



FACA TRAX

Official Quarterly Publication of the FLORIDA ANIMAL CONTROL ASSOCIATION



FACA HONORS ITS OWN

At the November FACA Educational Conference, FACA presented awards to several deserving teams and individuals who submitted their accomplishments and triumphs to be shared and judged.

FACA's highest agency honor went to POLK COUNTY SHERIFF ANIMAL CONTROL. If the sheer volume of the submission were a determining factor, this county would have won just on that. It helps that the materials presented were of excellent quality and offered a lot to be proud of and to share.

This agency covers approximately 2,000 square miles with 585,000+ residents. They are proud of their partnerships with animal welfare groups, the county health department, Humane Society, Ridge Veterinary Medical Society, and approximately 90 not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies in their area.

Their inmate work program saved their county approximately \$ 250,000 in 2010.

Year to date 2011, they have achieved 3,859 adoptions, held many local events and public presentations, to educate the public about responsible pet ownership and animal control laws. Programs include disaster preparedness, bite prevention, license compliance, and to accompany their programs they have created such

documents as a "pet owner's emergency guide", a pet-friendly shelters FAQ, a bite prevention owners guide, and "About Rabies" brochure, and more.

The Awards Committee was especially impressed with their internal ACO Training and Evaluation Program for new hires. Their eight-week program enhances the required certification with two weeks of classroom and strict supervision and evaluation in the field.



**POLK COUNTY SHERIFF ANIMAL CONTROL
FACA AGENCY OF THE YEAR**

This agency is a prime example of the depth and breadth of commitment to exceptional animal care and control.

FACA was again disappointed that none of our Organization Member agencies of 5 or fewer employees submitted for an award. FACA knows we have some fine

small agencies who could deserve the recognition.

FACA was pleased to recognize achievements in several other categories as well:

The 2010 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER OF THE YEAR has been with his agency since 2005. His agency describes "his loyalty and dedication to perform the duties associated with being an ACO and providing the best possible customer service that sets an example for his peers to follow."

cont'd page 6

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Scott Trebatoski
Jacksonville
Animal Care &
Protective Services

passed as well as making sure we have the ability to give our expertise to all animal control and companion animal issues. He has joined the Governor's staff in Tallahassee and we now have a new consultant from the same firm, Diana Ferguson.

She is already showing that she too is a huge asset, but we will miss Jon and his easy to work with style and dedication to our organization even though we probably are a very small client in terms of dollars we can spend.

It has been sad personally to see so many good people move on from their Board positions this past year, but we wish them the best in their work. We know that many will still be a strong part of our industry and a part of FACA, others are moving on to new ventures and opportunities. With change comes opportunity for growth. We have been very fortunate to have added some new members to the Board that bring new skills and expertise. This organization is growing in professionalism and in influence which is great for our members but it also creates greater demands for our time and resources as the experts.

Finally, I would like to celebrate the success I have seen in FACA over the past ten years. We have gone from an association of rag-tag individuals that simply listened to the small group that put in all of the effort to a fully engaged organization with people sharing ideas, helping out, seeking

A YEAR OF SUCCESSES

The November FACA Educational Conference was a great success and we all enjoyed the opportunity to learn from each other and to share some common concerns. Please begin the process of scheduling and budgeting now for next year's conference near Lake City at the River Ranch (www.wgriverranch.com) . Our goal is to build upon the successes and positive feedback to give you an even more valuable educational experience next year. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity - plan to attend!

Our government consultant Jon Costello has been a huge asset for our organization and he has helped us prevent bad legislation from getting



2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS FLORIDA ANIMAL CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Lois Kostroski, FACA HEADQUARTERS 866-303-FACA (3222) FACA@L-TGRAYE.com



more active roles and having polished professionals throughout the state. The professionalism, education, skill, personalities and diversity of our membership is the best it has ever been. So many people are concerned and active that the future looks so bright. Keep informed, get involved, help out where you can. A great place to take that very first step is writing a small article or sharing an idea with FACA Trax. This is your association – be part of it, be proud of it!

I, like most members, am always willing to help you where I can. To share ideas. To listen to your concerns. To mentor you in your professional growth. Feel free to drop me an email any time at trebatos@coj.net -- you can always call too but it might take longer to get me that way due to my schedule. Keep in touch – I'm your President.



