



# Dogs For Life

*Training Service Dogs  
For Veterans*

## Scrapbook

2011



**DECEMBER**

# Articles

## The record

2B » Wednesday, December 29, 2010 »

SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • IR

TCPALM.COM

### Luminaries seen at ... Dogs for Life Awards

December 11, 2010

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) held its annual Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Event at its 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park. President Al Turner presented all of the awards and thanked donors, volunteers and staff for their service. Linda Liss was named the Volunteer of the Year, while Janet Riley received the Individual Philanthropist award and Jeff Comer of Coast to Coast Landscaping was named the Corporate Philanthropist of the Year.



### VERO BEACH

#### Assistance dog workshop coming in January

Dogs For Life Inc. is hosting an annual Assistance Dog Workshop at the United Way Building, 1836 14th Ave., Vero Beach on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.

Federal, state and local laws pertaining to assistance dogs in public places and training program for war veterans will be discussed.

For more information, contact Dogs For Life at [dogsforlifevb@bellsouth](mailto:dogsforlifevb@bellsouth) or 772-567-8969.

Staff report

Barb Bodner and Maddux, Pet Assisted Therapy Team of the Year



Janet Riley, Individual Philanthropist of the Year



Lynn Burns and Nat Jackson of the Garden Club of Indian River



Linda Liss, Volunteer of the Year



Jim Taylor, Assistance Dog Team of the Year

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# The record

IR » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » Friday, December 10, 2010 » 5B

**LOCAL**

## STANDING ITEMS

### ANIMALS

**Dogs For Life, Inc.:** Accepting donations for Off-Leash Dog Park Scholarship Program. Off-Leash Dog Park, P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach.

## VERO BEACH

### 'Collarship' donations accepted

Dogs For Life Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training assistance dogs and owning and managing the Off-Leash Dog Park on 12th Street and 16th Avenue, is accepting tax-deductible Christmas donations toward the 2011 Off-Leash Dog Park Scholarship "Collarship" Program.

The organization offers scholarship memberships to low-income families of dogs that are inoculated, neutered and social. Membership fees at the 12th Street & 16th Avenue Off-Leash Dog Park help to support 20 hearing and service dog teams and nine facilities in Indian River County with pet-assisted therapy programs for home-bound people.

The 2010 "collarship" fund is now depleted with 20 dogs and their families currently in the program. For additional information, visit Dogs For Life at [dogsforlifevb.com](http://dogsforlifevb.com).

Staff reports

## Volunteer Opportunities

## STANDING ITEMS

### ANIMALS

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## Volunteer Opportunities

## ONGOING ITEMS

### ANIMALS

**Dogs For Life, Inc.:** Accepting tax-deductible donations for Off-Leash Dog Park Scholarship Program. Off-Leash Dog Park, 12 St., 16 Ave., P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach. 772-567-8969; [dogsforlifevb.com](http://dogsforlifevb.com).



# Indian River

## COUNTY

**In Biz**

Local Sears, Kmart stores  
to stay open. **7B**

**INSIDE**

Friday, December 30, 2011 » IR

**Quick Read**
**MCKEE BOTANICAL  
GARDEN'S JAZZ  
SERIES STARTS  
JAN. 13**

McKee Botanical Garden's "Jazz in the Garden" will be 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Jan. 13, Feb. 3 and March 9 and include Sunday brunch events noon-2 p.m. Jan. 22 and March 18. Evening jazz events also will offer dinner from Elizabeth's at the Garden Café.

The series will feature a diverse mix of talent from throughout the area adding their own musical styling to classic jazz favorites from such distinguished artists as Louis Arm-

## Service pug 'saving grace' for retiree

■ Dogs for Life organization helped the veteran learn how to train the canine

By Rikki Klaus  
WPTV NewsChannel 5

**VERO BEACH** — They say a dog is man's best friend, and there's a dog in Vero Beach who's living proof.

She may be tiny, but Pei Pei packs a powerful punch. Not only does her owner say she can sense his moods, she also can contact emergency responders when he's in danger. The service dog is part beloved family member and part diligent rescue worker.

"Go get help!" James Taylor shouted to his 11-pound pug. Pei Pei ran to a phone on the living

room floor and pressed both paws onto the large, circular button. The dial tone sounded. Praise followed.

With the press of that single button, service dog Pei Pei can dial 9-1-1. That's a huge comfort for the retired Army police officer, who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and hearing loss. Sometimes Taylor falls, too — he calls Pei Pei his "saving grace."

"Without her, I couldn't imagine my life. I'd probably be homebound a lot because of what I suffer severely. I know if I have any kind of problems, she's going to

help me right through it," said Taylor.

When the Vero Beach resident is in a crowd, he sometimes feels panic. Pei Pei is his buffer and companion.

"If I'm out, like in Walmart or somewhere, I give her a 'go out' command, and she'll actually circle around me to keep the people three and four feet away from me," Taylor said.

To help with Taylor's hearing loss, Pei Pei is all ears.

"If someone knocks on the front door, rings it, wherever I'm at, she'll find me in the house and then tap me, and I follow her," Taylor explained.

If the fire alarm goes off, she'll find him and turn in circles. If he's having a nightmare, he says she'll lick his face to wake him up.

Taylor rescued the pug from Halo Rescue in Sebastian. The Vero Beach-based organization "Dogs for Life" taught him how to train her, which took two years.

Taylor and his wife dote on Pei Pei. She has her own room and her own wardrobe of 34 tailored outfits.

"She just learns something every single day, and that's what Dogs for Life has taught us; how to use her and live a happy, normal life," said Taylor. It's a life he's glad to have with a friend and ally by his side.

Dogs for Life is raising money to build a service dog training facility in Vero Beach, specially for veterans. So far, the organization has placed three dogs in veterans' homes.

# All Dogs go to Heaven

## ALL GOOD DOGS GO TO HEAVEN

By Mary Pringle Mitchell



Jasper  
1999 - 2011

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I Would Like To Thank The Following People.

They Were My Inspiration.

My hairdresser Letha Rhodes in Vero Beach who suggested that I write this book.

All my friends and family for the wonderful support that they have given Walter and myself through this difficult time.

For all of the eMails, cards and kind words from friends who shared their dog stories with me.

How can I ever thank our friends Bob Welch and Shelly Ferger for being with us when Dr. Horn helped Jasper go over that Rainbow Bridge.

Many, many thanks to my friend and guru Paul Paulus at Desktop Publishing Resources for helping me publish this.

"Dogs are our link to paradise.

They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent.

To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon  
is to be back in Eden, where nothing was not boring -

it was peace."

Milan Kundera

Thanks for  
your support,  
Clay





In Memory of  
Jasper Mitchell 1999-2011



A sad note to report that Mary and Walter Mitchell had to say good bye to their beloved Jasper on Saturday. Jasper has gone to the Rainbow Bridge to meet Chloe, Sabrina, Maxx, and many of his dog park friends who have gone before him. There they will continue their dog park made friendships, where there are no leashes.

If you would like to send a note to Mary, I will be so happy to forward with your condolences, he will also be remembered at the off-leash dog park memorial garden.

Although only in Vero Beach for several months out of the year, Mary and Walter are founding members of the DFL Off-leash Dog Park. Mary sent many letters to the editor in 02 when while rallying for a dog park in I.R. Co. Jasper was an original member of the park, joining in February of 2002.

We will miss you Jasper, but you will be forever in our hearts. Mary, we will soon hang Jasper's Memorial Bone at the Dog Park too. With Love, ~ Shelly

We are so sorry to hear about Jasper, Ali & Ziggy loved playing with both their dogs. We would love to send them a card if you can share their address, thank you

~ Page Franzel

Dear Mary and Walter,

I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. I hope the messages of love and sympathy can comfort your hearts. My memories are of the happiest times as we walked the trail at the dog park. I loved hearing about Jasper's summer every fall when you returned to Vero.

Thank you for sharing Jasper with all of us! ~ Patti Schell



### *Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge*

*When an animal, who has been especially close to someone, dies, that pet goes to the Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food and water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.*

*Animals who were ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them from days and times gone by.*

*The animals are happy and content, except for one thing: they miss someone very special to them; the person they left behind.*

*All of the animals run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to break away from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.*

*You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again.*

*Happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.*

*Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together.*





# All Good Dogs Go To Heaven

By Mary Mitchell

When our dear dog Jasper went over the Rainbow Bridge I decided to write a story about our other dogs that preceeded him. Jasper died on December 10, 2011.

We've loved all of our dogs and this is my tribute to them. They were all loyal and loving companions.

## LONESOME BERNARD THE BASSETT HOUND

Bernie the Bassett hound was a real character. Bernie was the first dog that Steven ever owned. They were buddies and he slept on Steven's bed every night.

Bernie had his own chair by our fireplace. It was so loaded with dog hair that we never encouraged anyone to sit in it.

While Walter was home recovering from a heart attack, our oil man John Weaver-Bey from Pattison's General Store came to visit him. He was wearing a blue uniform and I wasn't home at the time or I would have stopped him from sitting in Bernie's chair. I came home just as he was leaving and the back of his blue uniform was completely covered with dog hair. I didn't know what to say so said nothing. I just wonder what his wife thought when he went home that night.



Bernie didn't have much ambition and his one trick was going to the cabinet and barking for a dog biscuit.

When Steven was in college Bernie started sleeping with us. One morning he fell off the bed. He evidently had a stroke. Steven was home for the weekend so the two of us took him to the vet. He encouraged us to put him to sleep because he was so near death. We decided that was the humane thing to do. Afterwards we all cried and cried. We buried him under a tree in our yard. He was 13 years old.

We all missed him very much.

## BRUTUS

After Walter's heart attack in June, 1977, the doctor advised him to get on a walking program, and due to the fact that Bassett Hounds are not good walkers, Steven and I decided we should change breeds and so we gave Walter Brutus, a Springer Spaniel, for his birthday. It turned out that Walter wasn't at all pleased with our decision.



He turned out to be the wildest dog and he leaped all over the house and the furniture etc. etc. etc. One of the funniest things that I remember about that dog but at the time was not at all funny. In desperation I signed him up for an obedience course.

One week I had hurt my back and asked Walter to take him for his class. We were having company that night and I had a steak defrosting in the kitchen. So just before Walter came home to take him to class the steak disappeared . . . Brutus had eaten the whole thing. I didn't bother telling Walter about this and as soon as they left I went down to the store and bought another one. I thought he'd never know but boy was I wrong — just as they drove back into our driveway in a brand new car Brutus threw up the entire steak. Here I would have covered for him but he blew it.

Well gradually he became a wonderful dog and Walter's companion on long walks.

We went over to Austria to visit Susie and Robbie and the boys and left him in the care of a neighbor. That was a mistake I'll never make again. They are much safer in a kennel for an extended period of time. Steven came up to see him and felt sorry for the dog and took him to his house to be with his dog. Tragically the dogs broke loose and Brutus was killed on the road the same day we flew home. So that was the first thing we found out when we landed at Bradley field. Of course we all felt just awful and Steven felt even worse. I have never seen Walter so upset so I knew we had to get another dog as soon as possible.

We buried him under the tree in our yard with Bernie.



## OLIVER

After ten days we found Oliver, another Springer Spaniel. He was tri-colored and a beautiful pet. We had him for 16 years and when we had to make the decision to say farewell we were all very sad.

When we started going to Florida Oliver was with us. We started out by driving down and gradually started flying. He used to hop into his crate and he was a good traveler and off we would go to Vero Beach with us. He loved to sit on my lap. I guess he thought he was a lap dog. Oliver walked miles with us. All I had to do was put on my sneakers and he was all set to go. When he died we buried him with Bernie and Jasper under the tree in our yard. So, now that makes 3 dogs that are buried under the tree in our yard.



Oliver and Jill



## NEVER SAY NEVER

We decided that due to the fact that we fly back and forth to Florida we would not get any more dogs. Wrong again. Never say never.

## JASPER

Two years later we got Jasper, an English Cocker Spaniel. We found him up near Gardener, Mass. in a breeder's kennel - he was 6 months old. I sat down on a step and he saw me and came right over and kissed me. He knew what he was doing because we brought him home. One week later he was barking at 5 a.m. out in the kitchen. I did a very foolish thing. Walter had put up a wooden barrier and instead of moving it I decided to step over it. My foot caught and I went flying across the floor and broke my shoulder and arm. So we ended up in the ER at Hartford Hospital on Father's Day. Now Walter was stuck with a new dog and a one armed wife. We really did some gear shifting that summer.



As the years went by Jasper became a wonderful friend and companion. He used to fly back and forth to Vero Beach with us. Then with security on the airlines so strict it became a hassle so Steven began to drive Jasper and all our stuff down to Florida. He just loved the Saab and was an excellent traveler. I think he thought of it as a big dog house.

Famous words when you get a dog .... No sleeping on the furniture. No begging from the table. No sleeping on the bed!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Well we broke every rule because he was allowed to do all of those things. When he thought it was time for us to go to bed he used to pace back and forth until we did what he wanted us to do.

When anybody was sick he was the nurse. When I had to have 6 weeks of daily radiation for breast cancer he rode in the back of the car for every treatment.

His bed was behind Walter's favorite chair in the family room in Simsbury. If we were going out and he couldn't go he'd go sit on his bed and I would give him a cookie.

He loved all the grandchildren and respected Mitch's dog Beaner but he wasn't very friendly towards other dogs that invaded his territory.

He loved to chase squirrels but to my knowledge he never caught one.

When we were in Vero Beach we went almost daily to the dog park. He used to love to play with the other dogs. When he got tired he'd sit under a tree and watch me walk round and round the park.

When I gave him to Walter for his 80th birthday Walter said "Well Mary, now I've got to outlive the dog." He told that to his heart doctor so every time we visited him he'd say "Walter, how's the dog?"

It is now 2011 and he was born in 1999 Jasper was slowing down and showing signs of his age. Steven drove him down to Vero but he just wasn't his old self. Then on Dec. 10th he went to Doggie Heaven. He died of kidney failure. What a sad day that was to say good bye to our old friend and constant companion. We have his ashes and are going to take them back to Simsbury in the spring. We will bury them under a tree in our garden with Bernie and Brutus and Oliver. He has left a big hole in our hearts but his spirit will remain with us forever. Our friends Bob Welch and Shellie Ferger were such a help that sad day.

I am including in this story some of the poems and wonderful e mails we've received. So many people that are true pet lovers understand how we feel.



PETS

## A scary bedtime story: Jasper and the three bears



### Hi Dog Buddies!

When Walter and Mary Mitchell bought a house here 27 years ago, they picked a street running off Riverside Park in part because dogs at that time were allowed to walk in the park.

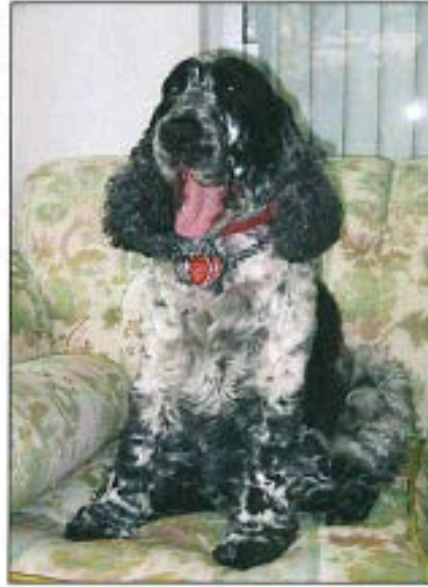
Then one day a member of the City Council went to a picnic in the park, and stepped in some dog poop (Bad owner! Bad!). A few days later, dogs were banished from Vero's city parks, and my buddies and I are not allowed to stroll with our humans in the parks

to this very day.

In any event, the Mitchells have had a variety of dog buddies over the years, but when their English cocker spaniel Oliver died in the late 1990s, Mary and Walter — who travel back and forth between Vero and Connecticut — said, no more dogs.

But that decision didn't stick very long. Mary, still pining for a dog buddy, found Jasper on the internet in a kennel in Massachusetts, and talked Walter into going to "just visit."

When Mary sat down to pet Jasper, he gave her a big kiss (smart move, Jasper). "That was it," said



and stare at the person that is handling my mom's transaction. They all know me and not only do they give me one cookie but sometimes I get two." (What's the name of this book again?)

While going to the bank may be what passes for excitement here, Jasper has had some real excitement when up in Connecticut: bears. "You never know when they are going to wander into our yard," he told me. Last summer, as he was walking with Mary up their driveway, there stood a mama, papa and baby bear (Gee, sounds like Goldilocks!)

"I just went berserk," Jasper said. "Mom guided me into our garage and shut the door," and the bears wandered away. "I must have scared them silly," Jasper told me. (Uh, okay, but not sure I would try it again.) ■

The Bonz 🐾

Mary. "First thing you know he was in the car going back to our home in Connecticut".

Actually, Jasper turned out to be Walter's 80th birthday present, and he told his doctor: "Now I've got to outlive the dog." That was a decade ago. Now, every time he goes for a checkup, the doctor asks: "How's the dog?" Both, I'm pleased to hear, are going strong.

When the Mitchells come down to Florida now, they fly and Jasper rides in the car with their son Steve. "Boy, do I love riding in the car," Jasper tells me. "When we get to Vero Beach, the thrill of my day is to go for a ride to the drive up window at the bank. I sit

"All things are possible to him who believes." Mark 9:23

### THE FIELD BEHIND OUR HOUSE IN W. SIMSBURY IS A PARADISE FOR DOGS

The field behind our house belongs to the McLean home but so far they have not built anything back there so we treat it like we own it. Walter used to cut paths there to walk but now our neighbor, Jimmy, cuts the walks.

We have walked all of our dogs in that field. It is so beautiful in the winter with the snow and during all the other seasons with all the wild flowers that grow there naturally.



Oliver in the fall



Oliver in the winter



Oliver in the winter



## **A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS.**

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you and yet I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy, or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food. I have been in the sun too long, or, my heart might be getting old, or weak.
9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too will grow old.
10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.

