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**RALEIGH**

**BARON**

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**COSMO**
WEBSTER and BUTTON

By K.C. Remington

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Critter cannot screen either potential adopters or animals. We urge all parties to act responsibly in these matters.

Critter Magazine™ is a publication of Critter Communications, LLC and is also published in Athens, GA; Greenville and Myrtle Beach, SC; Asheville, NC; Richmond, VA and Knoxville, TN.

Publisher and Editor - Justine Mayela
Production Assistant - Victoria Warfel
Staff Writer - Jessica M. Torrence • Editorial Assistant - Joy Ryan

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WEBSTER and BUTTON

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Federal snake ban lacks bite
By Jennifer O'Connor

Recently, a powerful lobby spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to defeat a bill that would have enhanced public safety, safeguarded the environment and curtailed cruelty to animals. Who is this giant wielding such influence? BP? The NRA? Halliburton? Nope, it's none other than the U.S. Association of Reptile Keepers, which fought a bill that would have made some species of dangerous snakes illegal to import and sell. The group griped and hyped for three years until the list was gutted by more than half - four species have been banned rather than nine.

The ban will stop imports and interstate commerce in Burmese pythons (who, as a new study shows, are eating their way through Florida's Everglades), yellow anacondas and northern and southern African pythons. Yet anyone can still go out and buy, breed, sell and trade in boa constrictors, reticulated pythons and three other species of anaconda.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar - whose job it is to protect our natural resources, not animal dealers - unabashedly defended the watered-down version of the bill, assuring Americans that the compromise wouldn't "suffocate" commerce. It's a strange lot that insists that pythons, rattlers, constrictors, vipers and other reptile species make good pets. Snakes shun contact with people and for good reason: They are wild animals who only suffer at the hands of humans. Reptiles do not want to be your friend. They want to be left alone.

Those who breed and sell reptiles make money. But how to understand those who buy and keep the animals? In Jennie Erin Smith's remarkable book, *Stolen World*, which documents the scope and scale of this ruthless industry, one dealer puts it this way: "A venomous animal gives someone a sense of power and a sense of adventure in an otherwise mundane life."

But for the animals who are shipped around the world crammed inside toilet paper tubes, plastic margarine tubs and shipping crates labeled "automotive parts," a buyer's need to be different is often a death sentence. Mortality is high. Dealers hope that some of what they call "inventory" will survive shipment, knowing full well that the box will arrive filled mostly with decomposing bodies.

Very few buyers have the knowledge or inclination to commit to the lifelong responsibility of the animals they acquire on a whim. Snakes usually end up living in small aquariums where they can't even stretch out the full length of their bodies, much less move around or climb.

Unfortunately, reptiles are perceived as requiring minimal care rather than specialized care, so they're big business - nearly 5 million U.S. households have at least one reptile. Pet-store employees are rarely trained to tend to the complex needs of reptiles effectively and therefore are not in a position to educate prospective reptile caretakers.

Depending on the variety, snakes can live for decades and grow to lengths in excess of 5 feet. They require at least a 30-gallon tank, frequent checkups and care by a veterinarian who specializes in reptiles. Fresh water and a spotless environment must be provided at all times. Snakes are susceptible to a variety of parasites as well as blister disease, respiratory and digestive disorders, and mouth rot. Strictly controlled daytime and nighttime temperatures and the careful application of pesticides are required in order to guard against mite infestations.

Because they can't vocalize pain or discomfort, it's easy for owners who feel inconvenienced and bored by their new chore to ignore a starving, dehydrated or sick snake. Snakes are relegated to eating whatever someone remembers to dump into their tanks. They are hauled out for shock value, but roughly handling even large snakes can cause serious internal injuries.

Rather than exploring lush jungles and swamps and experiencing all the sensory pleasures that they are so keenly attuned to, their lives become an interminable limbo. For the vast majority of snakes who aren't abandoned in an area like the Everglades, where they stand a chance of surviving, death will be slow and painful. Those who manage to acclimate wreak havoc on natural ecosystems - as the new study found, invasive pythons and anacondas have all but wiped out bobcats, raccoons, rabbits and other animals in the Everglades - and cost taxpayers millions of dollars to combat.

Why should the interests of a small group trump cruelty to animals, public safety, taxpayers' money and environmental devastation? Why did it take three years for the government to sign this weak bill into law? Who "needs" a pet anaconda, boa constrictor or python? These are all questions with no reasonable answer.
**KAI** is a 2-year old, FL Brown Dog / Mastiff mix who is a big cuddly goofball. He likes to take long walks, cuddle on the couch with his foster mom and can fetch tennis balls for hours. Don’t miss this great guy!