Scott receives the “staff of office” from 2010 FACA President Paul Studivant.

FACA INSTALLS ITS 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After being elected by the members at the Annual Meeting of Members at the November FACA Educational Conference, it was the duty of outgoing President Paul Studivant to swear in the 2011 Board.

Pictured are newly-elected Board members Katherine Lockett, ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES; Capt. Dave Walesky, PALM BEACH COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL; Dennis McCullough, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES; Scott Trebatoski, JACKSONVILLE ANIMAL CARE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES; and Richard Ziegler, LEON COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL.

Continuing terms on the Board are: Dr. Dewayne Taylor, PINELLAS COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES; Steve Horstmann, POLK COUNTY SHERIFF ANIMAL CONTROL; and Jill Lancon, MARION COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES.

(Subsequent to the election, Katherine Lockett resigned, and Amanda Townsend of COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES was named to fill her spot.)

Elected as 2011 officers were: Scott Trebatoski, President; David Walesky, Vice-President; and Dewayne Taylor, Treasurer.





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LEGISLATIVE REPORT
Diana Ferguson
RUTLEDGE, ECENIA, ET AL.
Tallahassee

The first day of the regular legislative session is Tuesday, March 8, 2011. Below is a list of bills that your legislative team is currently tracking for FACA. We will provide your Board with weekly updates on these bills and other relevant issues that may arise during the legislative session.

Bestiality

HB 125 by Kiar; SB 344 by Rich

Prohibits knowing sexual conduct or sexual contact with an animal. Provides that the act does not apply to certain husbandry, conformation judging, and veterinary practices. The Senate bill passed the Criminal Justice Committee on February 22, 2011. It is on the Agriculture Committee agenda for March 7, 2011.

FACA supports this bill.

Animal Control or Cruelty Ordinances

HB 359 by Randolph; SB 676 by Rich

Imposes a \$15 surcharge for violations of animal control or cruelty ordinances. Provides that \$1 will be retained by the clerk of court, \$5 will be used for training, and the remainder will be used for spay and neuter programs. The Senate bill provides that any excess training funds may be used for spay and neuter as well. Miami-Dade County is involved with this bill and supports this language and has requested that the House sponsor HB 359 to conform to SB 676. Rep. Randolph has indicated that he is amenable to this. House staff has been directed to prepare an analysis, which means that it will likely be heard in the next week or two. Rep. Randolph plans to file a strike-all amendment to conform his bill to Senator Rich's bill.

FACA supports this bill.

Dangerous Dogs

SB 722 by Norman; HB 4075 by L. Garcia

Deletes language that includes any dog used primarily or in part for purpose of dog fighting or any dog trained for dog fighting within definition of "dangerous dog" for purposes of provisions regu-

lating dangerous dogs. The Senate bill is up in the Agriculture Committee on March 7, 2011.

FACA supports this bill.

OTHER BILLS THAT FACA IS TRACKING:

Domestic Violence Against Family Pets

SB 206 by Fasano – No House companion as of report

Redefines the term "domestic violence" to include inflicting, or attempting to inflict, physical injury against an animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by one family or household member by another family or household member, or placing a family or household member in fear of physical harm to an animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by that family or household member.

Adopt a Shelter Pet Month

SB 1078 by Jones

This resolution by Senator Jones recognizes April 2011 as "Adopt a Shelter Pet Month" in Florida.

Breed Ban *

We have not seen any language concerning breed bans, but we will continue to monitor filed bills and amendments.

*** NOTE that FACA's 2011 Policy Statements booklet is at the printer and contains this new policy statement:**

FACA is opposed to any rules, legislation, or special conditions imposed solely because of the breed of an animal. Studies show that it is behavior, owner training, abuse and other factors that contribute to situations that might require regulatory legislation, and not the breed of the animal.

FACA AWARDS, cont'd from page 1

He demonstrated those traits last year during an outbreak of distemper where he volunteered to assist with the extensive decontamination of the entire shelter, pressure cleaning from top to bottom on two separate occasions. When the county then held clinics for vaccination against distemper, he provided security at both clinics, ensuring animals and citizens were kept safe.

And all that is in addition to the approximately 200 square miles he covers as an ACO in the center zone of his county.