From Jane Witkowski

## **HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST**

**God saw that you were getting tired  
And a cure was not to be,  
So he put his arms around you  
And whispered, "Come to me."**

**With tearful eyes we watched you,  
And saw you pass away  
Though we loved you dearly  
We could not make you stay.**

**A golden heart stopped beating,  
Tail and whiskers are at rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us,  
He only takes the best.**



Walter with Jasper and Midget



### Friends and Family:

Early this morning I had to put my dog Ace to rest. He was 13 years old and my close companion and best friend for 11 of those years (I got him from the Australian Shepherd rescue society when he was 2). Over the last year, Ace developed something called laryngeal paralysis. Makes it very hard to breathe, especially for larger dogs.

Anyway, that's what happened to Ace, but in memory of him, here are some things that he would want you to know about his life:

- He was a velcro dog. Loved to follow people around the house, especially me. If I walked up and down the stairs 20 times, he would follow me with a smile on his face the whole time.
- I was his alpha dog, but he was the alpha to anyone else around the house. When the kids were younger, he would herd them around the house as if they were cattle or sheep. At night, he would pace the floors, just to ensure that everyone was in their proper place.
- He loved to run. In his prime, he could run the 3-mile loop in my neighborhood without breaking a sweat. In fact, he would walk faster than most dogs would run.
- Ace knew that his bark sounded like a girl, but when he saw other dogs he would let it rip. Barking, spinning, and tugging non-stop. He knew that he was all bark and no bite, but he liked to put on a show.
- He loved going to the kennel during the times that I traveled and needed coverage. When he walked thru the doors, he would start barking and cause 100 other dogs to bark back at him.
- Ace could fart with the best of them. It was always silent and deadly. And, he never took credit, but rather blamed his owner.
- His preferred language was dog-talk with his Alpha owner (me). He would ignore everyone else.
- He loved to travel, visiting friends and relatives. If he saw a suitcase being packed, he would start whining and spinning in circles, ready to go.
- Whenever guests were around he would totally take advantage, breaking all kinds of rules, such as eating table food, hopping up on beds, couches, etc...
- If a gate was left open, he would be the first to walk right out of it and roam the neighborhood for a day or so. On many occasions, I had to post lost dog signs or go to the local vet's office to retrieve him.
- His favorite laying spots were under my desk while I was working, or if outside, under the rose bushes on the side of the house, shading himself from the Texas sun.
- Ace was really good friends with his siblings over the years, Noel, Alyssa, Sam and Carmen. They will miss him greatly.
- Whenever we would leave the house, Ace would stand and stare out the window for along time, wondering where everyone went without him. Eventually, he would sit in front of the window and wait for our return.
- There's probably more, but I'll leave it at that. For those of you that knew or met him, I'm sure you have your own wonderful memories of Ace.

Ace, rest in peace, my good friend !!!

The young man who wrote this is a former Navy Seal, currently an executive at IBM. A really nice fellow.

Dear Mary,

Ace sounds like quite a dog. Let me tell you about my first dog, long ago.

My father was a butcher for A&P in St. Johnsbury, VT, and we didn't have much money in those days, so dad would do odd jobs for people when he could. One time, when I was 8 yrs. old, he went to Barnet, south on Rt. 5, to cut up a steer for Charlie Choat, a friend. When he came back home late that night, mom asked how much he made, and he said \$50, which was a fortune in those days. Then he said that he also had a bonus, and he pulled from his coat pocket the cutest little puppy I had ever seen. She was a collie/shepherd, more collie than shepherd, so I can be forgiven for immediately naming her Lassie, the star of one of my favorite books. No one we knew even had a TV back then.

All the while I was growing up, Lassie was my constant companion and my dearest friend. I would often lie on the floor with her with my head on her beautiful soft side and talk to her. I would swear she understood just about everything I told her. She went fishing with me, hiking, played in the snow with me -- you name it, and Lassie was with me. I was the only kid in 6th grade who was allowed to have his dog beside my desk in class. Lassie would follow me to school sometimes, and she was so well behaved that Mrs. McCallister, our 6th grade teacher, would ask me if I wanted to have Lassie join the class. When we went out for recess, Lassie would go along and do her business, too, and then go back into class until it was time to go home again. She stayed right beside my desk the entire time and never made a fuss. Everyone loved her. She was the biggest dog in town, and every year, she would win "Biggest Dog" in the town's pet parade, and the prize was always 50 lbs. of Purina dog food. By then, we had a car -- a 1941 green Oldsmobile -- and I remember driving to the Purina store to get the dog food, with Lassie, of course, in the back seat. She loved to ride in the car. When I got my license at age 16, we had a VW bug by then, and I remember so well just jingling the keys, and Lassie would come running. She would get in the back seat and go everywhere with me. I got my first job at age 10 -- a paper route -- and Lassie would go on my route every day with me and keep me company. I wasn't supposed to have her on my bed, but sometimes I'd sneak her under the covers, and I loved sleeping with her. I knew the monster under the bed wouldn't get me with Lassie there to protect me.

I joined the Navy at 17, 2 wks. after high school graduation. I can't tell you how much I missed Lassie. No matter how long I was away, when I came home on leave, she never failed to know me and would jump on me and give me a lot of wet kisses.

I had Sunday dinner in Newport, RI, one day when I was 19, with a WAVE named Margaret Whittemore. On the way out of the restaurant, I asked Margaret if she would kindly wait for me to place a brief call to my parents, since there was a small bank of phone booths (remember them?) in the lobby. When my mother answered, I immediately knew something was wrong, and she said she wanted me to speak with my father. Then I really knew something was wrong, as dad hated talking on the phone. As it turned out, they had to put Lassie down, as she had reached that point. I had never planned for Lassie to ever die, and I didn't know how to cope with this dreadful news. I hung up and stayed in the phone booth for a half hour, just crying my eyes out. Poor Margaret -- I don't know what she must have thought. When I could finally talk, I came out of the phone booth and told her what had happened. We had planned to do something or other but cancelled our plans and headed for the bus stop to go back to the base. I cried the whole way and all the way back to the base on the bus. One guy kept staring at me until Margaret said, "What the hell are you looking at?" I cried for weeks, off and on, mostly in private, fortunately. I still, to this day, over 50 yrs. later, grieve for my Lassie, the best dog I ever could have hoped for in a million years. When I dream about a dog, it's always Lassie, and sometimes I wake up expecting her to be there, and I'm nearly 70 yrs. old. The pain never goes away, but neither does the joy in having Lassie as my dog friend for all those years growing up. I was blessed beyond measure.

And that's the story of my greatest friend and great love of my young life. Just thought you might like to hear it.

Love, Stuart



## AND LIFE GOES ON

I would like to end this book on a positive note that Life goes on. Our son Mark said goodbye to his beloved lab Midget ,and granddaughter Jill said goodbye to her Golden Finn this past summer. Of course they miss them very much. Life does go on and now they have two adorable labs and named them Thelma and Louise to love and have as companions. You never forget the pets that have left you because their spirits live forever in your memory.

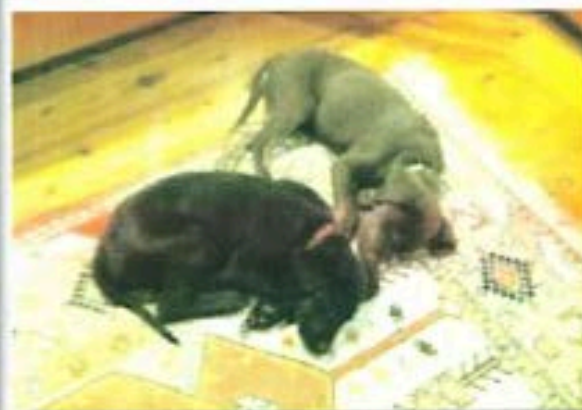
Some great dogs that are still bringing joy to other members of the family are Steven's dog Henley and Mitch's Beaner.

This book is for those of us who are left behind to grieve and celebrate and recover by remembering our beloved pets that have gone over the Rainbow Bridge.

"Whoever said you can't buy happiness forgot little puppies."



Henley



Thelma & Louise



Beaner



Mary with Thelma & Louise

# DEDICATION



Dogs for Life Memorial Garden - Vero Beach, Florida

I would like to dedicate this book to Jasper and remember the happy days we spent together at The Dogs for Life dog park. There will be a Dog Bone Plaque placed in the Garden in his Memory.





## 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 will probably 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, trust,  
and pure unbridled joy.

"Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make 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,  
the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

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

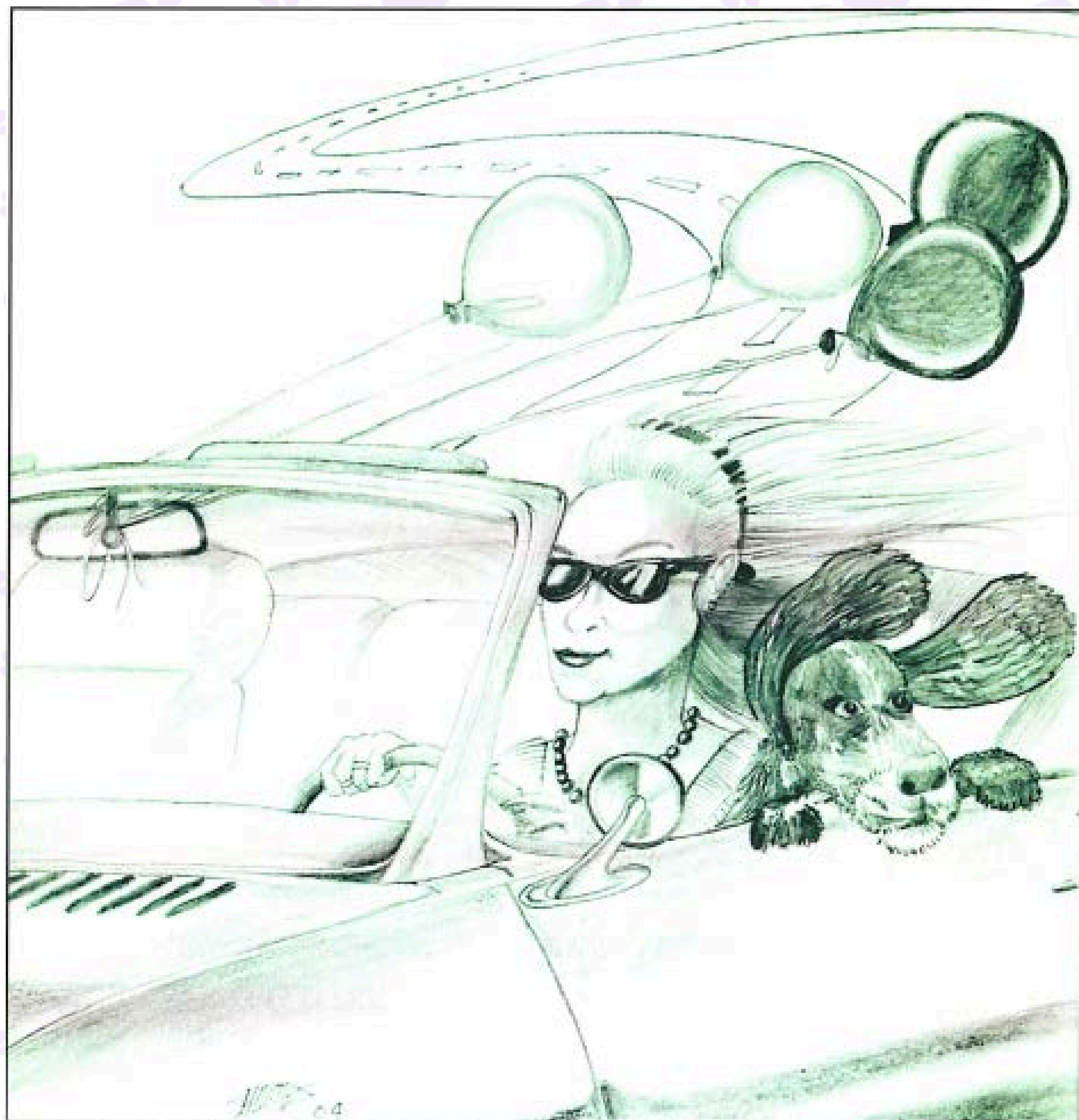
I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog",  
but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being  
"just a man or woman."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog"  
just smile...

because they "just don't understand."

Written by an unknown Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.  
From the Therapy Dog Inc. News Magazine





Mary's book "Shifting Gears" cover sketch depicting Mary and Jasper going up to the lake on a happy day in Walter's 1969 Pontiac convertible.

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints. The prints are of two sizes and are scattered across the white background in a non-uniform, random-like distribution.

**NOVEMBER**



# Chloe

*In memory of our loved ones.*



**From:** Dogs For Life

**Date:** 11/27/2011 8:12:45 AM

**To:** undisclosed-recipients

**Subject:** A sad day for DFL and the Dog Park

You all know Patti Schell, she has been DFL's right hand at the dog park for many years. And, I'm sure you know her beloved dog Chloe. The two of them have become a fixture at the dog park, as Patti goes about her weekly chores.

Yesterday, Patti performed the "final act of kindness" and in an effort not to allow her constant companion to suffer, she was forced to make the painful decision to send Chloe on her way to the Rainbow Bridge.

Patti & Chloe had participated not only in the dog obedience classes, but Agility and Rally Obedience. Patti and her "sidekick" 4-H Member Kim, used Chloe as a dog park training demonstration dog over the years, showing others how to train their dogs.

Chloe played the role as Ambassador dog at the park, being a patient dog and helping us "humans," evaluate sociability, sometimes at her own expense and to that we owe her and Patti a huge amount of gratitude.

Patti & Chloe were part of DFL's Pet Assisted Therapy Program, serving the Abilities Resource Center in particular and other facilities when needed. Patti had even trained Chloe to tap a K-9 911 phone for Patti's mother before she joined the Lord, in the event she experienced an emergency when Patti was away from home.

Please show Patti your support when you see her at the park without her beloved faithful friend and companion, as we know this will be very painful for Patti for a long time.

Chloe's passing is a huge loss not only to Patti, but to the dog park and to Dogs For Life. She will be remembered in the dog park Memorial Garden with a memorial paw and memorial bone. If you would like to contribute to Chloe's memorial fund, Patti will be notified of your generosity. If you would like to send Patti a card, c/o DFL either e-mail or snail mail, I will make sure she receives it.

With Love and Appreciation to Patti in memory of Chloe, ❤️

Shelly

Shelly Ferger, Founder / Executive Director  
Dogs For Life, Inc.  
P.O. Box 650023

## **A Sad Day For DFL And The Dog Park**

You all know Patti Schell, she has been DFL's right hand at the dog park for many years. And, I'm sure you know her beloved dog Chloe. The two of them have become a fixture at the dog park, as Patti goes about her weekly chores. Yesterday, Patti performed the "final act of kindness" and in an effort not to allow her constant companion to suffer, she was forced to make the painful decision to send Chloe on her way to the Rainbow Bridge.

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With Love and Appreciation to Patti in memory of Chloe, ~ Shelly

*As those of us whose lives have been blessed by and shared with pets know all too well, their presence always seem to end way too soon. This not unlike a shooting star that brightens the sky and then fades before we would wish. We had to say goodbye to our beloved Elsie last month and while she is dearly missed, we are grateful to how she brightened our lives. Happily, we have Boston, our always hungry Rottle to help fill the void. Our thoughts are with Patti at this difficult time in her life. Herb & Becky Torbin*

Berri and I went to the dog park this afternoon, and saw Patti, and got to hug her for support, and she told me the story.... How sad. At least she gave Chloe a wonderful life, and that was evident in Chloe's behavior. I was very impressed with Kim also, and heard a bit of that story... Wonderful how those we help end up helping us in turn. They are lucky to have each other at a time like this. Please email this to her, as I do not know her address, phone, nor email, Thanks, Shelly. Just very comforting to know how wonderfully Dog Park members support each other. After she left me, there was a large group waiting to see her as she entered the large dog park. That made me happy too. Prayers for Patti in these difficult days ahead. Hugs, Margie

Please extend to Patti our best wishes in her time of sorrow. We send along with this message prayers and peace. In friendship, Jan and Phil Tyrrell

DEAREST PATTI, WE WANT TO OFFER OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE LOSS OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL CHLOE. YOU WERE A WONDERFUL MOTHER AND WE ALL LOVE YOU. CHLOE WILL BE MISSED BUT SHE WILL BE SENDING YOU ANOTHER FROM HER CONTACTS IN HEAVEN. PLEASE KNOW YOU BOTH HAVE AN INSCRIPTION IN OUR HEARTS. LOVE and WONDERFUL MEMORIES, KAREN & SCRUFFLES

Dear Patti, my love and support go out to you through these difficult days as you mourn the loss of your beloved Chloe. What great joy she brought to all that knew her. Thank you for all you do for us at DFL.  
Sincerely, Angela Conti

I AM NOT GOOD AT WRITING SO I WILL DO MY BEST, PATTI AND CHLOE WAS A VERY GOOD TEAM, CHLOE WILL BE MISSED GREATLY, I KNOW THAT IS ALWAYS A HARD DECISION TO MAKE, JUST REMEMBER SHE IS NOT SUFFERING AND IS RUNNING AND PLAYING IN THE RAINBOW BRIDGE WITH ALL THE OTHER LOVING DOGS WHO ARE THERE WITH HER. MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU THROUGH THIS HARD TIME.  
WE ALL LOVE YOU MIKE, HOLLY AND CAPTAIN





Dear Dogs for Life Board of Directors,  
Thank you so much for the work you do for all the Dogs for Life programs. This moment in time was captured because of the value you've placed on the Pet Assisted Therapy program. Chloe's service dog pictures were kind of blurry (but precious to my mom, Elsie and me) Our main mission! of service! Thank you, always!  
Patti Schell



The background of the image is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

# OCTOBER



# Howl-O-Ween

PEOPLE & PARTIES



*Dogs For Life Executive Director Shelly Ferger with Tim Taylor, service dog Pia Pia and Hoy Wilkerson*

## Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween Parade

**OCTOBER 22:** Dogs in costumes were the main attraction at the 10th annual *Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo*. People and their pets took part in a costume parade, listened to live music, enjoyed food and drinks and visited the many vendors. Proceeds from the event benefited DFL assistance dogs, veteran dog- and pet-assisted therapy programs and the dog park.