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**UF Merial Shelter Medicine moves to own facility**

By Bob Ryan

The saying “Home is Where the Heart Is” can be modified to “Home is Where the Sign Is” to acknowledge the move for the UF Merial Shelter Medicine Clerkship at the University of Florida (UF) College of Veterinary Medicine. The Shelter Animal Medicine clerkship is an elective clinical rotation for junior and senior veterinary students at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. Since its inception in 2003, the UF Merial Shelter Medicine Clerkship has been housed in the Veterinary Academic Building surgery suite, familiar to many as the location where Operation Catnip coordinates its spay/neuter program for feral cats in our community.

The UF Merial Shelter Medicine Clerkship held their open house and dedication of their new facility on February 10. The new space is now known as the Barbara and Arnold Grevior Shelter Medicine Suite, named for the Fort Lauderdale couple whose financial gift made the new building possible. The state-of-the-art facility will help further the mission of the shelter medicine clerkship. The main goals of the clerkship are to train veterinary students in spay/neuter procedures, and familiarize them with working with animals in the shelter environment. The program also stresses community involvement to prevent unwanted litters in animals, which in turn reduces the shelter population. The clerkship also works closely with the St. Francis House Pet Care Clinic, which provides veterinary care for the pets of Gainesville’s homeless and low-income residents.

Clinical Associate Professor Dr. Natalie Isaza has directed the clerkship since the program began. Originally funded by a partnership with the UF Veterinary College, the animal pharmaceutical company Merial, and Alachua County, it has evolved into the only shelter medicine program in the country with its own on-site facility at a veterinary college.

In addition to Dr. Isaza, the program is staffed by Dr. Brian DiGangi, the first veterinarian to complete the Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Residency Program at UF; Veterinary Technicians Andrea Brower, Melissa Glikes, Kathy Zimmerman, Ali Bradley, Erika Equizi, and Norma Overton; and of course, the veterinary students who complete a 2-week clerkship rotation and perform the surgical procedures.

Dr. Isaza also leads efforts to obtain grants in order to continue to fund the shelter medicine clerkship. One component of Dr. Isaza’s program is funded 100% by donations. The HAARTS (Helping Alachua Animals Requiring Treatment and Surgery) program helps save animals in local shelters with treatable illnesses or injuries from euthanasia. The veterinary students on the rotation gain valuable hands-on training to treat these shelter animals. In 2011, over 150 animals were treated through the HAARTS program.

The Shelter Medicine Clerkship is a lifeline for local rescue groups. The clerkship provides low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for these groups, and the money generated in turn helps support the clerkship. Generally, the program averages 15-18 surgeries a day, three days per week. In 2011, the students spayed and neutered over 2300 animals. Merial, a valuable partner, provides vaccines, heartworm and flea preventatives for rescued animals and the animals in the St. Francis House Pet Care Clinic. Merial also funds a portion of Dr. Isaza’s salary. In addition, the Shelter Medicine program treats rescue group dogs for heartworm disease. Without the Shelter Medicine program, these local rescue groups would not be able to perform the work they do in our community -- saving the lives of many animals from Alachua County Animal Services and other local shelters.

Dr. Isaza has been recognized for her achievements in guiding this program. She currently serves as the President of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV), which has 750 members throughout the country. Dr. Brian DiGangi is also on the ASV Board serving as the Secretary.

As witness to the development of the UF Merial Shelter Medicine Clerkship, and to the former students who are now practicing veterinarians in our community, it is a pleasure to see this program now have a “Home Where the Heart Is.”

Bob Ryan fosters rescue dogs and has worked with several local animal rescue groups and Alachua County Animal Services over the past 15 years.

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**Retirement Home for Horses at Mill Creek Farm hosts 4th Annual Spring Sale**

The Retirement Home for Horses, a non-profit organization specializing in the care of elderly horses, will host its annual Spring Sale on Saturday, March 24 from 10 am to 3 pm. Proceeds go to the lifelong care of the sanctuary’s retired horses, which have been rescued from neglect and abuse.

Donations of gently-used items for the sale can be made through March 16 by contacting Georgia Crosby, (352) 463-6823 or gig4508@yahoo.com. All donations are tax-deductible. For more information about the Retirement Home for Horses, visit www.millcreekfarm.org. The equine sanctuary and yard sale are located at 20307 NW CR 235A, Alachua.