He was named Field Training Officer so that future ACOs can benefit from his training and example as a knowledgeable and dedicated field officer.



ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER OF THE YEAR

**JOHN DOUGLASS,
PASCO COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES**

The recipient for EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR began in 2000 as a Vet Assistant, quickly was promoted to Vet Tech, and gained recognition as an outstanding employee who “thought outside the box”.

She attended a weeklong training session with BadRap in California, and came back to coordinate the county’s first Pit Bull Ambassador Program and to date that program has placed several hundred pit bulls in lifelong homes. Her success led to a personal request from BadRap to assist them in evaluating pit bulls seized in a dog fighting raid in northern Florida.

Her agency described her as “exemplifying the best that animal care and control has to offer” and someone to build the future of the department around.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

CHRISTINA SEGHI, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES.

For OUTSTANDING COOPERATIVE TEAM ACHIEVEMENT, our award goes to an agency that accomplished the spay/neutering of over 4,000 cats without any impact on the operational budget, thanks to its dedicated shelter staff, the hard work of volunteers including private vets, vet techs, other animal welfare groups, sponsors and the public.

Some of their initiatives included a Spay-A-Thon for feral and free-roaming cats in conjunction with four other groups and local vets in 3-hour shifts to perform surgeries in mobile units where 216 cats were spayed/neutered and rabies vaccinated. 98 volunteers worked on that one.

A few months after a free spay/neuter day for beach cat colonies was held, where 74 cats were treated. A few months after that a county commissioner joined with them to sponsor 2 events where 224 cats were neutered and vaccinated. Two more events were held, one at a Jewish Community Center and one at a park, sponsored by another county commissioner.

The coordination and collaboration of these events, along with an ongoing weekly spay/neuter program certainly exemplifies our definition for this award.



OUTSTANDING COOPERATIVE TEAM ACHIEVEMENT MIAMI-DADE ANIMAL SERVICES

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: SENTINEL AWARDS

This year FACA made a special presentation. A few years ago, FACA established its SENTINEL AWARD, to be given when appropriate to a sister government agency which has demonstrated its deep understanding and commitment to our animal control goals.

Scott Trebatoski presented two awards, opening with these remarks: “Animal control can be a thankless and difficult job even in the best of circumstances. Many of us struggle to earn respect and to establish positive working relationships.



Through open dialogue, mutual respect, education and a commitment to the community as a whole Jacksonville Animal Care and Protective Services has been able to institute an animal cruelty unit that has brought dozens of criminals to justice with the assistance of our two Sentinel Award winners. Prior to this special working relationship, it has been almost a decade since active criminal investigations were performed by animal control.



The first Sentinel Award winner is the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office under the direction of Sheriff John Rutherford.

When an ACO needs assistance a JSO Officer is there. When an arrest is required every member of the Sheriff's Office respect the determination of the investigations unit and promptly assist in the arrest and booking of suspects. Not everyone has the luxury of working in this type of environment and FACA recognizes Director Michael Edwards and the entire team of Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for their commitment to our animal control goals, and as serving as a benchmark example of cooperation.

FACA's second Sentinel Award winner is the State Attorney's Office for the 4th Judicial Circuit of Florida. Through the work of Assistant State Attorney Cyrus Zomorodian as liaison and director of work with Jacksonville's Animal Care & Protective Services Division, he and State Attorney Angela Corey have established a circuit where animal cruelty and other crimes against animals are not tolerated.

With active case development and prosecution, violators in the 4th Circuit know that crimes against animals do not go unnoticed. Ms. Corey said that the animals are the innocent victims with no voice. The team at the State Attorney's Office for the 4th Judicial Circuit have become that voice and are fitting recipients of the FACA Sentinel Award.


An advertisement for Chameleon Software Products. It features a large, detailed image of a chameleon in the center. The text "Chameleon makes money" is written in a large, stylized, outlined font at the top. Below the chameleon, the text "ask us how!" is written in a similar stylized font. At the bottom right, there is a black box containing the text "Chameleon Software Products", the website "www.chameleonbeach.com", and the phone number "800-459-8376".

Chameleon makes money

ask us how!