*Art Spilios and Anne Draper with Shelby*



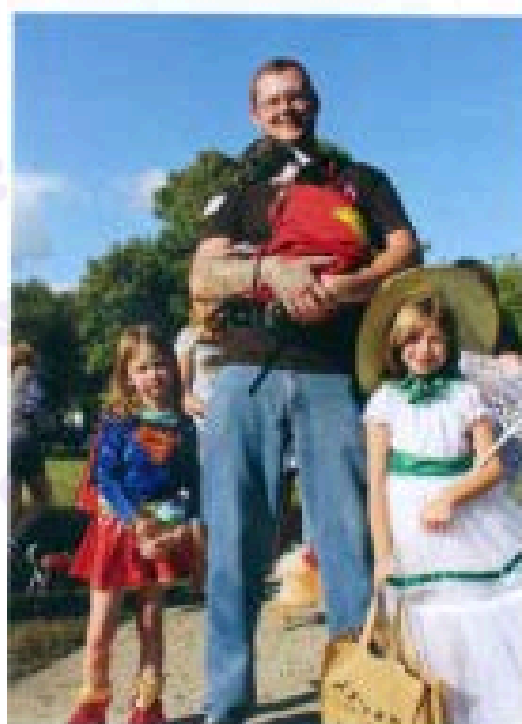
*Alexa Lopez, Elie Pough and Ashley Evans with Bailey*



*Marv Liza announces the start of the parade*



*Rina McCormick and Cynthia Blumwater with Simon*



*Gail, James and Faith Bariteau with Bentley*



*Allen and Sharon Springman with Beau the pirate and Lexi the ladybug*



*Jaime Henderson and Debbie Henderson with Lynx the Superdog, Phoenix the moose and Bentley as Batman*

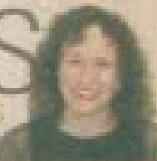
VERO BEACH  
MAGAZINE  
DECEMBER  
2011

# BRIGHTLIGHTS

& RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County



## It's Howl-O-Ween time

Shelly Ferger of Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) is asking for vendors to apply for space at the 10th anniversary of the Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo to be held at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach from 3-5 p.m. on Oct. 22.

Vendor space starts at \$100 and sponsorship starts at \$25,000. Last year, 108 dogs attended in costume with more than 500 spectators. The event is free and open to the public. Call 772-567-8969, e-mail dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net and visit www.dogsforlifevb.com

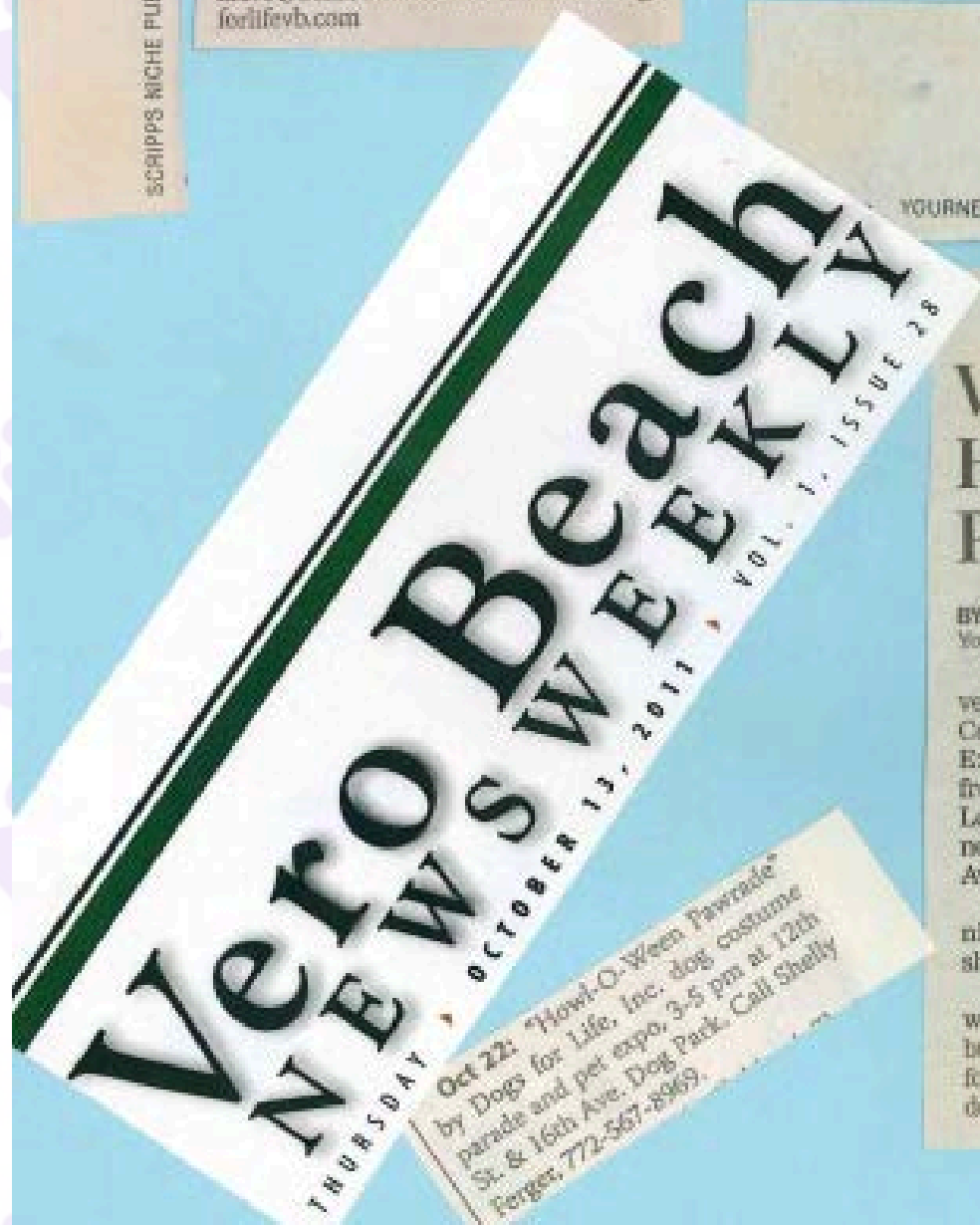
Wednesday, October 5, 2011 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

## Fall Events

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

**Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume/Pet Expo:** Dog Park, 12th St. and 16th Ave., Vero Beach, 3-5 pm, Oct. 22. Bring your dog "on-leash" or "in-costume". 772-567-8969.

YOURNEWS • INDIAN RIVER COUNTY • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011



## Vendors wanted for Howl-O-Ween Dog Pawrade and Pet Expo

BY SHELLEY FERGER  
YourNews contributor

Dogs For Life's 10th anniversary Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo will happen Oct. 22, from 3 to 5 p.m. at DFL Off-Leash Dog Park, on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue.

This is a special opportunity for a premier sponsorship or vendor location.

Donations of \$100 or more will qualify your name, your business or your pet's name for permanent display on a donor bone at the off-leash

dog park.

Nonprofit vendors have free space.

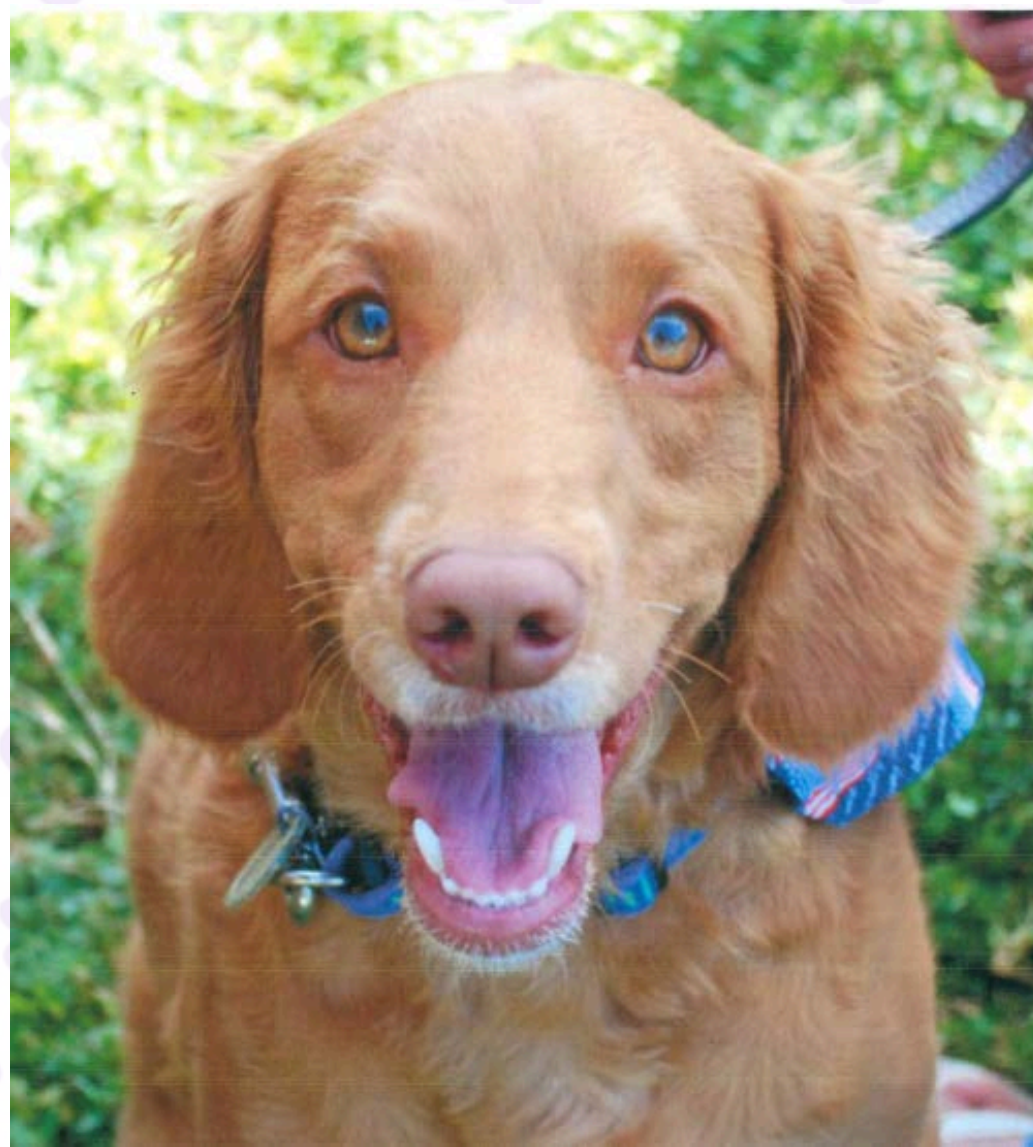
New this year will be live entertainment by Hobo Jim with food and beverages by the American Vets Post 6.

Every dog in costume wins a prize. Last year, 108 dogs participated in the Pawrade.

For more information, call 772-567-8969.

This story has been edited for space. For the full version, go to TCPalm.com/YourNews.

Oct 22: "Howl-O-Ween Pawrade" by Dogs for Life, Inc. dog costume parade and pet expo, 3-5 pm at 12th St. & 16th Ave. Dog Park. Call Shelly Ferger, 772-567-8969.





# Howl-O-Ween breaks record

BY SHELLY FERGUSON  
YourNews contributor

Dogs For Life's 10th anniversary Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade on Oct. 22 resulted in a record-breaking 113 dogs and their families registering for the free Pawrade at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park.

Music by Hobo Jim, a law enforcement canine demonstration by Sgt. Patrick White of the Indian River County Sheriff's Department and L.A. Bykowski and Daryl, retired bomb detection dog, entertained the crowd.

More than 500 spectators enjoyed 17 vendor booths that displayed businesses for people and gave away treats to the dogs.

Twenty-seven committee members planned and



SHELLY FERGUSON • TCPalm.com/YourNews  
Greta, dressed as a Komodo dragon, participated in the Pawrade with Greg Beenken and Rebeca Garcia.

coordinated an event without a hitch. T

hirty-nine sponsors supported the event with more than \$3,000 in raffle items which were displayed and

then raffled at the end of the day.

This story has been edited for space. For the full version, go to TCPalm.com/YourNews.









Dogs For Life, Inc.  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Parade & Pet Expo  
October 22, 2011



Photo By Ed & Gail Boatwright



Photos by Shelly Ferrer





# YourNews | CALENDAR

Tell everybody about  
your event by posting it  
at [topalm.com/YourNews](http://topalm.com/YourNews)



Photo provided

Owners dressed their dogs in costumes for Dogs for Life's Howl-O-Ween Dog Pawrade in 2008.

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and pet expo will happen at Dog Park, at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach, from 3 to 5 p.m. Oct. 22. Bring your dog on leash or in costume. For more information, call 772-567-8969.

YOURNEWS • INDIAN RIVER COUNTY • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2011

27 SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LN • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF OCTOBER 17, 2011

**10th Anniversary Howl-O-Ween Dog  
Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo to benefit  
Dogs for Life. Bring dogs in costume and  
win prizes. Military color guard, K-9**

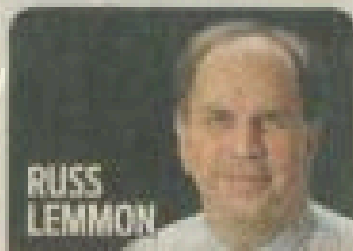
**demonstration, entertainment and more.  
Dogs for Life Off-Leash Park, Vero Beach.  
772-567-8969**



# Dog Park



Tuesday, October 18, 2011



**RUSS LEMMON**

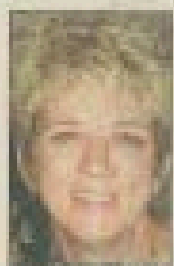
COLUMNIST

## Dog owners feel at home at Dogs For Life park

As she opened the gate, Shelly Ferger could tell I was a little bit apprehensive.

Probably because I had switched to tiptoe mode, and my radar was quickly scanning the terrain for piles of you-know-what.

"Owners do clean up after their dogs," she said.



Shelly Ferger

That put me at ease. I just remember reading a story about some irresponsible owners at the public dog park in Sebastian.

At the Dogs For Life off-leash park, just east of Vero Beach Elementary School, you get the feeling an irresponsible owner wouldn't last very long as a member.

The adage "you get what you pay for" seems to apply here.

The annual membership is \$300.

What dog owners get for their money is a peaceful setting — two huge oak trees remain from the days when it was a horse pasture — and well-maintained grounds.

## LEMMON from 1A

system, they might be playing on dirt.

Incidents involving aggressive dogs are exceedingly rare, Ferger said. The fact that she "screens" canines, and their owners, for membership probably has a lot to do with that.

She said it's "sheer joy" to watch dogs running with other dogs at the park.

Dogs For Life, a non-profit organization, averages about 200 members annually. The 4 1/2-acre dog park is only part of the organization's total picture.

As Ferger put it, "We have a branding problem. People just think we're a dog park on 12th Street."

Dogs For Life trains

hearing and service dogs for disabled individuals. It also offers dog obedience training.

The organization is trying to raise \$300,000 to build a training center, which would allow for an expansion of its dog-training program to help war veterans.

"We train dogs for anybody," Ferger said, "but we're focusing more on dogs for veterans."

Among other things, the dogs are used to help veterans deal with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). For example, dogs can be trained to wake up a veteran who is having a full-blown nightmare about combat.

"I'm just as proud as I can be to be launching into this veterans program," she said.

"Most dog parks fail by their success — because they're overused," said Ferger, the founder and executive director of Dogs For Life Inc.

According to Margaret Wall, a Dogs For Life board member, three things usually work against public dog parks.

One, the grass area for walking often turns into dirt, which can turn into mud. Two, too many owners don't pick up after their dogs. Three, too many aggressive dogs run free.

With the latter two, there's a common thread.

"There's no accountability," Ferger said.

The Vero Beach park has separate areas for big dogs and small dogs. Regardless of their size, though, they are able to run and play on grass. If not for the irrigation

One of Dogs For Life's community-oriented events is scheduled for Saturday. The 10th annual "Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo" is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. It's free and open to the public.

Last year, 108 dogs were "in costume," Ferger said.

If you go to watch the "pawrade," take comfort in knowing you won't have to worry about switching into tiptoe mode.

After all, this off-leash park is home to responsible dog owners

Russ Lemmon is a columnist for Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers. This column reflects his opinion. For more on Indian River County topics, follow his blog at [tcnain.com/lemmon](http://tcnain.com/lemmon). Contact him at 772-878-2205 or [russ.lemmon@scripps.com](mailto:russ.lemmon@scripps.com).

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

## Dog training open to public at dog park

With the "Dog Days Of Summer", officially ending, Dogs for Life Inc. will restart dog obedience classes at 9 a.m. Nov. 12 on at the Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., in Vero Beach.

Shelly Ferger, founder and executive director, will instruct this six-week course where an emphasis is applied to dog behavior, effective communication tools and positive reinforcement training methods.

Basic dog obedience, agility, rally obedience, pet assisted therapy, assistance dog and AKC Canine Good Citizen training are included in the class outline.

The six weeks, limited class size course is open to the public and costs \$75. Preregistration is required 772-567-8969.

YOURNEWS • INDIAN RIVER COUNTY • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2011

## Dog training open to the public at off-leash dog park

BY SHELLY FERGER  
YourNews contributor

Dogs For Life will restart its dog obedience classes at 9 a.m. on Nov. 12 at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave. in Vero Beach.

Shelly Ferger, DFL founder and executive director, will instruct this six-week course where an emphasis is applied to dog behavior, effective communication tools and positive reinforcement training methods.

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SHELLY FERGER • TCPalm.com/YourNews

Dogs For Life will restart its dog obedience classes Nov. 12 at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park.

For more information, call 772-567-8969.

RECURRING EVENTS

THURSDAY

ANIMALS/PETS

**Dogs For Life, Inc.:** Dog Park membership orientations by appointment. Inoculated, neutered, social. Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach, 10 am. \$300. Register: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifewh.com.



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a white background.

# SEPTEMBER

# United Way Day of Caring

Press Journal Section B

## Indian River COUNTY

Sunday, September 25, 2011 » IR

### UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

## Volunteers show they care at 30 sites



Trinity Mann, 7, paints a door frame in the Adult Care Center at the Senior Resource Association while volunteering during the Day of Caring held by the United Way of Indian River County on Saturday morning. Volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, as well as Marine Bank, spent the morning painting, cleaning and landscaping the organization's facility on 14th Street. (Staff Writer/Treasurer COURT BROWNE)

**By Janet Bagley**  
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY** — Art Blanchet of Sebastian wiped sweat from his forehead as he helped paint the shed at the Dogs for Life park on 12th Street in Vero Beach on Saturday.

