

# Desoto County Animal Services

November 2014



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## PET PORTRAITS

Two projects that go hand in hand are the Pet Portraits and the Animal Services Supporters Club.

Ms. Linda Brodowsky has prior training at the Ringling School of Art and specializes in still life's, sea-scapes and animals. She will paint a portrait of your pet when a donation is made to animal services.

A portrait of a pet will be painted as a 8X10 or 12 X 16 dependant on the donation made.

Donations of \$100 will warrant an 8X10 & donations of \$150 or more will warrant a 12 X 16. A photo

## HSUS NEWS

North Carolina has banned the use of gill nets within 100 yards offshore. These types of nets are anchored to the seafloor and stand up like fences and entangle birds, fish and marine mammals who make the mistake on entering one.



must be provided to work from.

Desoto County Animal Services Supporters Club are persons who have donated \$100 or more to Animal Services.

The club has 3 categories. Silver (\$100 to \$249), Gold (\$250 to \$499) and Diamond (\$500 and over). New members are listed in the month in which they join.

HSUS issued a \$5000 reward which served Texas authorities in the arrest of Tammy Green Douglas In July in connection with the death of a dog who was shot in the head as she nursed her 10 puppies in a crate. In less than 48 hours after the reward was offered Parker County Sherriff's Office received a tip that lead to the arrest.

New York is the #1 importer of elephant ivory into the U.S. Thanks to a push by HSUS and conservation groups, the legislature has passed a historic ban on elephant ivory and rhino horn. If now signed into law this bill will close the loopholes that have allowed ivory trade and sales to continue.

August 2014  
Silver  
Walt & Sharon  
Heinlein

November 2014  
Silver  
Ron & Lois  
Kocher





## FUNNY FACTS (strange, bizarre and just plain unbelievable)

- 1) Gorillas can catch cold and other human illnesses
- 2) Newborn Chinese Waterdeer are so small they can fit into the palm of a man's hand
- 3) Female lion do 90% of the hunting.
- 4) Almost half of all the pigs in the world are kept by Chinese farmers.
- 5) Deer have no gall bladder.
- 6) Male songbirds have been noted to sing more than 2000 times a day.
- 7) Chicken and fish are the only 2 animals to be eaten before they are born and after they die.
- 8) Tarantulas can survive for 2 years without food.
- 9) For every human on Earth there are 1 million ants
- 10) A single elephant tooth can weigh as much as 9 pounds.
- 11) Ants do not sleep and do not have lungs
- 12) Grasshoppers can leap 20 times their body length
- 13) Apple and Pear seeds contain arsenic
- 14) Cats have 32 muscles in each ear
- 15) Tiger have stripes on their skin as well as their fur
- (16) In the U.S. "Jaws" is the most common name for pet goldfish.
- (17) Orchids are the largest family of flowering plants with 35,000 species.
- (18) Strawberries are actually members of the Rose family and are the only fruits with their seeds on the outside.
- (19) A species of earthworm in Australia can grow up to 10 feet.
- (20) 76% of American consider themselves to be environmentalists.

*Put on you thinking caps and see how many answers you can get before checking out the answers on page 5.*

## PUZZLE PAGE

(hint a=t)

1. PAH ZHXL MAXKX?
2. ZNXLL PAH?
3. VTG B AXEI QHN?
4. AXKX DBMMR DBMMR
5. GH GH UTW WHZ
6. B ZNXLL B'EE UX ZHBGZ GHP
7. ABWX TGW LXXD
8. YHnk LVHKX TGW MPXGMR RXTKL TZH
9. MH MAX KXINUEBV YHK PABVA BM LMTGWL
10. EHGZ EHGZ TZH BG T ZTETQY YTK YTK TPTR
11. UTT UTT UETVD LAXXI
12. LTR PATM RHN PBEE UNM B DGHP UXMMXK

### Check this out!

Take pine cones and spread peanut butter on them and roll them in bird seed, hang them in the yard and enjoy the visitors they attract.

