no single, best way for every situation.
  - What's more important than financial calculations is the organization's track record in achieving results and fulfilling its mission effectively and efficiently.
  - Following the suggestions above will help you rule out any fraudulent organizations, but determining which of the responsible charities you wish to contribute toward is a decision that only you can make for yourself based on your own knowledge and criteria. Only by learning more about the organization can you determine for yourself whether you believe the organization is doing a good job, and thus merits your support.
- 8. You have the right to say no.** Give generously when you can, but if you're unsure or feel uncomfortable—or if an organization simply falls outside your plan for giving—don't be afraid to say no. Or, ask for more information and take more time to think before making your decision.

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For more information on donating, please go to our website, [www.OrlandoPets.org](http://www.OrlandoPets.org), or contact Alison Elig, Executive Assistant/Business Office, at 407-248-1741, [alison@OrlandoPets.org](mailto:alison@OrlandoPets.org).



# Ten Tips for Wise Volunteering

- 1. Research the causes or issues important to you.**  
There is no end to the creative avenues for volunteering, just as there is no end to the need for volunteers.
- 2. Consider the skills you have to offer.**  
You might decide to do something comparable to what you do on the job during your workday, or something that you already enjoy as a hobby. This sort of position allows you to jump right into the work without having to take training to prepare for the assignment.
- 3. Consider volunteering as a family.**  
When a family volunteers to work together at a nonprofit organization, the experience can bring them closer together, teach young children the value of giving their time and effort, introduce everyone in the family to skills and experiences never encountered before, and give the entire family a shared experience as a wonderful family memory.
- 4. Would you like to learn something new?**  
Perhaps you would like to move into areas that will provide you with novelty or change. Then seek a volunteer opportunity involving training in an unfamiliar skill.
- 5. Don't over-commit your schedule.**  
Make sure the volunteer hours you want to give fit into your hectic life, so that you don't frustrate your family, exhaust yourself, shortchange the organization you're trying to help or neglect your job. Better to start out slowly than to commit yourself to a schedule you can't - or don't want to - fulfill.
- 6. Nonprofits may have questions, too.**  
If you contact an organization with an offer to donate your time, you may be asked to come in for an interview, fill out a volunteer application, describe your qualifications and your background - just as you would at an interview for a paying job. It is in the organization's interest to make certain you have the skills they need, that you are truly committed to doing the work, and that your interests match those of the nonprofit.
- 7. I never thought of that!**  
Many community groups that are looking for volunteers may not have occurred to you. Be creative in your exploration.
- 8. Give voice to your heart through your giving and volunteering!**  
Bring your heart and your sense of humor to your volunteer service, along with the enthusiastic spirit that is, in itself, a priceless gift. What you'll get back will be immeasurable!
- 9. Virtual volunteering?**  
If you have computer access and the necessary skills, some organizations now offer the opportunity to do volunteer work over the computer.
- 10. Be a year-round volunteer!**  
We all tend to think more of those in need during the holidays, but volunteering is welcome and necessary all year. We all need to be aware that making our communities, our nation and our world better is a 365-day-a-year responsibility - and there is always something we could be doing to help!



# Value of Volunteer Time

The estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$20.85 per hour. The estimate helps acknowledge the millions of individuals who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to making a difference.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, about 63.4 million Americans, or 26.8 percent of the adult population, gave 8.1 billion hours of volunteer service worth \$169 billion in 2009.<sup>1</sup>

Source: Corporation for National and Community Service. "Research Brief: Volunteering in America Research Highlights" (2010).†

For more information on volunteering, please go to our website, [www.OrlandoPets.org](http://www.OrlandoPets.org), or contact Amber Ferguson/Orlando, at 407-248-1748, [amberf@OrlandoPets.org](mailto:amberf@OrlandoPets.org), or Deb Morrow/Sanford, at 407-936-3313, [deb@OrlandoPets.org](mailto:deb@OrlandoPets.org).

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Source: Adapted from INDEPENDENT SECTOR, [www.IndependentSector.org](http://www.IndependentSector.org).

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# WIGGLE WAGGLE WALK 2010

— Continued from page 1 —



**Shari Gray** planned a “Dance for the Dogs” - too much fun!



And **Heidi Fiacco** and **Michelle Olds** had a “Pawty for a Cause” at Scruffy Murphy’s.