Blanchet, a member of a team from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Vero Beach, was at the off-leash dog park as part of the United Way's 19th annual Day of Caring. The event was sponsored by the Bank of America.

"It's our responsibility to serve others," Blanchet said. "We take community service seriously and do whatever we can to help with the time we have."

The annual Day of Caring drew more than 350 volunteers at 30 different sites throughout the county, according to Michael Kint, CEO of the United Way of Indian River County. Teams stretched out as far as Fellsmere to lend a hand to health and human service agencies and their clients. The event is the kickoff to the fundraising season for the United Way.

"Even though most people think of the United Way for our annual campaign, we have three words we live by," Kint said. "Give, volunteer and advocate are what the United Way is all about."

Kint said that in tough economic times, people may not have money to give but they are willing to donate their time to a worthy cause.

"Studies have shown that people, especially young people, are very connected to the idea of volunteerism," Kint said. "They want to have a hands-on experience so they can feel they made a difference."

At the Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition, volunteers put together a garage sale so clients could get free clothing and kid's items.

"It's a wonderful volunteer activity," said Rebecca Russell-Gootee, executive director of the Healthy Start Coalition. "We were looking for an opportunity to do as part of the Day of Caring, and we thought this would really help our clients who have young children."

After Blanchet finished painting the shed at the dog park, he helped Dogs for Life Executive Director Shelly Ferger load all of the agility equipment back in the shed. Ferger said she was grateful for the help, pointing out that many of the members who use the dog park are elderly and are unable to do manual labor.

"When you run a nonprofit, you never stop asking for help," Ferger said. "First, I asked for help painting the shed. Then I just kept tacking on more and more things. And the volunteers just kept saying yes, yes and yes."



# Pet Cremations



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# AUGUST



# In the Ruff Golf Tournament

Social | Lifestyle

In the Ruff golf tournament is a top dog success

## Vero Beach NEWSWEEKLY

THURSDAY • AUGUST 25, 2011 • VOL. 1, ISSUE 21



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA TASCON  
Dogs for Life Director Shelly Ferger, Linda Kline and Jim Bates



Aspen Ratelle with Maggie and Haley Kyzer with Pumpkin



Marlon Fisher, Barry Minette, Marybeth Cunningham, Chuck Cuning, Karen and Gene Mack

BY CHRISTINA TASCON  
FOR VERO BEACH NEWSWEEKLY

Guests munched on hors d'oeuvres as canine cops tried to take a bite out of crime decoys at the cocktail reception held to raise money for H.A.L.O., a no-kill animal shelter.

This past weekend, H.A.L.O. & Stray No More Inc. topped their previous fundraising success from last year's event by filling all 120 openings for the golf tournament at the Indian River Club.

To kick off the animal friendly event, Director Jacque Perone and Coordinator Kim Kerns combined a cocktail reception with a Sheriff's Department K-9 demonstration as the "Dog Bones" band played hits by the pool.

H.A.L.O. is located in Sebastian and was founded by Perone five years ago. It is the only shelter in Indian River that does not euthanize stray animals no matter how long they are with them at the shelter. Their objective is to find every pet a happy home and give them a fulfilling life with a human companion.

They are constantly promoting neutering and spaying pets and have donated many hours to caring for stray animals and finding them homes.

Perone and H.A.L.O. has found a good friend in the Florida Veterinary League. They were at the golf tournament giving pet vaccinations but also are there when there is a sick or injured animal at the shelter and with those that cannot afford health care for their pets.





The Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit gives a attack demonstration at the cocktail reception



Amy Behm-Selby, Duane Selby with Bill and Terri Schmalfus



Guests Jody Zwergel, Tamara Priddy and Amy Robinson with the K-9 officers, Christian Mathison, Pat White, Jim Dixon, Kevin Keitz and Jeff Ledlow

At the reception on Friday night, K-9 Sergeant Pat White directed the K-9 exhibition in an informative as well as entertaining display of what the dogs could do.

First, he said, they are not considered pets but are called "partners" to the human officers. The dogs are

paired with similar personalities of an officer in the team so that they work together better and bond faster. When the dogs get too old to work, they go to live with them and are cared for as long as they live.

A little known fact is that the officers speak German or similar languages when commanding their dogs. K-9 dogs are all brought in from Europe where dog breeding is under the strictest regulation.

America does not have strong regulation and many dogs, although they may have great papers, can be interbred or over-bred by owners. In Europe, dog competitions called Schutzhund are as popular as soccer and the handling, breeding and registry of the dogs are fiercely governed as closely as the horses in the Kentucky Derby.

Dogs have over a 1,000 times more

CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

#### IN THE RUFF FROM PAGE 15

powerful sense of smell than humans and German Shepherds are considered the best for the job because of the shape of their snouts which was best for tracking the scents.

Surprisingly, the dogs have not been neutered. White said that once a male dog was snipped he sort of lost his will and took away instinctual aggression bringing an under-

standing laugh from the audience. Most of the canines are male, but females are usually used for less aggressive work such as looking for disaster victims, Alzheimer patients and drug searches.

It is only rarely they are used as criminal trackers.

The dogs were put through their paces and seeing them fly through the air full force to attack a decoy officer or running all out at the speed of light amazed the guests and drew

rounds of appreciative applause. All the guests at the event were huge animal fans and said they were at the event because they loved their pets like their family and wanted to support the good works of H.A.L.O. Most owned multiple animals but that did not stop H.A.L.O. on Saturday at the golf tournament from trying to get them to take home just one more at the adoption tent. They even took several of the animals on the golf carts around

the course to tempt them. Kim Kerns said that one lucky little Pomeranian named Pumpkin found a home by the end of the day and that is what it was all about...finding a home for a dog, cat or other animal, one pet at a time.

To support H.A.L.O., or to donate cleaning supplies, pet toys, kitten and puppy milk or blankets, you can go to their website, [www.halo-rescuefl.org](http://www.halo-rescuefl.org) or drop off at the shelter, 710 Jackson Street in Sebastian.



# ARC & Dogs For Life

TCPALM.COM'S Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2011

## Your News

Vero Beach, Sebastian, Fellsmere, Gifford

### ARC, Dogs for Life join forces



NOREEN DAVIS • TCPalm.com/YourNews

Patricia Moody teaches sign language to Patti Schell and Carla Schmidt at Abilities Resource Center, in Indian River County. It's all about teamwork and organizations helping each other. Every week, Dogs for Life brings dogs to visit ARC. It's amazing how much joy petting a sweet little dog can bring. In turn, Moody loves including members of Dogs for Life in her weekly sign language class.

**INSIDE**

**JOINING FORCES**  
ARC and Dogs for Life join forces.  
Page 4



SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF AUGUST 28, 2011

**SAY LUMINARIES**  
luminaries@scripps.com

## INTHELIMELIGHT

luminaries@scripps.com

### ARC & Dogs for Life

## "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours"

It's all about team work and organizations helping each other. Everyone at ARC looks forward to seeing "Willy" and the rest of the wonderful dogs that "Dogs for Life" bring to visit each week.

It's amazing how much joy petting a sweet little dog can bring. In turn, Patricia Moody loves including members of "Dogs for Life" in her weekly sign language class.



ARC student Scott enjoys a trip to the dog park.



Richard, a student at ARC, spends time at the dog park.



Patricia Moody teaches sign language to Patti Scheff and Carla Schmidt at ARC.

VERO BEACH

### Dogs for Life plans Howl-O-Ween

Dogs For Life Inc. is hosting the 10th anniversary of its Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo at the dog park on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach on Oct. 22 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The public is invited to bring dogs "on-leash" or "in-costume" for the free parade. Vendor opportunities are available starting at \$100.

Sponsorship opportunities start at \$25. Nonprofit organizations are invited to have a vendor booth for free.

Dogs For Life is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training hearing dogs, service dogs, and owning and managing an off-leash dog park.

For more information, contact Shelly Ferger, dog park founder and executive director, at 772-567-8969.

Staff reports

6B » Wednesday, August 31, 2011 » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » IR

GOOD FOR YOU

### ARC appreciates Dogs for Life visits

It's all about team work and organizations helping each other.

Everyone at ARC looks forward to seeing Willy and the rest of the wonderful dogs that Dogs for Life bring to visit each week. It is amazing how petting a sweet little dog can bring so much joy. In turn, Patricia Moody loves including members of Dogs for Life in her weekly sign language class.

2B » Wednesday, August 10, 2011 » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » IR

## The record

Community Calendar

Health Notes

#### NEW LISTINGS

**Assistance Dog Screening:**  
Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th St. and 16th Ave., Vero Beach, Aug. 10-13. Appointment: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb.com.

#### ONGOING

#### Free Assistance Dog Screening: Dogs trained

for owners with hearing, physical disabilities in Vero Beach. By appt. 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb.com

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IR » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » Tuesday, October 18, 2011 » 5B





**JULY**



# Tribute to Maxx Ruma



Maxx Ruma

April 24, 1999-July 23, 2011

Guard of the gate and walker of paths;  
Chaser of rabbits and sitter for treats;  
Snoozer on couches and driver of cars;  
Faithful and loyal and patient and sweet.

Sleeper on pillows so quiet and warm;  
Well mannered at table but 'thief' later on;  
Grabber of branches, Sea Grape or Palm,  
Prancing and dancing to show off your charm.

Grooming for you was front row at the Ritz,  
Like watching TV you would not want to quit.  
But show you a mower and you would be off,  
'Attempt to attack it and throw barking fits.

"My sweet boy", I'm crying- "I love you forever"  
On beaches in parks and in all kinds of weather.  
Admonished by all to watch out and beware,  
I'd still give my heart free to you, Maxx, to tear.



# Indian River Estates Health Fair

YOURNEWS • INDIAN RIVER COUNTY • WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011

RODNEY NOWAK • TCPalm.com/YourNews

Residents participate of health fair at ACTS Indian River Estates West Retirement-Life Community.

BY COLLEEN WILSON  
YourNews contributor

ACTS Indian River Estates West Retirement-Life Community literally filled the house at its recent health fair. Hundreds of seniors participated in free screenings, raffle giveaways, health and wellness lectures and more. Three medical lectures also took place with a question and answer time featuring Dr. Atwell, an urologist, Dr. Dawn Gordon, a Chiropractor and Dr. Eble, a psychologist.

Some of the exhibitors at the event were the American Cancer Society, Dogs for Life, Aftercare Nursing Blood Pressure Screening and Caretenders Blood Pressure Screening.

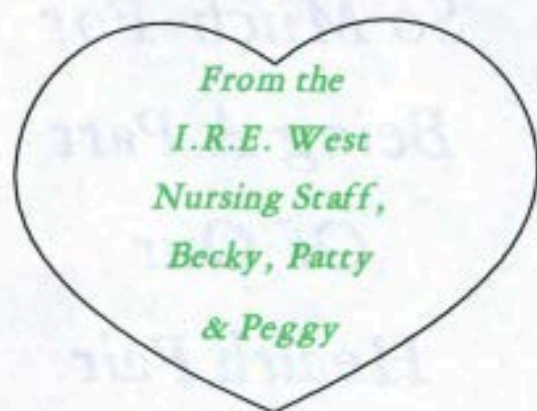
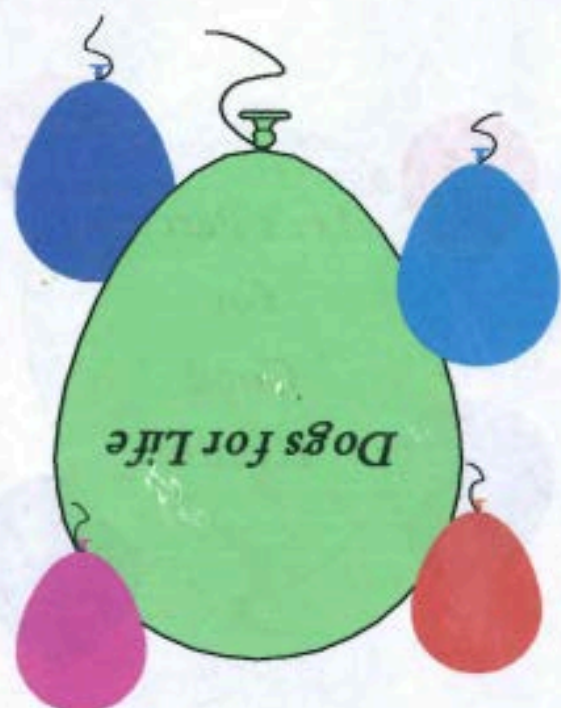
Most ACTS communities host a health and wellness fair each year; it's a favorite for residents, staff and community outreach.

This story has been edited for space. For the full version, go to [TCPalm.com/YourNews](http://TCPalm.com/YourNews)

## Medical lectures, health fair conducted







*Thank you  
So Much For  
Being A Part  
Of Our  
Health Fair*

# Foster Homes & Puppy Raisers

10R | MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022 | LUMINARIES • IR | TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



Cheryl Marshall (USAF Ret.) with Swift; Meg Petersen with Chance, Judith Hansen and Pablo Gonzalez, Roxanna Hinzman with Stryker, and Steve Defren (US Army) with Bradley. PROVIDED BY LEE ORRE

## Dogs For Life receives support

**Shelly Feger**  
Dogs For Life

VERO BEACH – Judith Hansen a local philanthropist, who first sponsored Rosie The Riveter, sponsored a puppy named Chance at a recent Dogs For Life volunteer and donor appreciation event.

Recognized at the event were DFL foster and puppy raisers for their dedication to the puppy raising program. Hansen is fully behind this program as

she has seen first-hand how these specially trained dogs are able to give independence and self-reliance through legs that balance, paws that tap buttons, and comfort that saves lives.

DFL needs more foster homes and puppy raisers.

If you are interested in this program, visit DFL's website, open the educational tab, and watch the Puppy Raising and Foster Dog Program video.

You can also make a donation at [dogsforlifevb.org](https://dogsforlifevb.org).



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

# JUNE

**FOUNDING FAMILY**

J.F. Schumann (1865-1946)  
J.J. Schumann (1898-1989)  
J.J. Schumann Jr., publisher emeritus

**Opinion****YOUR VIEW****PET ADOPTION****Shelly Ferger, Vero Beach****There's expense, but it's worth it**

In response to Leah Blendheim's letter, "Too expensive to adopt pets" (May 26): Anyone who adopts from the humane society, ASPCA, breed rescue group or animal control facility provides a service and should be commended. Adoption helps save lives and lessens the tragedy of the pet overpopulation, which also burdens the taxpayer.

Actually, \$100 for a cat is a deal when you consider the cost of acquiring a family pet. My last rescue dog cost \$350 and a road trip to Palm Beach, although I saved breeder cost between \$600 and \$1,200. And the grooming, neutering and inoculations were included!

Many of these groups have scholarship programs available. And may I mention the benefit of the warm, fuzzy feeling of being part of an effort to save homeless animals? Priceless!

The reality is that nonprofits must operate as self-sustaining businesses or they will not survive. Nonprofits make every effort to become self-sustaining through venues such as thrift shops, fundraisers, in-kind donations, and sometimes through charging user or service fees. Not only does this help with potential shortfalls in donations, but nonprofits cannot nor does the donor want them to be dependent on donations alone.

Over history, the trend is when the economy weakens, government cutbacks inspire philanthropists to come to the rescue. Government encourages tax-deductible donations to nonprofit organizations, as they recognize the value to the taxpayer and the underprivileged. Nonprofit services are provided to individuals that would otherwise not be received.

God bless the philanthropists who support nonprofits. Sometimes on a small scale, sometimes large, but they all make a difference in the quality of life of people and animals who suffer, thereby making a better world for us all.

**The record****Uncle Sam and Vietnam**

That first year apart brought many cards and letters. I knew that once he was home again,

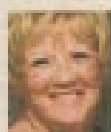
everything would be better. In the beginning he was a mechanic

for the helicopter squadron, but the loss of men was so great soon a gunner he'd become. Flying in to get the wounded was dangerous duty indeed.

While our young men were fighting,

many were injured and in need. At home in warm houses, as neighbors learned of their son's fate,

it seemed like all that we could

**DONNA'S NEWS**

DONNA  
CHANDLER

do

was sit, and worry, and wait. Then, there came a letter, along with a call from the Red Cross.

His injury wasn't life threatening,

so it wasn't a total loss. He would soon recover. He was lucky, so they said.

But, he'd not be coming home. It was back to his squad instead.

He'd ask for his R&R in Hawaii, and I'd fly there that very same week.

Through the bitter disappointment,

we were making plans to meet. Arrangements were hastily made

for me to join him there. I'd never been on an airplane, the anticipation impossible to bare.

Hawaii is a beautiful place to spend a week on R & R,

But when you're so much in love,

does it matter where you are? We had a wonderful week together

in this breath-taking place. But, time flew by so quickly as if we were in a race.

Suddenly, back to the war for him,

to the mainland it was for me. His tour of duty was half over;

patience seemed to be the key. When he returns safe and

sound,

we want to start our new life. At long last we'll be together;

finally as man and wife.

Donna Hale Chandler's work can be found at <http://poeticallycorrect.webo.com/>



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www.verobeach32963.com

Dogs for Life:  
Helping returning  
veterans adjust. P16



Dogs for Life Board President Al Turner with his two  
labradoodles, Mick Dundee and Lola. Photos by Tom McCarthy Jr.