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FACA SPOTLIGHT: NORTH FLORIDA PAWS

PAWS SNIPS OVER 7,000 PETS

North Florida PAWS in Hamilton County provides low-cost spay/neuter surgery to pet owners and shelters in North Central Florida who could not otherwise afford it.

Since January 2008, they have spayed and neutered over 7,000 dogs and cats from Madison, Hamilton, Columbia, Lafayette, Suwannee, Baker and Union counties. They currently sterilize an average of 55-60 pets per week.



Two Generations in Surgery: Katie and Doug Rooney, PAWS' founders, with their son Scott & his wife Diana.

In addition to promoting animal welfare, the primary mission of this non-profit charitable organization is to significantly reduce the number of unwanted puppies and kittens being born to pet owners who cannot afford to use a private veterinarian.

PAWS also provides low-cost vaccinations, testing, and general medications to surgical patients and holds Wellness Clinics for non-surgical patients two to four times a month.

Approximately 65% of the animals are females who would have produced tens of thousands of kittens and puppies during their lifetimes let alone their surviving offspring.

As with all local charities, PAWS has seen a dramatic decrease in donations and grants; however, they were fortunate to receive a grant from Florida Animal Friend Inc. which administers funds from the sale of the Spay/Neuter Specialty License Plates. A \$30 discount applies to the already low cost of spaying female puppies and kittens six months or younger. The only requirement is that owners are receiving income-based government assistance.



Doug Rooney, Dr. Tracie Daniels and vet tech Nelly Quijada with patients # 5,000 and 5,001 from Lake City Animal Shelter's Adoption Center

Doug Rooney of PAWS and his organization have been members of FACA for many years, and he is a regular attendee at the annual FACA Educational Conference.

For more about PAWS, visit the website www.NorthFloridaPAWS.org or call 386-938-4092.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you would like FACA to spotlight your organization next, send us your story and photos by April 15 to FACA@L-TGraye.com or call 866/303-3222 to discuss your feature.



GET REDDY FOR NON-NATIVE REPTILES!

By

Monica E. McGarrity, Biological Scientist, UF/IFAS &
Dr. Steve A. Johnson, Associate Professor, UF/IFAS



On November 19, 2010, a story titled “Willow Glen boa constrictor? It’s actually a python, snake lovers say” from the Silicon Valley based Mercury News reported: “...a manager with Santa Clara County Vector Control, acknowledged today that the technician who scooped up the snake from a driveway curled up in a ball, may have gotten his snake identification wrong. ‘We’re well-trained in our local snakes, but we’re not experts on the exotic kinds.’ ”

Unfortunately, this is just one of many recent instances in which non-native reptiles have been captured and incorrectly identified by animal control, wildlife agents, or the media. Most importantly, these misidentifications may have resulted in inaccurate reports to the appropriate authorities—and in many cases these sightings may have gone unreported.

In Florida, large, non-native reptiles have become a subject of great concern. Introduced Common Boas, Burmese Pythons, Nile Monitor Lizards, Tegu Lizards, Green Iguanas, Black Spiny-tailed Iguanas, and possibly even African Pythons have established breeding populations in our state. In addition, there have been sightings of numerous other python and monitor lizard species, as well as both Green and Yellow Anacondas.

Animal control agencies are most often called upon to deal with escaped or released pets, but may soon also be forced to deal with feral pythons and large lizards as these species expand their ranges in Florida. Proper documentation and accurate reporting of these sightings is essential to managing these species in Florida.

The University of Florida and the National Park Service have collaborated to create a free, online training course that offers animal control agencies an opportunity to learn how to identify the non-native reptile species they are most likely to encounter. In addition, the Introduced Reptile Early Detection and Documentation training (also known

as REDDy) teaches trainees what data to collect so that they can report their sightings by telephone hotline or through www.IveGot1.org, the official internet reporting portal for invasive species in the state of Florida. The online training takes only 45 minutes to complete and is fully narrated (headphones or speakers recommended) and highly interactive—the training even offers an invasive species photo hunt to hone observation skills. Trainees must pass a simple review quiz and complete a brief survey to receive a certificate of completion, making REDDy an excellent option for continuing education.

Visit the REDDy website at <http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/reddy.shtml> to register and take the training and download printable quick reference guides and other resources for REDDy trainees. Safety trainers or managers interested in using this training course for continuing education or safety training can also download PowerPoint presentations and suggestions for how to present REDDy to a group.