Natural weed killer - vinegar mixed with Dawn detergent and Epsom salts, shake until salt dissolves and spray on weeds. Not harmful to pets or wildlife.

Old pie tins make great bird baths.

Route your Air-conditioner condensate water into a shallow pan. It provide water for bird & wildlife as well as a good bird bath.

Next time you boil eggs, do not pour the water out. Let it cool to room temperature

the water your houseplants with it. Calcium from the eggs shells enriches the water and helps provided the nutrient to your plants.

Save your eggshells, fill them with potting soil and add seeds. They make great plant starters and can be put in the ground with the young plant when time to plant.

# ALABAMA & LOUISIANA NATIONAL LEADERS IN HEARTWORMS

The 2013 American Heartworm Society (based in Wilmington Delaware) reported that Alabama veterinary hospitals and animal shelters diagnosed an average of 90 heartworm positive dogs in 2013 as opposed to 31 in 2010 making it the number one state for animals diagnosed with the disease. Louisiana ranked number 2 with 81 cases which was a drop from 2010 in which there were 105.

The top 10 states on the list for 2013 were (in order) Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Oklahoma. More than 4500 veterinary practices and animal shelters participated in the study contributing data from 3.5 million patients.

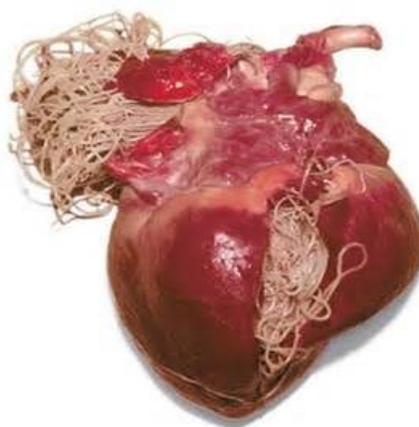
Heartworm disease is preventable when pets (cats and dogs) receive monthly medications. The disease is spread by mosquitoes and if left untreated is deadly. Heartworm disease is found in all 50 states but tends to be more pronounced in warmer locations particularly in the Southeast. A yearly test is suggested to ensure your pet's health. According to the Society "preventing the disease runs less than 10% of the cost to treat it."

Veterinarians who completed a questionnaire noted that the increase in these types of cases could be explained by the fact that too many pet owners did not administer heartworm preventives on time and as directed.

Heartworms can be contracted by cats as well as dogs and treatment for the disease varies and can be expensive. High local populations of heartworm infected wildlife such as coyotes and foxes can increase the risk to unprotected pets.

Even if treatment is successful a dog cleared of heartworms can still suffer permanent damage to organs and the circulatory system. No approved treatment medication exists for cats.

Prevention is always the best and most effective defense against this disease. Yearly visits to your vet for testing and proper and timely administration of prescribed preventives can keep your pet healthy and safe from this dangerous disease.



*All pets adopted from Desoto County Animal Services are micro-chipped free of charge.*

## FELIX SAYS

I am retiring so this will be my last entry to Felix says. I have decided that after many years of service to the public, I will lead a life of ease as a private pet. I wish all my fellow workers at Animal Services a bright, safe and happy future.

In my years here I have served in many capacities, from door greeter to public relations to

stress relief and leave these words of wisdom to my future replacement - Smile even though you want to cry - Always understand there is another side to any story - Be patient - Listen - Purr loud and often - Don't shed in the boss's chair - The best window sill for sunbathing is in the front lobby - Stay out of the trash cans - Pray - Treat others as you want

to be treated and always remember, we are here for the good of the community and its pets.

I have been very blessed to work with a great group of people and animals and I shall miss them dearly and think of them often. Even though retired I will always think of them.

I am excited as I begin this next phase in my life and am anxious to see what the future brings. It will be nice to sleep in once in a while and come and go

as I please and nap whenever I feel the urge. Come to think of it, retirement doesn't sound all that different. Well anyhow - It has been a GREAT ride.