The Vero Beach Barrier Island Newspaper www.verobeach32963.com

VERO BEACH 32963

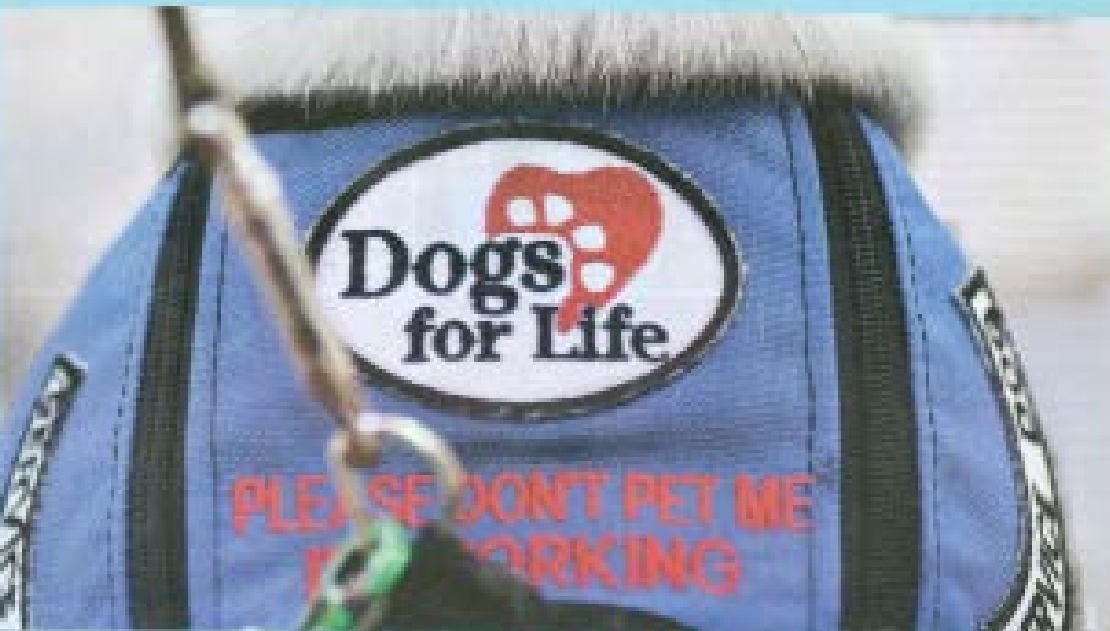
June 30, 2011 Volume 4, Issue 26 Newsstand Price \$1.00

32963

PEOPLE



People P16  
DOGS HELPING  
RETURNING VETERANS  
ADJUST



## PEOPLE

# Dogs for Life: Helping returning veterans adjust

BY MARY SCHENDEL  
Staff Writer

**A**s dog lovers attest, the bond that develops between pets and owners can lift the spirit and calm the nerves. Unconditionally devoted, dogs are frequently credited easing tensions just by an adoring gaze, wagging tail, or comforting snuggle.

Studies now show that for servicemen and women returning home from the horrors of war, a canine companion may also represent the difference between a life of anxiety-ridden isolation and a healthy assimilation back into society.

When Jim Taylor retired in 2008, after a 20-year career in the Army serving as a staff sergeant during Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, he did so suffering from hearing loss and post-traumatic stress syndrome. Merely leaving the house could trigger a panic attack.

"He got to the point where we couldn't go out anywhere," said Taylor's wife Dawn. "If I went out by myself, he

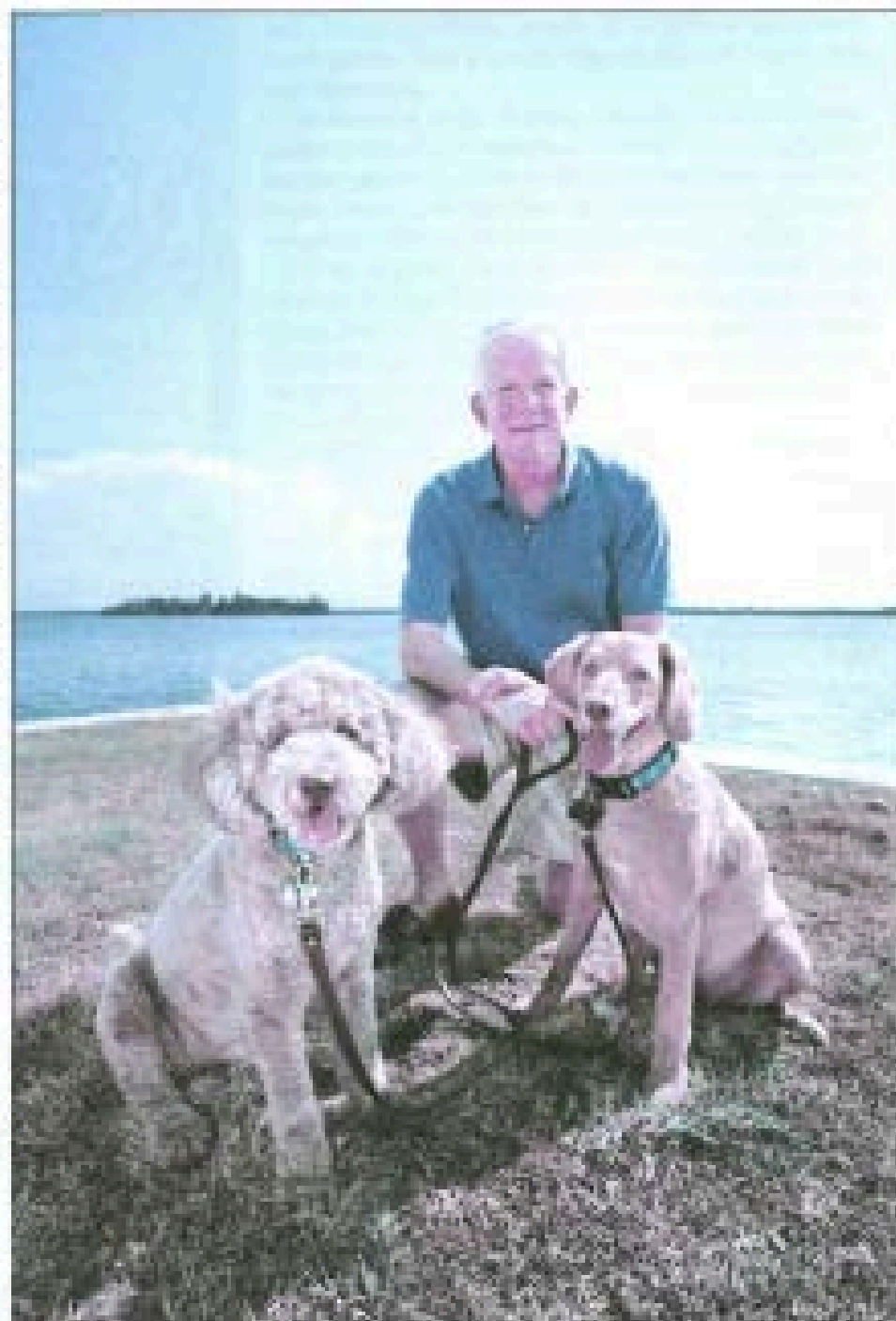
was anxious about when I would return and would keep calling me on my cell phone."

Fortunately, a lovable pug named Pia Pia has turned his life around, and today Jim Taylor is an enthusiastic spokesman for the Dogs for Life (DFL) Veterans Service Dog Program.

Shelly Ferger, the group's founder and executive director, and a team of dedicated trainers, have been training service, pet-assisted therapy, and companion dogs since 2002. Last year, the group was accredited by Assistance Dogs International to certify veterans service dogs so that their owners may qualify for cost assistance from the Veterans Administration. Taylor and Pia Pia were the first team both trained and certified by Dogs for Life.

"This is a fledgling program," said board President Al Turner of the program. "We just started six months ago because we saw the need."

Turner and his wife, Vero Beach City Council Vice Mayor Pilar Turner, became involved with the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park about four years ago when



Dogs for Life Board President Al Turner with his two Labrador Retrievers, Mick Dundee and Lola. Photo by Tom McCarthy Jr.

## July's Ruby Brings Peace, Health and Royalty

If you know someone who'd like to be royalty, consider a gift of ruby jewelry. The ancient Hindus believed that a gift of ruby to the god Krishna would result in rebirth into royalty. Not a bad trade. They called ruby the "king of precious stones," and believed that this gem would bring peace and health. Ruby gets its name from the Latin word for red. In ancient times all red stones were called ruby, but today we know that ruby is the red variety of corundum, which is the same family as sapphire. Ruby is nearly as hard, often more

expensive, and infinitely more exotic than diamonds. It is the hardest mineral after diamond, ranking nine on the Moh's scale of hardness, and therefore is very difficult to scratch. One of the traditionally revered precious stone trio (ruby, sapphire, emerald) ruby continues to be a particularly valued gem. Traditionally a symbol of passionate love, ruby is the anniversary gem for the 15th and 40th years of marriage - and for babies born in the simmering heat of July!

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the park's land was in jeopardy of being sold.

He and a small band of members raised enough money to buy the initial 4.5-acre parcel, and later another \$100,000 to expand and further develop the property.

Turner then set his sights on other aspects of the organization.

"That's when I really became impressed with Shelly Ferger and the work she was doing to train assistance dogs," explained Turner. "The dog park is a great public facility, and I think it serves a need, but I think the greater benefit is helping people in the community."

Former Army Staff Sergeant Ben Humphries joined the DFL board in the spring and, as president of the Indi-

an River County and State chapters of Vietnam Veterans of America, is enlisting the support of other veterans.

"It's such a worthwhile program," said Humphries, who speaks with Taylor and Ferger at veterans organizations throughout the state.

"We have so many veterans with PTSD, hearing loss and mobility problems. We want to help support the program and get the word out that it's available for them. We also need to make the Veterans Administration more aware of the benefits of the program. These dogs help them with PTSD and serve as a sort of security blanket for them. Once the studies are truly completed, they'll see that the cost will be minimal in comparison to other programs."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



## Dogs for Life:

our Vero Beach Newsweekly 15

Vero Beach 32963 / June 30, 2011

15

### PEOPLE

BY MARY SCHENKEL  
Staff Writer

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

"A lot of us vets are reclusive; we don't ask for help," said Jim Taylor. "I would highly encourage any veteran that needs help to get in touch with Shelly. Pia Pia has changed our life. I know that others could have their lives changed too with a service dog."

Dogs for Life trains the dogs at no cost to veterans, with funding coming strictly from private donations, local grants, and a percentage of the Off-Leash Park memberships.

To increase their training capacity, a capital campaign was recently launched to build a training facility on the property. Close to \$200,000 has been raised already; enough to fund the first of a three-stage project which they hope will be completed by the end of 2012.

"That may be a little optimistic on my behalf," said Turner. "A lot will depend on the economy and the interest, but we're pretty excited about what we've done so far. The need for assistance dogs for returning vets is far greater than our ability to train them at this point. I think it's only going to grow."

Dogs are currently trained for task work at the owners' home, which means they must be physically able to work with the dog. With the new facility, they hope to have rescue dogs fostered at night by local veterans, trained during the day at the center and eventually transitioned to disabled veterans.

"Veterans just naturally want to help other veterans," said Shelly Ferger. "As comrades they're there to help each other. Without their support we wouldn't even try to take on this veterans program; it would be too big for us."

Ferger has heard that Florida will be among states with the greatest number of amputees returning from the war in Afghanistan.

"They want to be able to live on their own," she added. "They're younger and they want the independence. Veterans in the past have been over-medicated and haven't had the therapy they need. Instead of taking an anti-depressant, a dog can help them to integrate back into society."

For the Taylors the transformation has been life-altering.

The couple adopted the puppy from H.A.L.O. Rescue and brought it to dog trainer and veteran Jay Harris for obedience training. He then introduced them to DFL for service dog training.

Once Pia Pia passed the service dog temperament tests – and Taylor received an okay from his VA counselor and two physicians – they breezed through ensuing training and tests with flying colors and became dual certified for hearing and PTSD.



Dog trainer Jay Harris requires service dog Pia Pia to hold his gaze before entering the Greenhouse Cafe where he will complete further training with the pug's owner James Taylor.

"When Shelly told me she could make Pia Pia into a service dog I was skeptical at first; pugs are traditionally a stubborn breed," explained Taylor. "But she was persistent; she never said no. It's an outstanding organization."

The dog helps in many ways, such as alerting him to doorbells and alarms, and can use a special canine phone to dial 911. She gets him when Dawn tells her to "Go get Daddy," and once alerted her that he had fallen.

Taylor becomes anxious when people get too close and, at his command, Pia Pia creates a circle around him, keeping people away at leash length.

"What Shelly and her team did, the dedication they had, was amazing," said Dawn Taylor. "They were very patient and understanding; they definitely knew what they were doing, working together to train Jim and Pia Pia so quickly and so attentively. We have a life now."

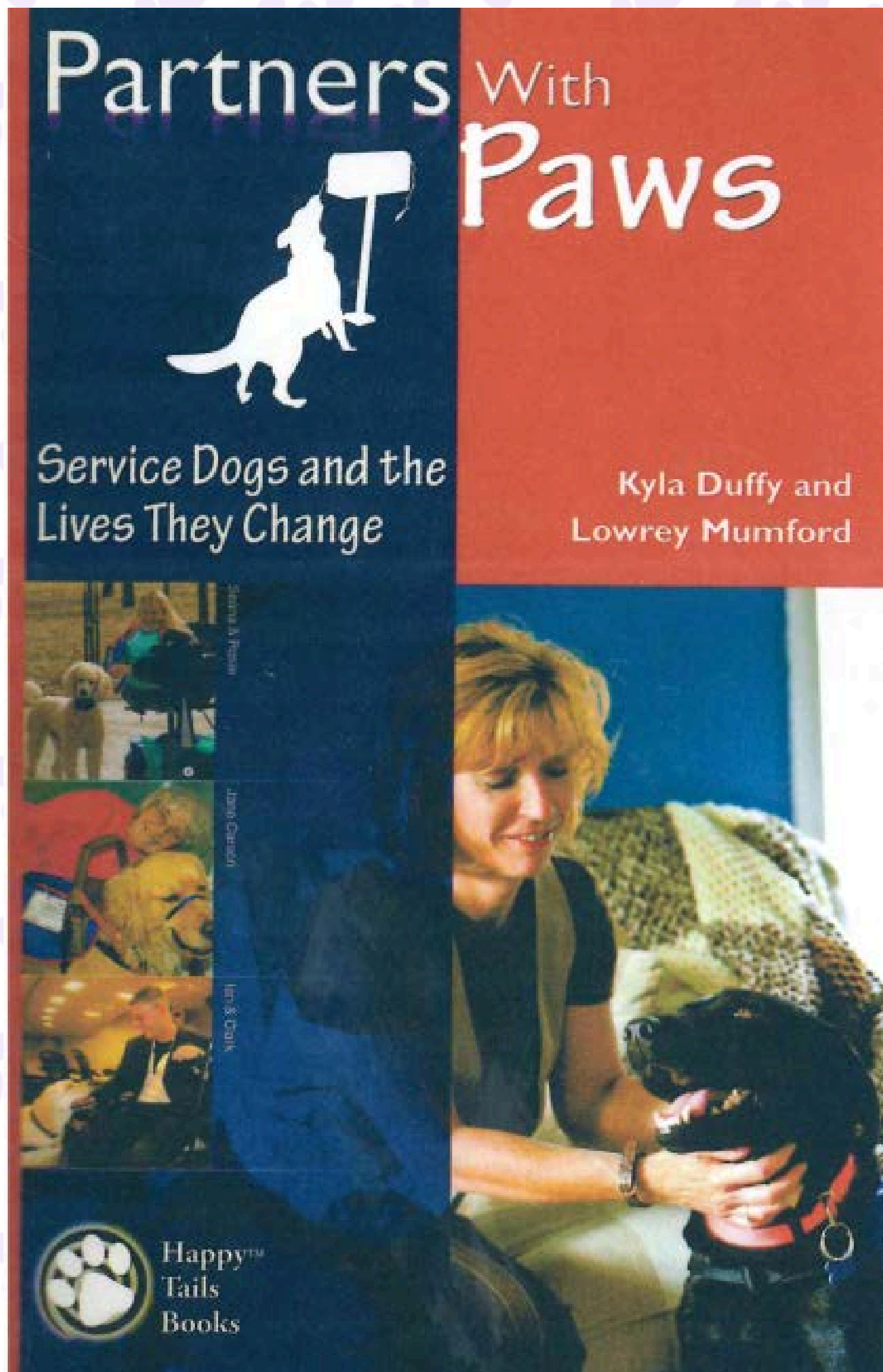
"We're just happy to help veterans any way we can," said Turner. "They sacrificed for the country and I think we should give something back to them." ■



James Taylor interacts with his service dog during a training session at the Greenhouse Cafe.

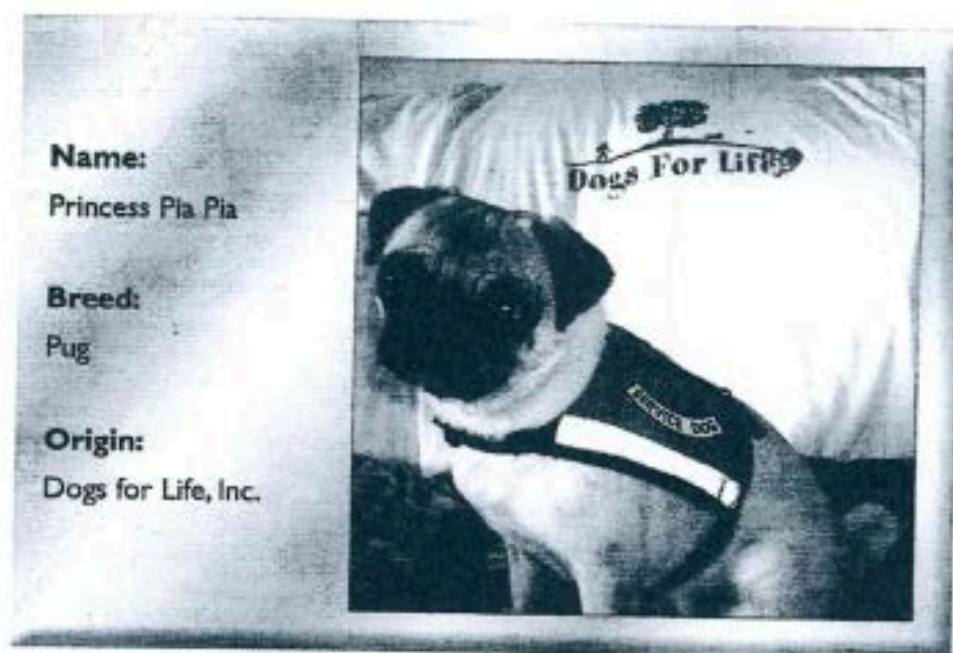


# Partners with Paws





## The Rescue Rescues



**P**rincess was born on February 8th, 2009. Seven months later she was surrendered to the HALO No-Kill Rescue Shelter in Sebastian, Florida. Two days after she arrived at the shelter, we arrived alongside my in-laws to deliver food donated to the shelter by a local retailer. We decided to look around.