REPTILES ARE A CONCERN

At FACA’s Educational Conference, Capt. David Walesky, PALM BEACH ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL, presented an informative program on Florida’s reptiles of concern.









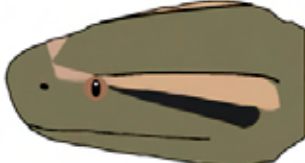





He brought with him some samples, and those in attendance got true “hands-on” education.

On the following pages we share some excellent reference sheets from the University of Florida FAS Extension service.

(While they print out in black-and-white in the hard-copy TRAX, they are available in full color in the pdf of the TRAX on the FACA website.)



LARGE CONSTRICTOR QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

COMMON NAME	HEAD MARKINGS	BODY PATTERN	CHARACTERISTICS
PYTHONS			
Burmese Established and spreading			Can grow to 12 ft. or longer Head: dark arrowhead, light center line, dark and light wedges under eyes Body: Giraffe spots; dark blotches not connected
African Established and spreading			Can grow to 12 ft. or longer Head: dark arrowhead, light center line, dark and light wedges under eyes Body: irregular dark blotches; blotches on back connected
Reticulated Individual sightings, not established			Can grow to 12 ft. or longer Head: light-colored, dark center line, thin dark eye stripe, reddish eyes Body: dark net-like pattern
Ball Not established - common in pet trade			Usually 4 ft. or shorter Head: dark arrowhead, tan facial bands Body: rounded tan blotches on dark background
ANACONDAS			
Green Individual sightings, not established			Can grow to 12 ft. or longer Head: top unmarked, obvious paired light and dark eye stripes Body: large, round black spots on greenish body; spots on lower sides have orange centers
Yellow Individual sightings, not established			Can grow to 12 ft. or longer Head: five dark, lengthwise stripes on yellowish head Body: dark blotches on yellow back, smaller blotches on sides
OTHER CONSTRICTORS			
Common Boa One established population in Miami-Dade Co.		 BODY (behind tail) TAIL (in front)	Usually much shorter than 10 ft. Head: light-colored, dark center line, bold dark eye stripe Body: large, tan ovals on back become bands toward tail (tail pattern shown below body)

Handout produced by M.E. McGarrity & S.A. Johnson (University of Florida/IFAS), in collaboration with the National Park Service. Illustrations by M. McGarrity & USGS. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the South Florida National Parks Trust and the Ferris Greeney Family Foundation and by the USDA-RREA.



LARGE LIZARD QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

COMMON NAME

PHOTO

CHARACTERISTICS

(Remember, coloration may vary - look for identifying markings on the top and sides of the head and on the body)

NATIVE

American Alligator (juvenile)



Has bands until 6 ft. or longer
Light-colored bands on dark body
Enlarged, bony scales
Webbed feet

LARGE PREDATORS - REPORT IMMEDIATELY!

Nile Monitor



Grows up to 6 ft.
Head: "V"-shaped marks on neck behind eyes
Body: grayish brown with bands of lighter spots; spots fuse into bands on tail

Giant Argentine Tegu



Can grow to over 4 ft.
Head: greenish when young
Body: grayish to reddish, marked with dark bands

LARGE OMNIVORES - DOCUMENT SIGHTINGS ONLINE

Black Spiny-tailed Iguana



Grows up to 5 ft.
Body: grayish, marked with dark bands; spikes down the back, rings of spikes around the tail

Green Iguana



Grows up to 6 ft.
Body: greenish to grayish, tail with dark bands; spikes down the back



(1 ft - Scale Approximate)

Handout produced by M.E. McGarrity & S.A. Johnson (University of Florida/IFAS), in collaboration with the National Park Service. Illustrations by M. McGarrity & USGS. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the South Florida National Parks Trust and the Ferris Greeney Family Foundation and by the USDA-RREA.