They even had “Paddle for the Pups!” which introduced folks to paddleboarding planned by **Thomas and CarolAnn Larkin!**

## 1st Place

All of these events and all of these great people, helped the “Franklin’s Friends” Pack raise a total of \$57,919 at this year’s event!

We are so thankful and proud of the support from—“Franklin’s Friends”. Every year they continue to amaze us with their awesome FUNdraising!

This brings us to the **2nd and 3rd place individuals**, who are also from Franklin’s Friends Pack!



**Shari Gray** raised a total of \$6,104.79 for this year’s event!



And **Dr. Anthony Douglas** (married to the great Monisha) raised a total of \$3,182.57. Way to go, Anthony!



The “2<sup>nd</sup> place Pack for this year’s event was the **Critter Crusaders**, made up of staff & volunteers from the SPCA of Central Florida’s Sanford Location. They raised a total of \$6,834!

**3<sup>rd</sup> place Pack (for the day of the event)** goes to the **Incredibulls** with \$1,655. The Incredibulls are a group of passionate and responsible pit-bull owners (started and sponsored by the SPCA of Central Florida), providing a good-ambassador awareness about this very misunderstood breed! Have a pit bull? Want to learn more? Visit [www.OrlandoPets.org](http://www.OrlandoPets.org) and click on the Incredibulls link, today!

And last but not least, our other **3<sup>rd</sup> place Pack (with last minute fundraising on-line)** post event goes to **Mixed Doubles** with \$1,675, terrific job by **Linda Peters** and her crew as well!

Whew!

We’ve got to get back to celebrating with the animals! But a big thanks again to everyone and anyone who supported this major event! Come out and celebrate with us next year on **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** at Cranes Roost! See you then!





# TRIBUTES TO Pets & People

## TILES:

**Betsy Ehlinger.**  
Jeanne Dezbor

**Taylor.**  
Francie Roberts

**Chanelle.**  
Tamara K Lawyer

**Blueberry.**  
The Jones Family

## IN HONOR OF:

**Happy Birthday Lori Clampton!**  
Dr. Ted Robinson

**Bonnie Dykeman.**  
Jane Crofton

**Shayna.**  
Sandi & Steve Heffner

**Marian.**  
Bickley Wilson

**Garrett Spade.**  
Ethan Rossi

**Tanya Stewart.**  
Brent, Diane, Kathryn, Lauri,  
Lyn, Mara, Tanisha & Cindy

**Julia Pickering.**  
Barbara Mencik

**LTC Kathy Giraitis.**  
Jacob Griffith

**Lola James.**  
Diane Souder  
Larry & Debbie Halye

**Dr. Jill Mellen.**  
Tammie Bettinger

**Happy Birthday Cindy Adams!**  
Judy Linder

**DeWayne Basham.**  
Amy Derrow

**Janice Shanahan.**  
Betty Cleveland

**Lola.**  
Louise Villinger

**Jackie & Onyx.**  
Betty, David & Holly Cleveland

**Mr. & Mrs. Jack Corthell.**  
Friends at Hess & Hess CPA's

**Crista Everett.**  
Sharon Wilson

**Carmel Clancy.**  
Tara Hindson

**Zachary P Ameye.**  
Amy P Ameye

## IN MEMORY OF:

**Olive.**  
Erin Zebell

**Gilda Corley.**  
Rickey Romanini LMCO

**Tux.**  
Steve & Marilyn Wenman

**James Willett.**  
Millenia Claims Management  
Rhonda K. Gentrup  
Joseph Petrelli

**Jasmine Cooper.**  
The Girls: Heidi, Kelly, Holly  
& Jaimie

**Eugene Turner.**  
Mr. & Mrs. Reed W Webb

**Amanda Shafer.**  
Chuluota Grocery

**Dr. Thomas Hegert.**

Medicus Forensics PA  
Mrs. Lester C. Nunnally  
Catie & Tom Cook  
Universal American Financial  
Services Inc.