We went into a room lined with cages containing small dogs, who went crazy barking, jumping, and trying to get our attention. In the middle of the line was this lethargic little Pug puppy sitting quietly. We inquired about her and were told that she was surrendered because she had eye problems. She was nearly 50% blind. Shelter employees said that within a year or two, she could become completely blind unless she had surgery. Her previous

owner did not want to be bothered with fixing her eyes or trying to sell her, so she just surrendered her.

We filled out the adoption paperwork immediately. If you could have seen her, you, too, would have fallen in love and adopted her. The shelter accepted our application, and we paid the adoption fee, but we had to wait two weeks before she could actually come home because she had to finish up her puppy shots and get spayed.

Finally, the two weeks were over, the rescue completed their requisite home visit, and Princess was cleared to come home with us. We changed her name slightly to Princess Pia Pia (Pay Pay), but we just call her Pia Pia.

Pia Pia began beginner obedience classes within a few weeks of coming home. Her limited eyesight made her difficult to train at first, but when we showed her big treats to get her to sit, stay, lie down, etc. and subsequently fed her small ones, she caught on fast. She did well in both beginner and intermediate obedience classes.

We took a break before entering the advanced class, so we could have her eyes corrected. The doggy ophthalmologist we found is the best. Pia Pia's surgery went well, but we were unsure how her recovery would go. It turned out there was nothing to worry about. The stitches came out within two weeks, at which time she was able to close her eyes and sleep through the night. Even so, the ophthalmologist warned us that she would always have some blindness.

We continued on to advanced obedience training, where Pia Pia excelled, but this time we did not have to show her the big treats; she could see the small ones.

65  Partners With Paws

66  Partners With Paws

With obedience training completed and her eyes corrected, Pia Pia was doing great. One day I got to talking with her trainer about my husband's hearing problem, and he mentioned that perhaps Pia Pia could become his hearing dog. My husband is a military veteran who has health concerns beyond hearing loss, but the hearing loss is what depressed him the most. It was very sad for him not to be able to hear his own daughter when she spoke to him, and he became more or less a recluse.

The trainer helped us contact Dogs For Life, Inc., an organization that trains service dogs. They came to evaluate whether my husband was a candidate for a service dog and to see if Pia Pia had what it would take. Within a couple of weeks, they started service dog training with her. At the same time, Pia Pia received a clean bill of health from her ophthalmologist; she had regained her sight and no longer had any issues.

These days our formerly underweight, lethargic, half-blind little Pug is well on her way to becoming a hearing dog for my husband. Both she and my husband have new lives, as the trust he has put in her has allowed him to gain confidence and go out more. We're again enjoying life and no longer confined to our home. I am so thankful to Dogs For Life, Inc. for helping us all to have a better life. I am also thankful for Pia Pia and my husband who have been working very hard.

 Dawn Taylor 



# Good for You

## Dogs for Life honors new members

On June 10, Dogs For Life, Inc. Assistance Dog Certification Ceremony held at the 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park Memorial Garden Pavilion in Vero Beach.

Fred with service dog, Sissy Girl, was trained by Paula Via and Jay Harris. She has been trained in advanced obedience and will tap an elevator button and automatic door open button, as well as pick up and carry items. She will pull Fred's wheelchair when needed and will be trained to tap a 911 emergency phone in the future.

Joan, with hearing dog, Daisy, was trained by Patty Ruble and Patti Schell. Daisy also has been trained in advanced obedience and will alert Joan to someone knocking at the door, the alarm clock, stove and dryer timer. She will go get Joan's husband, Al, on command and will be trained to alert to the smoke alarm in the near future.

Twenty family members, dog park members and friends gathered to celebrate with a cake and to see the teams receive their certification vests and identification cards.

Both teams have exceeded the required 60 hours of training — public and in-home — under the supervision of program trainers, and DFL is proud to add them to the Dogs For Life, Inc. Family of 15 certified service and hearing dog teams in Vero Beach and Indian River County.



Fred (center) with service dog, Sissy Girl, and trainers Paula Via and Jay Harris during the Dogs For Life, Inc. Assistance Dog Certification Ceremony.

## IN THE LIMELIGHT

luminaries@scripps.com

## Dogs for Life Trainers and dogs recognized

Dogs For Life, Inc. recently held its Assistance Dog Certification Ceremony at the 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park Memorial Garden Pavilion in Vero Beach.

Trainers Paula Via and Jay Harris have been working with service dog Sissy Girl, who will tap an elevator button and automatic door open button, as well as pick up and carry items. She will pull companion Fred's wheelchair when needed.

Trainers Patty Ruble and Patti Schell worked with hearing dog Daisy, who has been trained to alert companion Joan when someone is knocking at the door, as well as alert Joan when clock, stove and dryer alarms are sounding.

Both of these teams have exceeded the required 60-hours of training (public and in-home) under the supervision of program trainers.



Fred (center) with service dog Sissy Girl and trainers Paula Via and Jay Harris at the recent ceremony recognizing assistance dog trainers.



Joan (center) with hearing dog Daisy and trainers Patty Ruble and Patti Schell at the recent Assistance Dog Certification Ceremony.



A repeating pattern of purple paw prints of various sizes and orientations covers the entire background of the page.

## Good for You, Indian River County, June 19

By reader submitted

Friday, June 17, 2011

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# Hearing and Service Dog Certification Ceremony



From: [Dogs For Life](#)

Date: 6/1/2011 8:13:53 PM

To: [undisclosed-recipients](#)

Cc: [Dogs For Life](#)

Subject: Fw: DFL INVITES YOU TO SERVICE DOG  
CERTIFICATION CELEBRATION

-----Original Message-----

From: [Dogs For Life](#)

Date: 6/1/2011 8:10:54 AM

To: [Dogs For Life](#)

Subject: DFL INVITES YOU TO SERVICE DOG CERTIFICATION  
CELEBRATION

## You Are Invited

Dogs For Life, Inc.  
Assistance Dog Program Celebration  
Hearing and Service Dog Certification Ceremony

Friday June 10, 2011

6:30 PM

Off-leash Dog Park Memorial Garden Pavilion  
1230 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 12<sup>th</sup> St. & 16 Ave. Vero Beach

Join us to celebrate the certifications of  
Fred & "Sissy Girl" Service Dog Labrador Retriever  
And  
"Joan & Daisy" Hearing Dog Miniature Poodle

Meet and socialize with service dog teams and their  
Trainers.

See how Service and Hearing Dog Teams are trained  
DFL is proud to introduce them into the community  
as

Public Certified Assistance Dogs!

Refreshments will be served

**RSVP 772-567-8969**

Shelly Ferger, Founder / Executive Director

Dogs For Life, Inc.

P.O. Box 650023

Vero Beach, FL 32965

(772) 567-7868

[dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net)

[www.dogsforlifevb.com](http://www.dogsforlifevb.com)



Member

Accredited  
Member

International Association of  
Assistance Dog Partners



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

**MAY**

# Yappy Hour



## Please join us for our 1st Yappy Hour!

We will be having our very first **Yappy Hour on May 19th, from 6-8pm.**

There will be "lite bites" and drinks, as well as treats for your 4-legged family member. **15% off everything in the store** to those in attendance. This event will benefit Dogs For Life, a wonderful non-profit organization that is devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs, pet assisted therapy dogs and owning and operating an off-leash dog park. Woof Gang Bakery Vero Beach will be donating 15% of sales at the event to Dogs For Life.



We will be raffling off many wonderful prizes including a membership to the Dogs For Life dog park for 1 year, valued at **\$250**. There will also be a raffle for a free groom by our dog groomer, Danica David, valued at up to **\$75.00**.

You don't want to miss this wonderful event!



*From:* [Dogs For Life](#)

*Date:* 5/13/2011 11:44:25 AM

*To:* [undisclosed-recipients](#)

*Cc:* [Dogs For Life](#)

*Subject:* DFL & Woof Gang Bakery Invites You and Your Dog!!



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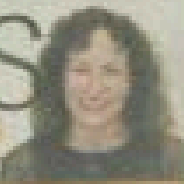


# BRIGHTLIGHTS

A RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • [luminaries@scripps.com](mailto:luminaries@scripps.com)

Indian River County



## Woof!

In some more canine-related news, Dogs for Life and the Woof Gang Bakery have started a collaboration. Woof Gang Bakery has chosen Dogs for Life to be the non-profit organization to benefit from its first Yappy Hour in the Vero Beach store from 6-8 p.m. this Thursday, May 19. Bring your doggie and socialize with your dog park friends, while enjoying the 15-percent store discount. Woof Gang Bakery is then donating an additional 15-percent of the proceeds to Dogs for Life. The store is located just west of Toolays in the Treasure Coast Plaza. There will be "lite bites" and drinks - and treats for the doggies. Many wonderful prizes will be raffled, including a membership to the Dogs For Life dog park for one year, valued at \$250. There will also be a raffle for a free groom by dog groomer, Danica David, valued at up to \$75. For details e-mail Shelly at [dogsfor-lifevb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogsfor-lifevb@bellsouth.net).

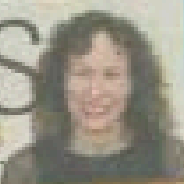
Indian River County

# BRIGHTLIGHTS

A RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • [luminaries@scripps.com](mailto:luminaries@scripps.com)

Indian River County



## Enjoying Yappy Hour

More than 30 people and their dogs visited the Woof Gang Bakery for Yappy Hour to benefit Dogs for Life Training Center Capital Campaign. For two hours, canines and humans partied festively, and Woof Gang gave everyone a gift bag with dog goodies inside.

Woof Gang Bakery is located in Treasure Coast Plaza.

# Senior Connection



Let us introduce you to meet our newest volunteer, Cody one. Cody is volunteering as a student intern through the Education Resource Center. He assists Kelly deLong with programs at the Senior Center and has recently started helping SNP in the volunteer office.

If you know a high school or college student that would like to volunteer through the internship program, please call Ryan Johns at 772.469.3147.

## MEALS ON WHEELS *by Lella Haptnstall*

### Keeping Our Pets Healthy and Happy Keeps Our Seniors Happy and Healthy

Meet Kona, a certified therapy dog who is also our Pet Meals on Wheels mascot. Kona's owner, Dwight Hoffman, is one of our volunteers for Meals on Wheels.



Can owning a pet extend your life? Several studies say yes, and we see that many homebound elderly who own pets enjoy a fuller life. Senior Resource Association has teamed up with the Indian River Humane Society to assist homebound elderly in caring

for their pets. Once a month, supplies are delivered to homebound clients with a pet – dog food, cat food, cat litter, pet snacks, anything necessary for their furry friend to stay happy and healthy. It can be very difficult for our pet owners to make it to the pet store due to their condition, so we are lending a helping hand with our Pet Meals on Wheels! We want our seniors to live life to the fullest and we can accomplish this by ensuring their pets are well taken care of, too.

For more information about Pet Meals on Wheels contact the Senior Resource Association Nutrition Department at 772.794.1142.

## ADULT DAY SERVICES *by Carol Versak*

### Pet Therapy Comes to SRA's Adult Day Care

Being around an animal can have a calming and comforting effect. Research backs up the important role our pets play in terms of mental and physical stimulation. Some of the important benefits are lower blood pressure, decreased anxiety and stress, and increased feelings of well-being. A pet is a nonjudgmental listener who won't notice the wrong word being used or show impatience when hearing the same story once again. Even nonverbal communication is welcome. This is the idea behind pet therapy in our Adult Day Services program. Every Friday morning Pat Ruble with Dogs for Life brings one of her two Australian cattle dogs to visit with clients. The ideal pet is calm and gentle with no aggressive tendencies. Beer and Patch fit this description perfectly. Pat knows when to allow her dog to approach and when to back away. She allows both the client and the dog time to get acquainted and then interact. The visit may spark memories of a childhood pet and lead to animated conversation. Others who rarely verbalize may extend their hands to stroke the dog. Everyone enjoys these interactions—as evidenced by wagging tails and big smiles!







*Your **Money** at work.....*

#### ARC's Christopher Coleman Memorial Scholarship

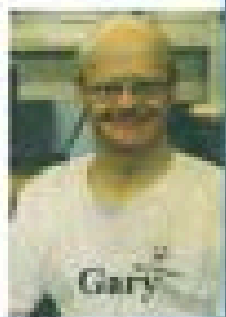


Chris

Our first recipient of the Christopher Coleman Memorial Scholarship joined the ARC family in January. Gary Simmons has taken to life at The Arc like a fish takes to water. Gary is very active in the community and participates in many of the Special Olympics sports and Special Equestrians. He is also an artist and has raised money for Special Olympics selling his paintings.

The scholarship criteria are that they must be at least 22 years old with developmental disabilities and be a resident of Indian River County. This 6 month scholarship is an introduction to the Adult Day Training program on Wednesday and Thursday of each week from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Scholarship recipients will need to make arrangements for transportation to and from the Adult Day Training facility.

Interested applicants should contact Theresa Stewart at (772)562-6854 ext. 219. If you wish to support this scholarship program, tax deductible contributions may be made to: ARC of Indian River County, Christopher Coleman Memorial Scholarship, 1375 16<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960



Gary



#### **THANK YOU GRAND HARBOR OUTREACH!**

Because of your grant we now have a computer lab. The students enjoy their classes and are rapidly learning to be computer savvy!

#### *Mark your calendars now for the 29th Annual "Ocean Grill Night" Tuesday, May 10*

What a terrific way to help ARC – enjoy an unbelievable evening of fine dining and donating to ARC at the same time! Profits from the evening meals are donated to ARC to service programs for the developmentally disabled in Indian River County.

Dining hours are 5pm to 10pm. For reservations of 5 or more call 772.231.5409. The Ocean Grill is located on Sexton Plaza at the end of Beachland Blvd, just east of A1A.

The return on Your **"Investments"** ~ **"A lifeline to a better life"**  
**"Neighbors Helping Neighbors Succeed!"**

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

# APRIL



# Pinnacle Award

10

Vero Beach 32963 / April 28, 2011

Your Vero Beach Newsweekly™

## PEOPLE

### Rebecca B. Colton honored with Pinnacle Award

BY MARY SCHENKEL  
Staff Writer

A packed crowd of colleagues, friends and family attended the fourth annual Pinnacle Award breakfast at the Quail Valley River Club to pay tribute posthumously to Rebecca (Becky) B. Colton, the 2011 Pinnacle Award recipient.

Colton was just 57 years old when she died in September, leaving a legacy of professionalism, friendship and love that spans the entire community.

Colton had lived most of her life in Vero Beach, graduating in 1971 from Vero Beach High School, and eventually establishing the firm Rebecca B. Colton, CPA in 1986. Her husband, Bruce Colton, has been the state attorney serving the 19th Judicial Circuit of Florida since 1985.

The room was brimming with fellow CPAs, attorneys, bankers and other charitable-giving professionals, along with numerous fund development representatives from many non-profit organizations.

Colton cheerfully counseled the various charitable groups with accounting and auditing services.

The Pinnacle Award recognizes excellence in charitable planning, honoring

professional advisors for their outstanding voluntary service to local non-profit organizations in promoting charitable giving through estate and gift planning. The award is presented by the Indian River Estate Planning Council and the Planned Giving Council of Indian River.

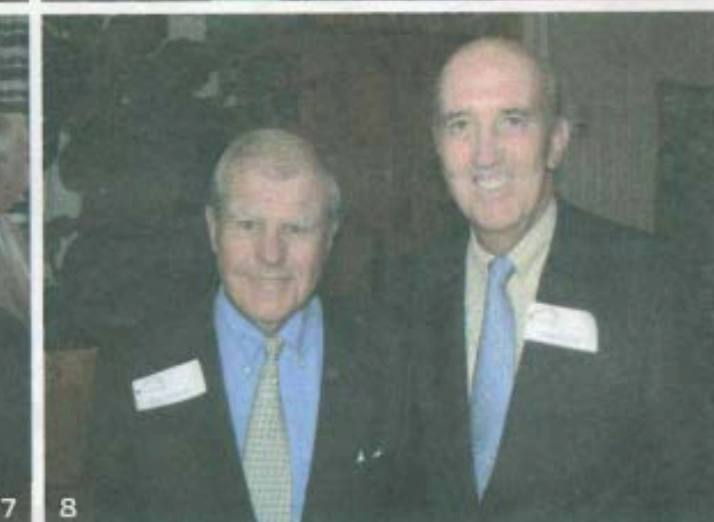
The three previous recipients were attorneys Robin A. Lloyd, Sr. in 2008, Samuel A. Block in 2009 and John E. Moore, III in 2010.

Event chairman Richard Johnson, gift planning counselor at the Visiting Nurses Association, welcomed the gathering and thanked sponsors, and then turned the microphone over to Sue Tompkins, who had nominated Colton for the award.

"When I first heard that the Pinnacle Award was being established, my immediate reaction was - we have to make sure that Becky gets nominated. She needed to be recognized," said Tompkins, vice president/financial advisor at Merrill Lynch. "You could not help but like Becky. She was very good at what she did, and she loved what she did."

Tompkins related that the process of putting together all that Becky had done for the community, especially in helping non-profit organizations to get their financial houses in order, was a collaborative effort.

"Becky did so much, but did it qui-





# Easter Bonnet Pawrade





# Indian River COUNTY

**HIBISCUS FESTIVAL** Sunday, April 17, 2011 » IR

## Festival draws thousands to Vero Beach

By Janet Begley

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

**VERO BEACH**—Toe-tapping music, a Chinese auction and American Indian dancers drew thousands to Vero Beach on Saturday for one of the biggest Hibiscus Festivals in recent history.

About 15,000 people poured into downtown for the historic city celebration, which raises funds for the nonprofit organizations Main Street Vero Beach and Vero Heritage Inc.

Crowds clogged streets in the afternoon, vying for parking places so they could enjoy the 175 vendors who lined 14th Avenue.