**DESOTO COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES IS PROUD TO RECOGNIZE OUR COMMUNITY ANIMAL PEOPLE**

## ANIMAL PEOPLE

Suncoast Credit Union - Pay It Forward

Pay it Forward is a third party concept that involves doing something good for someone in response to a good deed done on your behalf. When you "pay it forward" you are not repaying the person who did something nice for you, rather you in turn do something nice for someone else. The foundation for this process is attributed to Ben Franklin from a letter he wrote to a Mr. Benjamin Webb in 1784. Mr. Franklin wrote to Mr. Webb about his intention to help Webb by lending him some money but

wishing no repayment. Instead he hoped Mr. Webb would be able in the future to help someone else out in much the same way. Pay it Forward does not need to involve money, free gestures of kindness or even buying a strangers lunch can all be forms of Pay it Forward.

Carolyn Helewski wanted to Pay it Forward and she chose Desoto County Animal Services to be the recipient. Ms. Helewski is a Financial Associate/Teller with Suncoast Credit Union at 1711 E Oak Street in Arcadia. She broached the idea to her fellow

employees and they all got on board and collected pet food, treats and toys for the kennels and the Pet Food Bank. "Payment" was delivered to Animal Services on Oct. 15.

Suncoast Credit Union is a banking institution offering services that include checking, savings, loans, mortgages and insurance needs for home and auto. Hours are Monday thru Thursday 8:30 am till 5 pm and Friday 8:30 am till 6 pm. Information about any of their services can be obtained by calling 800-999-5887 extension 58799.



Carolyn Helewski, Suncoast Financial Associate.  
Debby Merkin, Animal Services Supervisor.  
Debby Cooper, Suncoast Customer Service Teller.



Assistant Kennel Tech Ashley Welling takes the ladies through the kennels to see the operation and visit with some of the pets



Carolyn visits with Scar one of the many pets for adoption at Animal Services.

## SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

With the announcement from Felix that he is retiring the question of a mascot has been foremost on the minds of the staff. Suggestions have run from another cat to a younger kitten, a big dog, a small dog, a puppy. I am holding out for a parrot myself but we don't impound too many of those. My favorite choice would be a miniature horse but it would be kinda' hard to have one of

those running around the office. Sure would be a conversation starter though!

All that aside, we wish Felix all the best in his retirement as a private pet of leisure. Who ever the successful candidate turns out to be will be charged with writing for his column. (Great now I have to teach a new one to type. Felix was bad enough

as he never would use the spell check and I was always having to read over his articles.) It will be interesting to have a new perspective.

Speaking of new perspective, our upcoming Adopt-a-thon will be held in January for a change from the heat of summer and it will have a 50's theme-talk about different.

Mark you calendars for January 31 at the Turner Exhibit hall next to the Agri-Civic Center in front of the barns. Pets will be available for adoption and local rescue organizations have been invited to bring some of their pets looking for adoption also. A 50's themed dance contest will finish off the afternoon with trophies awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place. Dancers must be attired in 50's themed costumes. A 50's themed pet costume con-

test will also be judged with ribbons for the winners. Micro-chipping of pets will be offered as well as a raffle with tickets at \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Other guests and activities are being considered, so come on out from 10 am till 3 pm to see what all we come up with. It will be a great afternoon and we will be looking to see you there and just maybe you will find YOUR new mascot too..

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### FLORIDA STATUTE

#### 386.041 Nuisances injurious to health.

(1) The following conditions existing, permitted, maintained, kept or caused by an individual, municipal organization or corporation, governmental or private, shall constitute prima facie evidence of maintaining a nuisance injurious to health:

(a) Untreated or improperly treated human waste, garbage, offal, dead animals or dangerous waste materials from manufacturing processes harmful to human or animal life and air pollutants, gases and noisome odors which are harmful to human or animal life.