**Suzy-Q.**  
Gloria Langton

**Sammy Fekany.**  
Lorraine, Marty, Raina &  
Marty Weismantel

**Taylor Roberts.**  
Barbara Sims

**Liselotte Strom.**  
Norma Acosta  
Dean & Patricia Burgstahler

**Flora B. Goldsmith.**  
Laurie & James Kiernicki

**John Irving Malcolm Jr.**  
Frank Gore

**Foxy James.**  
Caroline & Hugh James

**Danny.**  
Stephen Riley

**Donald "Donny" L. Barker.**  
Smyrna Surfari Club  
B.J. McKee  
Sue E. Bridwell  
Eugene & Anne McNally

**Cleo.**  
Melissa Ingalsbe

**Bruna Cileo.**  
Laura & Pat Darrah

**Ripper Rauch.**  
Megan Spearman

**Richard Rodman.**  
Central Florida Cardiac &  
Vascular Institute  
Osceola Regional Medical Center

**Ashleigh Bizzelle's Speakettes.**  
Anonymous

**Zena.**  
Ruth Carlier

**Chino.**  
Ruth Carlier

**Kyser Mull.**  
Julia Ashley

**Sprouty.**  
Lori Ingram

**Betsy Ehlinger.**  
Ellen Rosette & Sal Troiano  
James & Carolyn Ehlinger

**Socks Michael.**  
Emiko Heil

**Alba & Maynard.**  
Dale Debaets

**Robert G. Leffingwell.**  
Joyce M. Randolph

**Rudy & Nikki Shafran.**  
Sandi & Steve Heffner

**Isabella.**  
Patricia Nabers

**Brandy.**  
Christa F. Forbes

**Ella L. Hamby.**  
Burke S. Sellers

**Jessica Beaver.**  
Ronnie & Nancy Soles  
Joanne Beaver

**Lida Madison.**  
Susan Drake

**Natalie Coffman.**  
Joe & Jim Andreottola

**Tina Sadler.**  
Bill Spahr  
Edward Wayman

**Sophie & Sasha.**  
Lauren Baker

**Jack Ferrante.**  
Craig & Sloane Brams

**Olive "Oyl".**  
Ginger "Snap" Moore

**"Miss Madchen" the Law Office Dog.**  
Vickie & Paul Benson &  
Law Office of Vickie Benson

**Blake Freeman.**  
John & Irene Berkley

**Ella Brodean.**  
Michael & Kelly La Bella  
Chrissy La Bella  
Hillside F.M.B.A. Local #35  
Betty, Paula, Diane & Family  
Joanne Large

**Woodrow B. Ware.**  
The Lee Foundation  
Donna Williams  
William Blakeslee  
Donna Mallard,  
Mary Olander & Don Mallard,  
Mike Mallard,  
Chip Mallard & Families

**Emily Lou & Buddy.**  
Mary Umphrey

**Trotter.**  
Robert Albert & Jacqueline Colson

**Patches.**  
Gloria Langton

**Annie.**  
Juanita Eplin

**Jester.**  
Steve & Marilyn Wenman

**Marion L. Young.**  
Patrick McCabe

**Nikki.**  
Penny Beierschmitt

**James Lewis.**  
William Bracas

**Paula Mendonsa.**  
Carmen Donahue

**Ren Jones.**  
**Belle Wheeler.**  
**Sandy Knapp.**

**Stella Rifkin.**  
**Siena Bateman.**

**Sable Parsell.**  
**Fischer Ringel.**  
**Foster Goldberg.**  
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Susan & Carlos Goffi

**Mr. Dobbs.**  
Beverly Twomey

**Horacio Pastrana.**  
The Kissimmee Sunshine Club

**Clarence Nichols.**  
Williams & Solberg Cosmetic  
& Family Dental Care

**Loreen Briggs.**  
Jackee Mumbower

**Miss Kitty.**  
Shirley Dew

**Shirley FiDei.**  
Nelda Dunn  
Mr. & Mrs. John Rands  
Jim & LeAnn Montgomery

**Jazz.**  
Fannie & Jere Griffin

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Toni Howard

**Denise Deproto-Foley.**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Whaley

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**Merky Cutolo.**  
Gayle Kinsloe