"We've got a really great crowd," said festival chairman Milt Thomas, as he watched people entering the Heritage Center in time for the Chinese auction, which offered 133 different items. "Each year, we try to make the festival better and better so it brings more people downtown."

In addition to the auction, there were seven new activities at this year's festival, spokeswoman Beverly Paris said. A doggie Easter parade sponsored by Dogs for Life drew more than 32 entries, with people and pets participating in the walk down 14th Avenue early Saturday. A mini American Indian powwow, a model railroad display, an exhibit on fossils, and a shopping cart parade benefiting the Harvest Food & Outreach Center were part of the afternoon activities.

Paris said Saturday's event drew the most volunteers (200), the most runners at the morning 5K run (175), and the most booths (175), since the fes-



PHOTOS BY SAM MOULDER/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

With a freshly picked homegrown hibiscus flower behind her ear, Kerry Firth, owner and publisher of InsideTrack Almanac, laughs with visitors to the Hibiscus Festival on Saturday afternoon. "This is straight from my yard," Firth said.

tival was revitalized in 2004.

"Everything went really smoothly, when you consider we had 175 booths setting up at the same time in the morning," said Paris. "Everyone was converging at the same time but it went off without a hitch. There were booths in every nook and cranny."

Under a tent on 14th Avenue, the Old Vero Man Ice Age committee offered various displays about the presence of fossils in Vero Beach, and the effort to raise funds to properly excavate them. The event also included the chance for kids to sift through sand from an excavation site find shells and other

treasures.

A community street party began at the conclusion of the festival and ran until 8:30 p.m. along 14th Avenue. Featured musicians included the first Vero Beach appearance of the award-winning Solid Gold Band, a Dancin' Through the Decades variety show and an Motown Revue, all carried on a Jumbotron screen on the corner of 21st Street.

Paris said that the festival is designed to bring people into the downtown area for some fun and entertainment.

"It's a chance for people to get together, to meet people they haven't seen in a while," Paris said.



Donovan Chesser (left), 19, and Danny Tat, 15, demonstrate dance for spectators during a powwow at the Hibiscus Festival on Saturday afternoon. Thousands of visitors attended the annual event, which featured food and craft vendors, musicians and various other demonstrations.



Look for the Hibiscus Festival  
Special Section, April 14, in the  
Indian River Press Journal.

# Hibiscus Festival



Vero Beach, Florida

- 5K Race
- Pancake Breakfast
- Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade-NEW!
- Expanded Children's Activities
- Continuous Live Music-  
All Day throughout the Festival
- Salute to Youth
- Chinese Auction-NEW!
- Marketplace Booths
- Farmer's Market
- Juried Fine Art Show
- Shuffleboard Demo's
- Mini Pow-Wow-NEW!
- Old Vero Man Ice Age Exhibit-NEW
- Shopping Cart Parade
- Model Train Display-NEW!
- Food Booths
- Evening Street Party featuring Dancing  
Through the Decades with SOLID\*GOLD

Inserted into the Indian River Press Journal on Thursday April 14.



Press Journal

24

## SAY LUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com

2011 Hibiscus Festival  
is one of largest ever

April 16, 2011

A shopping cart parade, a doggy  
Easter parade, Native American  
dancers, music, a railroad display, a  
Chinese auction, food, arts and  
crafts, a 5K run and much more drew  
15,000 people into downtown Vero  
Beach for the annual street festival,  
raising funds for Vero Heritage, Inc.  
and Main Street Vero Beach.

BE • Saturday, April 23, 2011 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • 18

## Thank You!

- To the 2011 Hibiscus Festival Committee
- To the Heritage Center, Vero Beach Community  
Center & Indian River County Sheriff's Department
- To the Hardworking Volunteers on Festival Day
- To the Thousands of People who Came and  
Enjoyed the Festival & Evening Street Party
- To the Many Generous Sponsors Who Made  
the 2011 Hibiscus Festival Possible

### Presenting

Main Street Vero Beach

The City of Vero Beach

Evening Street Party

The Continental Group, Inc.

Children's Activities

George E. Warren, Corp.

Miss Hibiscus Pageant

Merrill Lynch/Nelson Morgan

Wealth Management

Farmer's Market

Hale Groves

5K Run

Dr. Joe Thomas, DDS

Shopping Bags

Marine Bank

Marketplace

Vero Insurance

Signage

Green's Plus

Stage

All Florida Pest Control

& Fertilization

Juried Fine Art Show

New Vision Eye Center

Decor

Bobby's Plumbing

Chinese Auction  
Barker Air Conditioning  
& Heating, Inc.

Old Vero Ice Age Exhibit  
Wachovia, A Wells Fargo  
Company

Salute to Youth  
Center State Bank

Doggie Parade  
Florida Veterinary League

Daytime Entertainment  
Indian River Federal  
Credit Union

Sebastian River Medical Center  
Vero Beach Magazine

Classic Video Game Exhibit  
Florida Virtual School

Patron  
Florida Power & Light

TD Bank

General  
Glendale Properties

RBC Bank

Richardson Family Foundation  
Rosway Moore Taylor & Swan

Co-Sponsor of Doggie Parade  
Dogs for Life

Friends of Hibiscus  
Spring Hill Suites by  
Marriott Vero Beach

Waddell Insurance

In-Kind  
Best Buy Vero Beach

Carrabba's Italian Grill

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Fat Cat Graphics

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Press Journal

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Printing

ABC Printing



Robert and Robin Whitaw with their pough Sophie



Kathleen MacGleason  
volunteers at the Doggie  
Easter Bonnet Parade

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2011 • HOMETOWN NEWS • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM

## Dogs show best Easter attire



The 2011 Hibiscus  
Festival in historic  
downtown Vero Beach  
was a hit again this  
year. One of the high-  
lights of the event was  
the Dogs For Life doggy  
Easter bonnet parade,  
where all of the best-  
dressed dogs went to  
show off their Easter  
outfits. Seven-year-old  
Calli Norris, left, and  
Emma Davis help get  
Mugsy, an English  
bulldog, ready for the  
event.

Chiff Parlow  
staff photographer





A member of the community, who was not named, helped Dogs For Life kick start the capital campaign, donating \$20,000. That same person has since donated another \$25,000.

"Dogs For Life was not in a financial position to take on this campaign," Ferger said. But because of the donor's persistence and financial contributions, the group agreed to undertake the endeavor.

## SAY LUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com



Indian River



Dog owners and on-lookers will want to get to the Hibiscus Festival early this year for the first time. "Easter Bonnet Doggie Parade" to be held at 9:30 a.m. on April 16. Pictured are Shelly Ferger of Dogs for Life holding "Sonny," while she visits with Darryl Born of Florida Animal League and Kathleen MacGlenon of the Hibiscus Festival committee.

### HIBISCUS FESTIVAL HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

The annual Hibiscus Festival fun begins on Friday night, April 15, with the Miss Hibiscus Pageant at the Heritage Center beginning at 7 p.m. Seventeen young women will vie to become the 2011 Hibiscus Queen to preside over the Saturday festivities. All are invited to attend the pageant for a small \$2 donation.



Saturday, April 16 is festival day beginning at 7 a.m. with the 5K Run followed by a Pancake Breakfast. At 9 a.m., day-long activities include: Live music by the Community Center, Courthouse Executive Center and Bodega Blue; Stroll the booths of the Festival Marketplace and the Juried Fine Art Show and enjoy a tasty treat from the Food Court or the Farmers Market. Get

souvenir posters, T-shirts and shopping bags available at the information booths. Kids will love the "Salute to Youth" (Community Center) and a variety of activities including Teen Karaoke on the Heritage Center Lawn. Exhibits & displays include Shopping Cart Display (Courthouse Executive Center), Old Vero Ice Age Exhibit, (Hibiscus Bldg.) Historical Society (Train Depot) Model Train Display (Community Center), Wasabe Anime Retrocade (Community Center). Special Events include Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade (9:30am), Pow Wow (Tennis Courts 1-2 p.m.) and the Chinese Auction (Heritage Center 12:30-2:30). At 4 p.m. OPM Band will entertain the crowd until 5:30 when the Evening Street Party begins (\$2) featuring Dancing Through the Decades with SOLID\*GOLD, Florida's #1 variety show band. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** (Free T-shirt for a 3 hour shift) - Visit HibiscusFestival.org to sign up.

## Florida Veterinary League Presents The Hibiscus Festival Easter Bonnet Parade

**Saturday, April 16, 2011  
9:30 am**

Please Arrive For Registration  
Beginning at 8:30 am

In The Parking Lot  
Behind The Heritage Center  
Historic Downtown Vero Beach

\$5.00 Registration Fee

Bring Your Dog and Get in the  
Spirit of the Theme...  
Wear the Symbolic Hibiscus Flower,  
Real or Artificial, and Proudly Walk  
the Parade Route Along 14th Avenue

A special gift for each  
participating dog!

Register to win a "Doggie Bag" filled  
with special gifts from your friends at  
**The Florida Veterinary League!**

Register to win One Year "Free"  
at the Dogs for Life Dog Park!  
(good for an inoculated, neutered & social dog)

Free "poop bags" on hand...  
for everyone's convenience!

You and your dog will be introduced to the  
audience...so please share something special about  
your dog that everyone might want to know!

Stay after the parade and  
enjoy all the festival fun!



**Florida  
Veterinary  
League**



Co-Sponsored by



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**Printing**









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# MARCH



# American Legion





# Vero Beach Theatre Guild



**VB TG Vero Beach Theatre Guild**  
2010 - 2011 Season  
53 Historic Years

**Annie**

Written by  
**Thomas Meehan**

Composer  
**Charles Strouse**

Lyricist  
**Martin Charnin**

March 10th through March 27th

Sponsored By  
**Treasure Coast Financial Planning**

## Who's in the Cast



**Brittany Gazdacko (Annie)** Brittany is pleased to make her Guild debut with this production of *Annie*. She plans to pursue a career in film. Her theatre credits include *High School Musical*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Everything's Coming Up Roses*. Brittany was also 2009's winner of Palm Beach Idol. She states that if she can be anywhere in the world, it would be the stage or behind a camera.



**James Daly (Daddy Warbucks)** As Board member and the recipient of multiple Genie awards, Jim has appeared, most recently, in *The Cemetery Club*, *Never Too Late* and *Cabaret*. Love for the Treasure Coast keeps Jim and family interested in staying involved with the Guild. Jim has been the lead for setting up all the computer systems for the Guild. Offstage, Jim is a broker with Coldwell Banker ed Schlitt Realtors.



**Martha Kelly (Miss Hannigan)** Martha has played a range of characters at the Guild, from the madame of a brothel to a singing nun, winning two Genies in the process. She studied acting at Elmira College and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and earned a professional credit as Yvonne in *Pajama Tops*. Nana Kelly would like to reassure Caroline and Timmy that she really loves little girls and boys.



**Vallery Thaw (Grace)** Vallery, a single mother of two, is an accomplished vocalist and a published author. She currently sings professionally with Soft Notes Jazz ensemble of Fort Pierce and Dragonfly Productions of Vero Beach and makes appearances in many concerts, festivals and productions worldwide. Vallery is not new to the Guild, winning Actress and Outstanding Female Newcomer Genies for her role in *Als*, 2007.



**Ben Earman (Rooster)** Ben most recently appeared in this season's productions of *The Unexpected Guest* and *On Golden Pond*. He has been performing with the Guild for many years and has won multiple Genies. He directed last summer's production of *The Glass Menagerie*. He holds a BA in musical theatre and has performed professionally at Busch Gardens. Ben is the drama teacher at Treasure Coast High School.

**Dana Rogers (Lilly St. Regis)**

A 20-year VBTG trouper, Dana has appeared in many productions including *Once Upon a Mattress*, for which she earned a Genie for best vocalist and best leading actress. She has also been awarded the Bette Parfet Music Award and was so-recipient of the Guild college scholarship.

## Who's in the Cast



**Paula Van Hooser (Chorus)** Paula returns to VBTG after thirty years; when she played clarinet for *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Hello Dolly*. In the 1980's while Choral Director at the Vero Beach High School, Paula directed *Oklahoma*, *Carousel* and *No, No Nanette*. Currently Paula directs the Handbell Choir at the First Methodist Church and sings in the Chancel Choir.

**Casey (Sandy)** Making her theatre debut, Casey, a seven-year-old golden retriever, is a therapy dog who has listened to many elementary children read and brought joyful smiles to seniors in nursing homes. She enjoys running agility courses. She lives with her human parents Dan Thweatt and Paula Van Hooser and canine sisters Penny, Vero and Betty.



**Rebekah Blumstein (Duffy)** Rebekah is a 6th grader at Gifford Middle School. She has performed on the stages at Riverside, RCT and VBHS's PAC in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, *The Frog Prince*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, *A Little Princess*, *Doctor Doolittle*, *Honk*, *Aristocat Kids*, *Jungle Book*, *Wizard of Oz* and *101 Dalmatians*.

**Kelly Muldoon (Pepper)** Originally from Minneapolis, MN, Kelly recently moved to Vero Beach where she is attending Vero Beach Elementary.





# Youth Ranch BBQ

Sheriff



DERYL LOAR • *INDIAN RIVER COUNTY*

MEMBER FLORIDA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION  
MEMBER OF NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

4055 41st AVENUE

VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960-1802

PHONE (772) 569-6700

March 9, 2011

Ms. Shelly Ferger  
Dogs for Life  
P.O. Box 650023  
Vero Beach, FL 32965

Dear Ms. Shelly Ferger,

On behalf of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, I would like to personally thank you for participating in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches BBQ.

Because of the generous support you and our community provided for our annual barbecue fundraiser, we are able to present a check for \$40,000 to the Youth Ranches this year! You can be very proud to have played a part in helping Florida's children.

Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Deryl Loar, Sheriff

DL:ltj



# Indian River County Sheriff's Office

## 17th Annual

## Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches

# BBQ

**Wednesday March 2, 2011**

4055 41st Avenue · Sheriff's Office Complex

**FREE** Parking and Shuttle Service

Pork and Chicken dinners

**Tickets: \$5.00** - Adults and Children 5 & over

**FREE** Hot Dogs - Children under 5

Dinners Served from **2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Static Displays, K-9, SWAT & CERT

Demonstrations, Jail, 911 Center Tours &

More...begin at **2:00 p.m.**

A **GREAT** way to help our youth and a **GREAT**  
**EVENT!**



Since 1957 the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches have continued to answer the needs of troubled and neglected children. The Youth Ranches have redirected the lives of thousands of young people throughout Florida.

Produced by the Inmate Vocational Program of Design Publication

## Static Displays & Vendor Booth

A huge **Thank You** to our many participants for your support of the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches

Alzheimer's Parkinson Association of IRC  
American Legion  
American Red Cross  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
Classic Cars and Motorcycles  
Council of Community Services  
Crime Stoppers of the Treasure Coast  
**Dogs for Life**  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Fellsmere Police Department  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Florida Highway Patrol  
Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County  
IRSC - Criminal Justice Academy  
Indian River County Blood Bank  
Indian River County Elections Office  
Indian River County Emergency Services  
Indian River County Public Shooting Range  
Indian River County Sheriff's Office Explorers Post 556  
Indian River County Victim Advocates  
Indian River County Victim Rights Coalition  
Indian River Shores Public Safety Department  
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office  
Save the Chimps  
Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area  
Sebastian Police Department  
Sexual Assault Assistance Program  
Starting Life Over, Inc.  
State Attorney Victim Advocates  
Substance Awareness Council  
The Salvation Army  
2-1-1  
UDT Seal Museum  
U.S. Army  
U.S. Coast Guard  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Vero Beach Police Department  
Victim Rights Coalition  
Youth Guidance

## Lake County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol and Posse

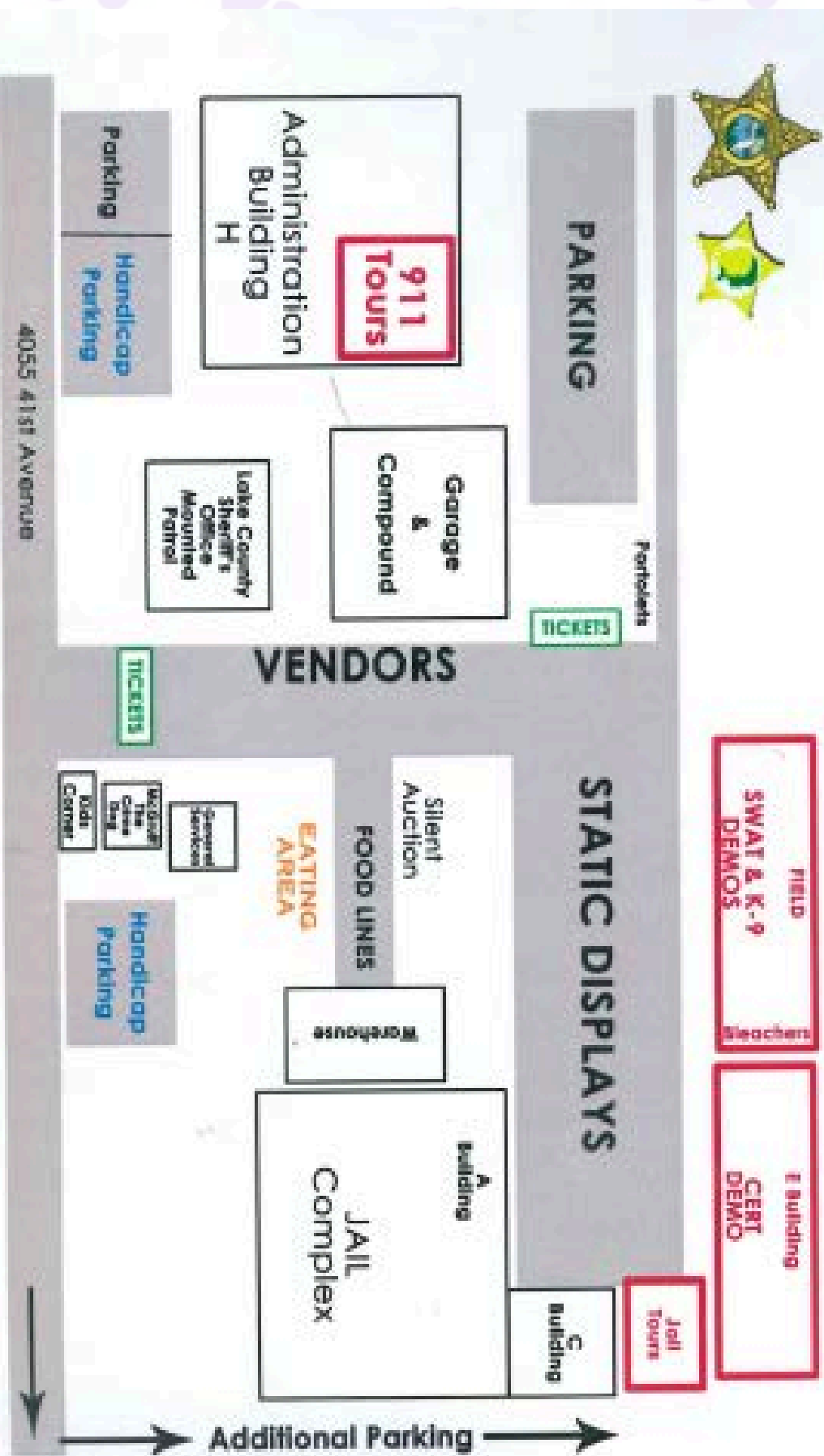
The Special Operations Division of the Lake County Sheriff's Office contains several specialized units. These units answer calls for service or respond to emergencies that would be impossible or impractical for regular Road Patrol Deputies to handle. The Deputies that work in these units are specialized deputies. They specialize in a particular area of law enforcement. This span of operation is dictated by the variety of calls for service received from the public. These special units absorb all calls for service, investigations or emergencies that cannot be handled by the other divisions.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Mounted Posse is a voluntary organization, working in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office. The basic purpose of the Mounted Posse is to assist the office, when the use of horses is advantageous, and to provide an organization wherein the Equestrians of Lake County can assemble and provide a variety of services to Lake County.