NATIVE SNAKE QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

(Species Similar to Invasive Snakes of Concern)

COMMON NAME	HEAD MARKINGS	BODY PATTERN	CHARACTERISTICS
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LARGE NATIVE SNAKES

Eastern Indigo
Rarely Encountered

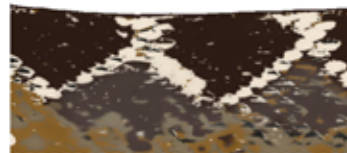


Can grow to 8 ft.
Head: reddish marks on chin
Body: iridescent blue-black with no markings

Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnake

Occasionally Encountered Throughout Florida

VENOMOUS



Can grow to 6-8 ft.
Head: dark eyestripe with cream borders, vertical pupil
Body: dark diamonds with cream borders

AQUATIC NATIVE SNAKES

Cottonmouth Water Moccasin

Common Throughout Florida

VENOMOUS



Usually 2-4 ft.
Head: dark eyestripe, vertical pupil
Body: blotched bands; older individuals may be solid black

Brown Watersnake

Common Throughout Florida



Usually 2-4 ft.
Head: top unmarked, yellow flecks on chin
Body: squarish dark blotches in a "checker board" pattern

OTHER BLOTCHED NATIVE SNAKES

Cornsnake or Red Ratsnake

Common Throughout Florida



Usually 2-3 ft.
Head: reddish arrowhead
Body: reddish blotches with dark outlines, checkerboard pattern on belly

Handout produced by M.E. McGarrity & S.A. Johnson (University of Florida/IFAS), in collaboration with the National Park Service. Illustrations by M. McGarrity & USGS. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the South Florida National Parks Trust and the Ferris Greeney Family Foundation and by the USDA-RREA.



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ACO GRADUATES

1/28/2011

VALENCIA COMM. COLLEGE

Abbott	Daryl
Bower	William
Gongre	Mark A.
Harrigan	Jesse
Mihutz	Joe
Oliver	Michael
Schuir	Patrick
Sigler	Michael
Weichselbaum	Shelly
Zopff	Heather

2/11/2011

Gulf Coast Community College

McCormick	Robyn
Moulton	Adam
Olasin	William
Whetherton	Charles

EUTHANASIA CERTIFIEDS

**12/14/10 Sue Padgett
Hillsborough County Animal Svcs**

Ammon	Linda J.
Lewis	Kristie
Ojeda	Giselle
Rehse	Elizabeth
Valdespino	Olivia

**12/16/10 Lisa Bramson
Florida Keys SPCA**

Boley	Diana
Galletano II	Dale N.
Henley	Stacey
Huff	LuAnn

**1/27/11 Sue Padgett
Hillsborough County Animal Svcs**

Bower	Buddy
Endruschat	Paris
Nagaho	Yuko
Ryan	Marti
Van Eerde	Darla

**1/14/11 Dora Thomason
Santa Rosa County Animal Svcs**

Arnold	Bethany A.
Black II	Norman E.
Clements	Frank (Dusty)
Kadletz	Stephanie
Neumann	Stephanie A.
Sessions	Kathryn
Smith	Stephanie

**CHEMICAL IMMOBILIZATION
CERTIFIEDS**

**2/18/11 Frank Taberner
Sumter County Animal Svcs**

Cason	William H.
Clig	Tom
Mihutz	Joe
Monfreda	Kevin
Oliver	Michael
Rippy	Tanya
Young	Anthony

RECORD-KEEPING FOR ACO CONTINUING EDUCATION

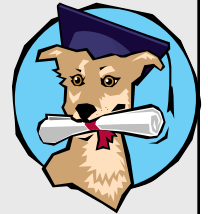
As a member service, FACA has for years offered to keep track of the 4-hours-every-two-years continuing education requirement in FL Statutes for ACO certification. Some agencies (and ACOs) would send us copies of certificates of course completion and/or letters from supervisors about training held. FACA Headquarters would automatically update the master ACO certification data base with that information, as well as recording hours attended at the FACA Educational Conferences.

But over time it became evident that only a small number were using the voluntary service, and even those who did were not all that diligent all the time.

Problems arose when a citizen called to ask FACA if ACO X was certified, and most of the time we had to hedge: "Our records show that X achieved his certification on Y date, but we do not show whether he is up to date on CEUs or not, since it is the responsibility of the ACO and his agency employer to maintain the records. You will need to contact xxx Animal Control."

Lacking any legal authority to do so, and wanting to avoid passing on any incorrect or out-of-date information, FACA has discontinued its record-keeping service of ACO CEUs. FACA urges all ACOs and agency HR departments, however, to be diligent in their adherence to Florida law to maintain certification.