**Charles Albine.**  
Linda Albine

**Martha Applegarth.**  
AAA National Travel Services Dept.

**Jackson Hedrick.**  
Kathy Roberts

**Riley.**  
Karen Layfield

**Paco the ferret.**  
Peter & Erica Michaelson

**Ted Ruble.**  
Gwendolyn Szele

**Miriam E. Pitts.**  
Jane Bradford

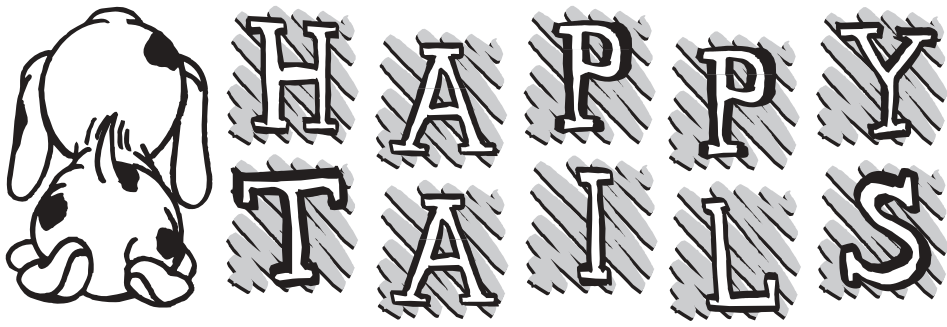
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Hi Diane,

I am not sure if you know, but we did adopt **Jake** this weekend, and what a wonderful dog. He is just perfect for our home and everything they said about him was true!

My cats have already taken to him, and he really knows how to treat them. Took him to the dog park and we had so much fun – wore me out!

I am sending a picture of my husband and a very happy dog! We are so blessed to find such a wonderful animal. I wish I could let his former people know how much we love him!

Thanks.  
**Diane Ferraro**



Dear Barbara,

I have been meaning to write this for awhile now and want you all to know how special you are to me even if I don't personally know you. Back in November 2000 I was working on a project for grad school on the SPCA and clicked on this dog that was listed to be part Doberman. While I could not see any Doby in her, she was too cute to pass up. Lady, as she was named at the SPCA, was brought in by a family who had her for a few weeks and found her as a stray in a parking lot May of 2000. She was estimated to be about 6 months old at that time. In November of 2000, 6 months later, I adopted Lady who became **Katie**.



Katie was not a dog for the weak at heart as she knew virtually nothing about being a dog in a house. We went through lots of training - and I mean we. Katie was my first dog as an adult even though as a child I always had two of them to warm my heart.

Katie is a wonderful dog and just needed some time and patience. She wet while sleeping for my first few years, until the vet and I realized the issue was simply fixed with medication because she had bladder issues. I am sure many would not have put up with that, but



she was worth every puddle! I was raised that when you take a dog in it's for life. After all she didn't try to give me back when I didn't do everything right.

Since winter of 2001, Katie has had a fenced in yard and gets to play ball often - well maybe not as often as she thinks she should - but often enough. We adopted a brother for her out of animal control after the hurricanes, and so she has a playmate as well. I am so blessed to have Katie and am so grateful that you all took such good care of her while she was with you.

I now volunteer for a local rescue that is close to my home and know how much love you all give the dogs in your shelter until they find their forever home. Thanks for taking a chance on a first time dog owner and blessing me with such an amazing dog. Katie and I will always be grateful to each volunteer who brought us together. I know many who knew her might not be there, but I know how it reminds me during the hard days of volunteering why we do what we do.

Attached are some pictures of Katie for you all to enjoy.

Thanks for all that you do and know that you all are in my prayers for all the blessings you have given Katie and me.

Forever Grateful!  
**Marcie**

P.S. **Katie** is the Shepherd Mix in the photos, and the spotted guy is her adopted brother, **Tucker**.

Hi Diane,

Just wanted to compliment you (again) on the results of your **Shelter Manners** program.

I had another great experience yesterday: A couple had just lost their 16-year-old Pit Bull and saw one of ours online. Though she had already been adopted, I found another, Snickers, that met their criteria—mostly “good with cats.” When I pointed out Snickers had been doing very well with her Shelter Manners training—then showed them how well she did (she was fantastic)—they were in love. And...better yet, they asked for guidance in continuing her training after adoption.

How utterly gratifying you make it for everyone—the dogs, the adopters, and we volunteers!