(b) Improperly built or maintained septic tanks, water closets or privies.

(c) The keeping of diseased animals dangerous to human health.

(d) Unclean or filthy places where animals are slaughtered.

(e) The creation, maintenance or causing of any condition capable of breeding flies, mosquitoes or other arthropods capable of transmitting diseases, directly or indirectly to humans.

(f) Any other condition determined to be a sanitary nuisance as defined in 386.01

(2) The Department of Health, its agents and deputies, or local health authorities are authorized to investi-

gate any condition or alleged nuisance in any city, town or place within the state and if such condition is determined to constitute a sanitary nuisance, they may take such action as to abate the said nuisance condition in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.



Great Seal of the State of Florida

## CAT HEALTH

In a Study conducted by Zoetis' Pet Wellness Report which used data collected from 264 veterinary practices over a 5 1/2 year period which included a 48 question survey noted warning signs in nearly 70% of the 1197 cats checked. It was found that; 9% indicated their cat had breathing difficulties including wheezing, sneezing or coughing, 11% thought their cat exhibited stiffness, lameness or painful movement,

22% thought their cat was overweight or obese, 27% said their cat had chronic vomiting or hairballs.

Lab testing revealed 25% of these 1197 cats displayed abnormalities that were signs of anything from kidney or liver disease to inflammation or infection or blood disorders.

Bob Lavan, MS,DVM, Dipl.ACVP, who is the associate director of Zoetis' Outcome Research Team says finding

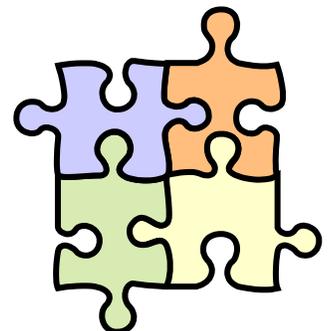
problems early is key to keeping a cat genuinely healthy. "The goal of preventive medicine is to optimize health and minimize disease burden by proactively taking measures to prevent disease. Early detection allows for treatment options that may be less expensive, invasive, and significantly more effective."

We at Animal Services truly believe an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Visit your vet regularly!

- 1) WHO GOES THERE
- 2) GUESS WHO?
- 3) CAN I HELP YOU?
- 4) HERE KITTY KITTY
- 5) NO NO BAD DOG
- 6) I GUESS I'LL BE GOING NOW

- 7) HIDE AND SEEK
- 8) FOUR SCORE AND TWENTY YEARS AGO
- 9) TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS
- 10) LONG LONG AGO IN A GALAXY FAR FAR AWAY
- 11) BAA BAA BLACK SHEEP
- 12) SAY WHAT YOU WILL BUT I KNOW BETTER

### PUZZLE ANSWERS





## They Ate What?

The results are in and the winners of the 2014 x-ray contest are in. 1st place winner is Paws & Claws Animal Hospital in Plano, Texas— receiving \$1500. Kermit the frog was found to have ingested more than 30 ornamental rocks from his cage which were removed through surgery.

2nd place goes to Gulf Breeze Animal Hospital of Gulf Breeze, Fl.-receiving \$1000. Marley a German Shorthair Pointer helped himself to a shish kabob from the kitchen counter and swallowed it Skewer and all. Exploratory and gastrotomy were successful.

3rd place goes to DoveLewis

Animal Hospital in Portland, Oregon-receiving \$500. A 3 year old Great Dane was presented with excessive retching and vomiting and a severely distended stomach. X-rays revealed a foreign material and exploratory surgery produced 43 1/2 socks. Dog went home the next day.