**ACO
CERTIFICATION
COURSES
COMING UP**



**DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE
Daytona Beach, FL 32114**

**Dates: May 2-6, 2011
and
October 17-21, 2011
Cost: \$350.00**

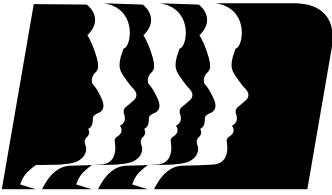
**Contact: 386/ 506-3272
or swansojo@daytonastate.edu**

**VALENCIA COMM. COLLEGE
Orlando, FL 32809**

Date: July 25-29, 2011

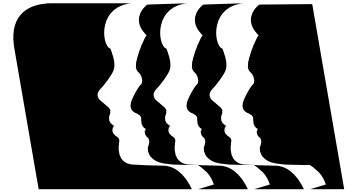
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MEMBER to MEMBER
THIS IS YOUR PAGE

...to share what's going on with your agency, brag a little, ask for help, pass along some good information. Submit your items by April 15 for the next TRAX.



COUNTY TASK FORCE FORMS TO BATTLE 'HOARDING'

A Lee County task force has formed to help deal with the problems of hoarding. Founded by Adam Leath, chief Animal Control officer for the county's animal services, the task force has brought together professionals from a number of different fields to understand, and combat, the illness.

Law enforcement, fire, animal services, mental health, code enforcement and law enforcement officials make up the task force, which is scheduled to hold its second meeting next month.

Working with Lee County's Human Services Department, Leath was able to wrangle the separate agencies into a cohesive unit, one that Leath said will save taxpayers' money in the long run. ...

The problem, according to Lee County Human Services Director Anne Arnall, was that no local agency had any true authority to impede upon conditions inside a home. ...

Leath said public participation is absolutely crucial to making the task force a success, as they can provide information about neighbors or family members who might need help, especially when animals or children are involved.

By Drew Winchester
www.cape-coral-daily-breeze.com

HERNANDO COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES LOSES 38 SHIH TZUS TO PARVOVIRUS

A parvovirus outbreak over the weekend kills 38 dogs the shelter hoped to get adopted. ...

For animal control supervisor Patrick Pace, the disparate scenes underscored the anguish among staffers since an outbreak of parvovirus over the weekend of December 14 killed 38 of the 64 Shih Tzus that the shelter had hoped to begin adopting this week.

"It's just horrible," Pace said. "The staff has worked so hard at getting the dogs ready to send to good, loving homes. It just breaks your heart to see something like this."

As a result of the outbreak, plans to adopt the remaining 26 dogs have been put on hold.



...The shelter received more than 260 adoption applications for the dogs.

The rapid spread of the virus took shelter workers by surprise, Pace said. Most of the Shih Tzus that were found abandoned November 18 at the end of a dead end road east of Brooksville suffered from malnutrition, skin ailments and other health problems. None had symptoms of parvovirus until Sunday when kennel workers arrived to find three of the dogs dead in their pens. ...

It's still unknown where the dogs came from, but authorities suspect a puppy mill.

Logan Neill
St. Pete Times

PAWS THE ANIMAL CONTROL FOR CRESTVIEW

Nearly four months after the Panhandle Animal Welfare Society — PAWS — took over animal control duties in Crestview, city leaders say the service is performing to their satisfaction.

As a cost-saving measure, the Crestview City Council closed the Animal Control department and contracted with PAWS. Critics predicted slower response times to calls for assistance from the Fort Walton Beach based organization, but city officials say everything is working smoothly.

"I have yet to get any negative input about PAWS," said council President Charles Baugh Jr., ... "They are answering about 15 calls a day in Crestview." ...

PAWS has assigned two animal control officers to Crestview, including one who lives in the city and is available to handle some after-hours calls.

Dee Thompson, PAWS director of animal services, said she worried a lapse in service might occur while a new animal control officer for Crestview was trained. Chris Hilton, a former city of Crestview animal control officer, applied and was hired for the job.

Brian Hughes
Florida Freedom Newspapers

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the
LAST
LAUGH



It's 106 miles to Chicago, we got a full tank of gas, half a pack of dog treats, your eyes glow in the dark and we're not wearing collars.

Hit it.