**Ellen**



## “Dollars for Doggies” Local Students Making a Difference



Mrs. Graham's Academically Accelerated Individualized Model (AAIM) Class at Blankner School read the novel “Because of Winn Dixie”. It is a story about a young girl who learns about true friendship, compassion, and humanity thanks to the help of her new “stray” dog. After reading the novel, the students wanted to make a difference in their local community by creating “Dollar for Doggies” - a fundraiser developed to help the SPCA of Central Florida.

As a class, the students made homemade dog treats and packaged them for sale at their school. They had three flavors, Breath Bustin' Biscuits, Bulldog Brownies (no chocolate) and Pumpkin Wafers. They spent three days selling their treats and had an outstanding response. Melissa Graham, their wonderful teacher and leader, said “It was great to see the people of Blankner School rallying to support our furry friends.”

They rallied and raised \$426.50 in three days for the SPCA of Central Florida. Mrs. Graham even called the SPCA of Central Florida and booked one of our Community Educators, Tara Lance and her Pet Visitation Pet Marcie to come out and visit the school. The AAIM class presented Tara and Marcie the check on the school TV morning during announcements. Afterwards, the Education team shared with Mrs. Graham and her class how their donation helps the SPCA of Central Florida. Tara Lance said “It is great to see these young students making a difference in their community.”

From the dogs and cats of the SPCA of Central Florida, we want to say “Thank You” to Mrs. Graham and her wonderful AAIM Class.



# Can Pets Improve Your Relationship?

By Suzanne Phillips, PSY.D., ABPP

We hardly need to look at the research to verify that pets do good things for people physically and emotionally. What is interesting in my work with couples is that although couples may vehemently disagree on most topics, they usually both soften in manner and tone to agree that the dog, cat, bird or horse is great.

In fact, if there is any criticism, it is the verbalized wish to receive the kind of love and attention the pet is getting.

"I only wish she was as affectionate with me as with our dog!"

"You should hear him speak to this animal - he never speaks to me that way."

**What happens between people and their pets that accounts for this emotional outpouring of love?**

Most will answer with the responses you have heard or given:

"The dog demands nothing from me - he just gives unconditional love."

"The cats are a predictable source of comfort and soothing - they want to be near me."

**Pets? Not demanding? Predictable? ... Really?**

What's interesting is that most pets are loved in a way that makes us minimize or even deny the reality that they definitely have demands we simply accept. Some will only eat certain food; many wake people in the middle of the night; most get sick on the rug; some eat furniture and a vast majority end up on the bed no matter what anyone says.

In one case, when the Dalmatian was found eating the steak that had been marinating on the counter for dinner, the husband's only reaction was "Might as well give him the vegetables and potatoes, and let him finish off the meal."

**Can we learn something from our relationship with pets that might enhance our relationship with partners?**

Yes, if we are willing to take a closer look at ourselves.

The old expression "you get what you give" may apply here. Maybe you give something very positive to your pet that invites the unconditional love and connection that makes you feel so good. Maybe it has potential to enhance your relationship.

**Can you credit yourself with any of the following?**

**Greetings**

No matter how you feel or what mood you are in, you greet your pet with a positive, even animated, hello and often with a display of physical affection.

**Expectations**

With pets, maybe it's your lack of expectation that makes the difference. You probably rarely predict that your pet will be angry if you are late. As a result, you don't head home defensively angry in preparation for the reaction you expect to face.

**Holding Grudges**

When you do return home to find that your cats have redecorated the room with shreds of every tissue they could find or the dog has eaten some of the mail, you may well react with a choice expletive but you are not likely to hold a grudge. You are still going to be petting Donatello or cuddling with Thor the next day.

**Assuming the Best**

There is a natural tendency to forgive pets their trespasses - after all, the dog wasn't trying to torture you by eating the mail. Was your partner really trying to torture you by putting it in such a safe spot it can't be found?

**Acceptance**

Few pet owners personalize their pets' reactions to others to an extreme that makes them so embarrassed that they fear their image is tarnished or they become resentful of their pets. The fact that the dog is licking every part of the arriving guest's body is cause to pull him away or laugh it away. The cat that will not come out of hiding or the parrot that is screeching is left without judgment or excuses. That's them!