Honorable mentions go to a Bearded dragon at Gladstone Animal Clinic, Gladstone, Mo who swallowed a Barbie kitchen banana, a 5 month old kitten at Heron Creek Animal Hospital in North Port ,Fl, who swallowed a toy alien, a dog named Woof at Animal Emergency of Pasco in Port Richey, Fl who was found to have eaten 5 rubber duckies, Elvis a mixed breed puppy presented to The Animal Clinic PSC in Lawrenceburg, Ky who could not resist the chicken livers used by his owner during a fishing trip

and swallowed them, hook, line & sinkers, Cody a 10 month old Golden Retriever who was found by Golf Rose Animal Hospital to have swallowed a light bulb which was past INTACT after a day on I.V. fluids, Stella a 2 year old pug presented to Acequia Animal Hospital in Albuquerque, N.M. for excessive vomiting and was found to have ingested 1 quarter and 104 pennies of which the \$1.29 did not go far towards her vet bill which included abdominal exploratory and Lucky the Lab who went to Capitol Illini Veterinary Services in Chatham, Ill after swallowing a pocket knife which was expelled under Apomorphine induced vomiting

The best of the 14th annual competition are now final.



### Susan's Helpful Hints

**Hello everyone! The Holiday season is upon us if we like it or not.**

We all need to be mindful of our 4 legged friends. Most of us do it even if we shouldn't and that is feeding our friends table food. I cannot bark to loud because I am one of the majority, but PLEASE use caution in doing so.

A few things to avoid are ham bones of any size, and some nuts are very harmful for our furry friends. CHOCOLATE IS A BIG NO NO! Trust me, there are many many more. Did you know onions are very toxic to dogs? Plants are another bone of contention, Holly, Poinsettias and most cacti, so pick up your plates and watch your plants.

One last thing if you are going to have a house full, be kind to your pet and separate them into a separate room with some soft or nice music, a comfy bed and a few favorite toys or treats. I will be on call during this time and I would really hate to see your baby do a bite quarantine with us for the holidays.

Everyone be safe & happy.

Susan

DESOTO COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES WISHES ALL A SAFE AND  
HAPPY THANKSGIVING



**ANIMAL SERVICES HOLIDAY HOURS**

*Desoto County Animal Services will be closed for Thanksgiving on Nov. 27th & 28th and on Dec. 24th & 25th for Christmas and January 1st for New Years.*

# NEWS BITES

Hills Pet Nutrition has a mission to help enrich and lengthen the special relationships between people and their pets. Learn more about Science Diet & Prescription Diet pet foods at HillsPet.com.



If you are a special needs person who may need to evacuate during a disaster, Desoto County Animal Services has a pet disaster shelter. The informational pamphlet and application for your pre-registration can be acquired at Animal Services at 2048 N.E. McKay St.



Don't forget the Disaster Volunteer Program. If interested, you can obtain the pamphlet and application at Animal Services at 2048 N.E. McKay St or call 863-993-4855 for more information. Daily volunteers are always welcome to walk dogs, play with the cats, clean pens, bathe animals, file, sweep, dust and mop. Its never the same thing twice.

Tours and activities can be scheduled at the Animal Services facility. School groups, classes, clubs and activity centers can schedule a tour by calling 863-993-4855. Lectures and talks can also be arranged to have an Animal Services representative come to you.



Donations of pet food and pet treats are always appreciated. Blankets, towels and small area rugs are of great use as pet bedding. (No clothing items please) Special needs are a chain link play area for the dogs, canned cat & dog food and leashes.



Live humane traps are available for nuisance hard to capture animals. Cat, dog & chicken traps are available for a deposit of \$25. Upon return of the trap Desoto County will refund \$20 by check through the mail. The traps are available for 7 days which can be extended for another 7 days with a simple phone call.



Desoto County Animal Services has a pet food bank to help feed pet of households that may be struggling with hard economic times. Wet (canned) and dry cat and dog food are available according to stocks on hand. 2 draws per year can be made per household. Supplies are limited.



Donation of a trailer to use for off-site events and for the safer and more efficient transport of pets, cages and other equipment is needed. A tax credit can be obtained from the County for a donation of this type.