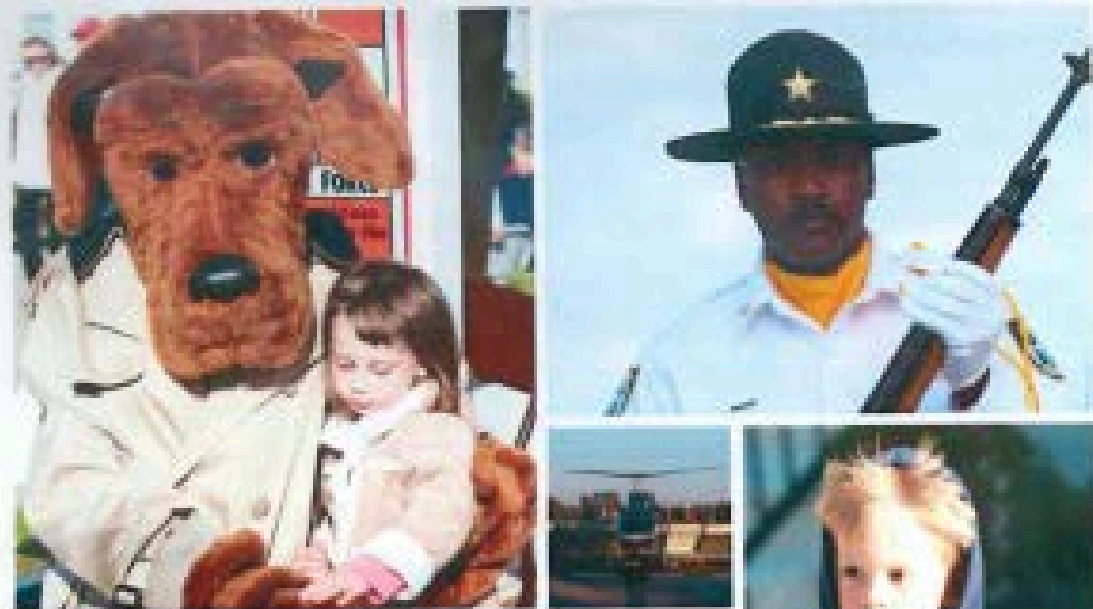
The Sheriff's Mounted Unit is utilized primarily for security in large parking lots, such as the Lake Square Mall. The Rider sits above the cars, which provides better visibility. This has proven very useful in deterring crime, particularly over the Christmas Holidays when the mall is very busy.

The Mounted Unit/Mounted Posse consists of two sworn deputies and their horses and approximately 20 Civilian Volunteers and their horses. These Deputies and Volunteers perform various types of patrols, civic functions and searches for missing persons and/or criminals.





Produced by the Inmate Vocation of Design Publication  
Indian River County Sheriff's Office



## IRC Sheriff's Office Youth Ranches BBQ March 2, 2011





# In Memoriam



Veteran James Taylor SSG, US Army (Ret.)  
And  
Service Dog Pia Pia  
Trained & Certified by Dogs For Life, Inc.

**Dogs  
for Life**

Vero Beach, Florida

*In Loving Memory of  
Phoebe A. Saucerman*

*The Brothers and Sisters of  
Robert E. Saucerman*

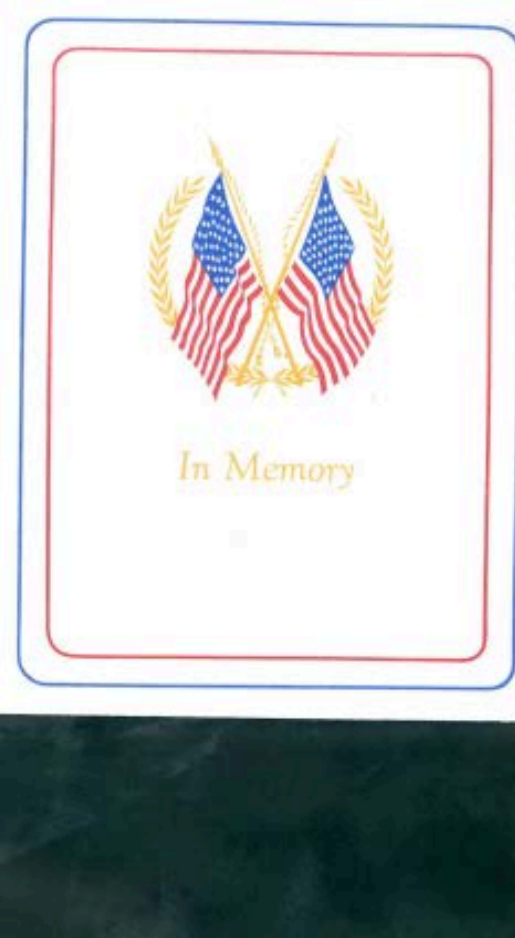
*In Lieu of flowers, have made donations to*

*Dogs For Life, Inc.*

*Dog Training Program for Disabled Veterans*







May The Road Meet You

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind blow at your back.  
May the sun shine warmly on your face,  
May the rain fall softly on your fields.  
And until we meet again, until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.  
Amen



**David Mansfield**  
**A Celebration of Life**  
**1963-2011**

A Faux Effects International, Inc. Publication

Volume XIII

# Faux Effects World®

The International Magazine of Decorative Finishing and Fine Art

Volume XIII, 2011 issue: Faux Effects World® magazine

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER  
Meet the latest additions to our Faux Effects® Family



Teddi

Dogs For Life, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization that trains assistance dogs for individuals and war veterans with hearing and physical challenges. Our volunteer pet assisted therapy program services eleven facilities in Indian River County, and DFL owns the 4 1/2 acre off-leash dog park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue, where dog behavior and obedience classes are held for the public.

For information on dog park membership or how an assistance dog could help someone you love mitigate their disability contact DFL at (772) 567-8969 or [dogsforlifefvb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogsforlifefvb@bellsouth.net), [www.dogsforlifefvb.com](http://www.dogsforlifefvb.com).





The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

# FEBRUARY

# Service Dogs

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2011

## INTHELIMELIGHT

luminaries@scripps.com

### Dogs for Life

#### Importance of assistance dogs

In partnership with United Way of Indian River County, Dogs for Life, Inc., recently held an Assistance Dog Workshop, hosting more than 50 people anxious to learn more about training hearing and service dogs.

Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor spoke to guests about federal, state and local laws pertaining to assistance dogs in public places.

For additional information, call (772) 567-8969 and visit [dogsforlifevb.com](http://dogsforlifevb.com).



Darrell Horn, Pat Scott and Indian River County Sheriff's Deputy Tony Consolo at the recent Assistance Dog Workshop hosted by Dogs For Life.



Darrell Horn, Tim Nightingale, Jim Taylor, Ben Humphries and David Martin are interested in learning more about the assistance dog program.

CALENDAR

## Classes, Workshops & Excursions

VERO BEACH  
MAGAZINE

APRIL  
2011

198

**Dogs for Life** offers training classes in dog obedience and behavior at the Dog Park, 12th St. and 16th Ave. Park hours: dawn to dusk. Annual membership fee: \$250/first dog; \$50/each additional household dog. 567-8969.

814 • Vero Beach

Friday, February 25, 2011

### Hometown News

## Clubs

From page B13

• **Dogs for Life training classes:** Hearing ear dogs assist with alerting owners to the telephone, someone knocking at the door, alarm clocks and smoke alarms. Mobility assistance training dogs are trained to bring a phone, pick up dropped items and help with balance stabilization. Pet assisted therapy volunteers and dogs are trained to sit quietly while children read or offer comfort and companionship. Outreach programs: Leash dog park. Qualifying dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social. Call for orientation schedule.

The cost is \$250 annually. Dog obedience classes at the Off-Leash Dog Park located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Registration is \$50. Drop in class is \$10. For more information call (772) 567-8969.





# ADI Newsletter

**Assistance Dogs International**

Setting Standards for the Assistance Dog Industry since 1987

## ROYAL VISIT FOR CANINE PARTNERS

*Canine Partners for Independence, United Kingdom*

Canine Partners welcomed a very special visitor to their National Training Centre and headquarters in 2010, which was the highlight of their 20th anniversary year. HRH Prince Harry, youngest son of HRH Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, spent 90 minutes seeing the facilities, meeting some of the puppies in training and talking to people who have benefited from having a canine partner.

On the Prince's arrival at the training centre, all the working dogs waiting in the courtyard to meet him broke out into a spontaneous welcoming bark, which made everyone smile and set the tone for a very informal and fun visit. Prince Harry was escorted around the training centre by Andy Cook, Canine Partners' CEO, and the first port of call was the training hall where several of the Charity's youngest recruits were waiting to impress the royal visitor.



Among the pups lucky enough to interact with Prince Harry were 14 week old Labrador Una, who happily shook paws with the Prince, and even showed off how good her recall was by running to him when he called her. Four-month-old Golden Retriever Trudy demonstrated how she was learning to put her front paws on a step, and went one stage further in front of Prince Harry by putting all four paws on the step and sitting down! But the pup that received the most royal attention was eight-week-old Veyron – named after the famous supercar the Bugatti Veyron. The image of the Prince cuddling the cute puppy was beamed all over the globe, and appeared in thousands of diverse publications and websites. As Prince Harry cuddled the pup, he commented on the little noises Veyron was making. Andy quickly responded by joking, "That is what he normally does before he is sick!" Later on, however, the Prince got his own back on Andy when they were watching a dog being groomed by jokily saying that he was allergic to dog fur.

Once the youngsters had performed, it was time for the older dogs in training to show off the more advanced skills they learn, including pulling bedclothes off, handing over a purse at a checkout and opening doors. Prince Harry was invited to get involved by putting some wheelchair gloves on and asking demonstration dog Doyle to remove them and put them in the washing machine. Undeterred by his famous temporary handler and all the world's media taking pictures, Doyle performed his duty and earned a pat on the head from the Prince.

Then it was on to meet two very new partnerships who were on their two-week residential course at the centre, learning the training and cementing the bond with their new dogs. Gwyneira Waters with her canine partner Nikki and Alison Wyatt with her new partner Maddy had a chat with Prince Harry about how they were looking forward to more independence and confidence when they took their new dogs home with them at the end of the course.

Prince Harry then had an opportunity to have a close look at the Charity's brand new state-of-the-art accommodation where applicants like Gwyneira and Alison stay when they are on their two-week residential course working with their new partner. The six chalets are fitted with a variety of hoists and other aids designed to allow people with even the most complex disabilities to stay there comfortably. *...continued on page 2*

The views and articles appearing in the ADI Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the attitudes or policies of Assistance Dogs International, its members, officers, or Board of Directors.  
Edited and published by Dogs for the Deaf, Oregon, USA



**JANUARY**



# Assistance Dog Workshops

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [William Nolle](#)

**Date:** 12/27/2010 1:49:32 PM

**To:** [Hearing Dogs](#)

**Cc:** [Rick Kottler](#)

**Subject:** RE: Interpreter needed for DFL Assistance Dog Workshop in January

This is the Release I put together  
DOGS FOR HEARING

On Friday, January 21, 2011, at 11 AM, the Treasure Coast Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America is hosting the Dogs for Life, Inc. for a presentation of their hearing guide dogs program, with a planned demonstration, at the meeting to be held at the St. Lucie Lanes Bowling Alley, 6759 S. US 1, Port St. Lucie.

Plans are for presentation by two hearing guide dog teams with Shelley Ferger, Founder and Executive Director of the Dogs For Life program. This is a "first ever" moment for the Chapter and the public is invited - meeting is free.

For further information, contact Bill or Cheryl at (772) 466-5687 or check the website,

[www.treasurecoastflhlaa.com](http://www.treasurecoastflhlaa.com).





# Assistance dog workshop offered

BY SHELLY FERGER  
YourNews contributor

Dogs For Life Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training hearing dogs, service dogs, and owning and managing the 12th Street off-leash dog park, hosted its annual Assistance Dog Workshop at the United Way Building, 1836 14th Ave., Vero Beach, on Jan. 11.

Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor presented an informative PowerPoint presentation and outlined the federal, state and local laws pertaining to assistance dogs in public places.

DFL Board Member Darrell Horn, DVM, announced the newly formed DFL assistance dog training programs for war veterans and DFL Executive Director Shelly Ferger explained DFL guidelines for training your own dog as an

assistance dog.

The Assistance Dog Program is funded through tax-deductible donations at no cost to the recipients.

For additional information, contact Dogs For Life at [dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.com](mailto:dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.com) or 772-567-8969 or [www.dogsforlifevb.com](http://www.dogsforlifevb.com).



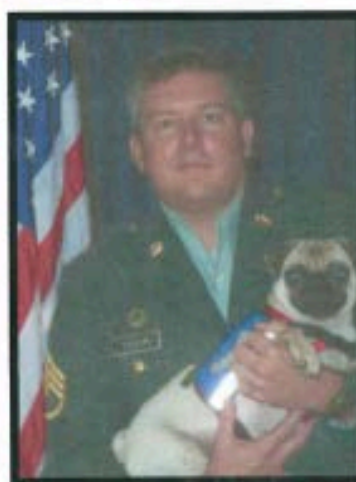
SHELLY FERGER -  
TC Palm.com/YourNews  
Jim Taylor holds a service dog, Pia Pia.

## Dogs For Life, Inc. Annual Assistance Dog Presentation

Guide Dogs for the Blind  
Hearing Guide Dogs  
Service Dogs

January 11, 2011  
7:00 PM

United Way - 1836 14th Avenue Vero Beach, FL  
FREE EVENT FREE EVENT



**What! Dogs In  
Public Places?**

772-567-8969



### Speakers

- Chris Taylor, State Attorney's Office
- Darrell Horn, DVM- DFL Board Member and Chairman Assistance Dog Program
- Shelly Ferger, Founder/Executive Director Dogs For Life, Inc.
- Assistance Dog Demonstrations and Refreshments

Dogs For Life, Inc.  
Annual Assistance Dog Presentation

Pre-Registration / Sponsorship Form

Dogs For Life, Inc.  
PO Box 650023  
Vero Beach, FL 32965  
(772) 567-8969

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name  
Total attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate Sponsorship:	\$500	\$200	\$100
Individual Sponsorship:	\$100	\$ 50	\$ 25

Event Free  
To The Public

Sponsors will be recognized at the event!

Dogs For Life, Inc. Assistance Dog Workshop, United Way - January 11, 2011



Presenter, Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor



Ilka Daniel, Humane Society VB & Norine with Abbie



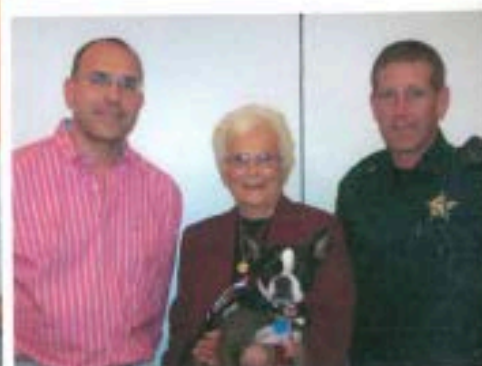
Norine & Abbie, Pat & Holly, Fred & Sissy, Jim & Pia Pia, Phil & Deacon



Fred with Sissy Girl



Darrell Horn, DVM and Veterans Tim Nightingale, Jim Taylor, Ben Humphries, David Martin & Vic Diaz



Darrell Horn, DVM with Pat Scott and I.R. Co. Deputy Tony Consalo



# Good for You

IR • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • Sunday, January 9, 2011 • 13A

## Dogs for Life conducts appreciation event

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training hearing dogs, service dogs and owning and managing a off-leash dog park that helps to cover program costs, held its annual Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Event at the 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park on Dec. 11.

DFL President Al Turner presented the awards and thanked donors, volunteers and staff for their service. The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Linda Liss; the Assistance Dog Team of the Year Award was presented to Jim Taylor and his service dog, Pia Pia; Carl Miller of DHI Advertising and Design was presented with the Media of the Year Award; The Garden Club of Indian River was Awarded the In-Kind services of the year; Barbara Bodnar and her dog, Maddux, were presented with the Pet Assisted Therapy Team Award; Janet Riley was presented with the Individual Philanthropist Award; and Jeff Gomez of Coast to Coast Landscaping was presented with the Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award.

Volunteers and donors were treated to hot dogs and refreshments served by the AmVets of Indian River County and the Off-Leash Dog Park Memorial Garden Pavilion was dedicated in honor of Eddie and Gail Boatwright.



# Annual Meeting