**For Better or For Worse**

In most cases, pets are home to stay. People love and care for pets of every size, shape and disposition. "She's not exactly a watch dog; she's loving but easily frightened." "He insists on sleeping on the bed - we have given in." "She steals food from the other dogs, she's pretty hyper, but cute." Few pets live with the fear of being betrayed or with the implication that things are just not working out. **Of course they don't - but just consider how the absence of such fears enhances the trust and connection you feel from them!**

**So think about what you give your pet and maybe how - in addition to improving your health - your pet can improve your relationship!**

*Suzanne B. Phillips, Psy.D., ABPP is a licensed psychologist. She is Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology in the Doctoral Program of Long Island University and on the faculty of the Post-Doctoral Programs of the Derner Institute of Adelphi University. Suzanne Phillips, Psy.D. and Dianne Kane are the authors of Healing Together: A Couple's Guide to Coping with Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress. Learn more about their work at [couplesaftertrauma.com](http://couplesaftertrauma.com).*

*Source: <http://blogs.psychcentral.com/healing-together/2010/04/can-pets-improve-your-relationship>*

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# Just a Dog



From time to time, people tell me,  
 "Lighten up; it's just a dog,"  
 Or "that's a lot of money for just a dog."



They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent,  
 Or the costs involved for "just a dog."

Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog."  
 Many hours have passed, and my only company was "just a dog,  
 But I did not once feel slighted.

Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog,"  
 And in those days of darkness,  
 The gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort,  
 And reason to overcome the day.

If you too, think it's "just a dog,"  
 Then you won't understand phrases like  
 "Just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise."  
 "Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship,  
 Of trust and pure unbridled joy.  
 "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience  
 That makes me a better person.

Because of "just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks  
 And look longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog"  
 But an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future,  
 Fond memories of the past and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a dog" brings out what's good in me.  
 It diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog"  
 But the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a human."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog", smile,  
 Because they just don't understand.



— Source: Internet. Author Unknown



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 ERICA WATKES  
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# Remembering . . .

## Miss Mädchen (The Law Office Dog)

It was early January of 1998 when we found Miss Mädchen at the Orlando SPCA facility. They said she was a full labrador retriever, and she was one year old. She had been called Shelby. Her wonderful adventure was soon to begin. We chose her after looking at the entire kennel. She soon became **Miss Mädchen**.



It was not long afterward that she started joining us at the Orlando law office. She was known as "Miss Mädchen, the law office dog". She was frequently seen walking to and from the parking lot to the office downtown, at outdoor cafes or strolling around Lake Eola. There were many waves & many smiles.

She sometimes would greet or mingle with clients. She was never given a title at the office. All agreed that her role had something to do with public relations and stress therapy.

The days became months, months became years as time flew by. Miss Mädchen could no longer easily jump onto her special step & into the car. She retired in early 2010 at the ripe old age of 13 years. Family & staff at the office would laugh and say that she was home living it up on her pension.

Miss Mädchen's adventure ended on October 2, 2010 at well over 13 years. Please accept this donation in her memory to assist all of the pets at your facility. Miss Mädchen remains on the office website. [www.vickiebensonlaw.com](http://www.vickiebensonlaw.com)

Law Office of Vickie S. Benson & the Benson family

## Our Little Buddy, Betsy



Dear Barbara,

**B**etsy was a feral kitten from our old neighborhood. I lured her into our screen enclosure where she stayed for a few days until I could catch her and take her to the vet.

Every day I would try to play with her, and I would put food in a cat carrier to try to eventually catch her. I made an appointment

at the SPCA clinic to have her tested, and, if all was well, have her spayed.

On the day of her appointment, I fed her in the cat carrier and shut the door. Off we went to the SPCA with her growling and hissing all the way! The tests for feline leukemia and feline FIV were negative, and we had her spayed that day.

I was able to bring her home later that day, and I put her in the bathroom because she was still a bit woozy from the anesthesia. I started petting her and I rubbed under her chin, and she just melted. She has been our little buddy ever since, and that was fifteen years ago.

I am sorry to say Betsy passed away September 14, 2010 from complications from diabetes.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn & James Ehlinger

## Yes, I believe in the mission of the SPCA of Central Florida, and I want to help!

Here's my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please use this contribution for:

- General care of companion animals
- Annual Membership in SPCA of Central Florida (\$30, \$50, \$100, \$500)
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- Shelter spay/neuter program

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