**EARS Animal Sanctuary hosts tours featuring Lions, Tigers, and Bears!**

The Endangered Animal Rescue Sanctuary (EARS), a non-profit sanctuary that cares for exotic animals and native wildlife, will be conducting special tours on two dates in March. All donations are tax-deductible and proceeds will go directly to the upkeep of the animals.

On Saturday, March 3, from 12:30 - 2:30 pm, the gates open for the EARS Sanctuary Kids’ Tour. The fee for children from 2 to 10 years is $10; over 10 years old, $15.

On Saturday, March 17, from 12:30 - 2:30 pm, the rescue group is hosting a tour for anyone aged 10 years or older for a $15 per-person fee.

Registration for both tours begins at 12:30 pm each day. Space is limited. For info about the tours, call (407) 647-6328 or email skb255@aol.com. For sanctuary info, visit www.earsinc.net. EARS Sanctuary is located in Marion county at 4205-A2 NW 6th St. in Gainesville, directly behind the Alachua County Humane Society.

**No More Homeless Pets tops 10,000 spay/neuters for cats and dogs**

In just over two years, No More Homeless Pets/Operation PetSnip, a non-profit, low-cost spay/neuter clinic, has performed surgeries on over 10,000 cats and dogs in Alachua and surrounding counties. Their mission is to end the euthanasia of companion animals and feral cats through sterilization, education and community involvement.

The fee for surgeries is $45 and $75 for dogs, with additional medical services available at the time of surgery. With a variety of funding sources, the animal welfare group also offers free sterilizations for qualified, low-income families.

For more information or to make an appointment, call (352) 376-6647 or visit www.nmhp.net. The clinic is open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 am to 6 pm. NMHP is located at 4205-A2 NW 6th St. in Gainesville, directly behind the Alachua County Humane Society.

**Dream Dogz Training Center offers FREE Volunteer Trainer Workshop**

A Volunteer Trainer Workshop will be held at Dream Dogz, a local dog training facility owned by Victoria Warfel, on Sunday, March 18, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. The skills learned in the class can be used to assist local rescue groups with training adoptable dogs. Participants should wear “dog” clothes and sneakers, as well bring a clicker and treat pouch if available.

Phoenix Animal Rescue will provide adoptable dog ‘volunteers’ for class participants. Exercises to decrease kennel stress will be taught, and trainers will learn how to responsibly handle dogs and effectively teach them key behaviors to maximize sociability. Instructors will use lure-reward and capture-mark clicker training to build the volunteers’ skill set.

To register or to find out more information, visit dreamdogz.com or call (352) 278-7404. Dream Dogz is located at 3909 NW 97th Blvd. in Gainesville. For more information about Phoenix Animal Rescue, visit www.phoenixanimalrescue.org.

**Animal activists arrested while protesting use of primates in research**

On Saturday, February 4, animal activists protested at the Gator Gala Awards Ceremony against UF’s use of primates in research. Negotiation is Over (NIO) was present, a group that proclaims “to be an instrument of defiance, disruption, disobedience, subversion, creative & aggressive grassroots action, and a catalyst for revolutionary change,” according to the NIO website. NIO’s campaign against animal research at UF has included posting the university employees’ personal information online and seeking public records on research involving primates.

Camille Marino, the founder and CEO of NIO, was present at the protest. She and another protester were arrested for charges unrelated to the protest. Ms Marino is currently awaiting extradition to Michigan. On the NIO website, Ms. Marino indicated she is very appreciative of the love and support she has received, and asked that this minor inconvenience not distract attention from the monkeys “in prison at UF.” Prior to this protest, Ms. Marino successfully argued for the public release of records about use of primates by UF.

**Critter Magazine founder, Bill Kelley, passes after long illness**

Bill Kelley, founder and long-time publisher of Critter Magazine, passed away peacefully on January 9 following a long illness. He was a quiet person who found it difficult to accept credit or praise, but in fact, thousands of pets and people owe a debt of gratitude to this humble man.

Kelley was responsible for founding Critter Magazine, a monthly publication that offers animal shelters and rescue groups an opportunity to feature homeless and rescued pets that are available for adoption. The idea of Critter Magazine was born in 1997, in Athens, GA by a man with years of publishing experience, a generous heart and a love for animals. He also believed that spay-neuter was critical to controlling pet overpopulation, and worked tirelessly to promote and educate the community about these efforts. The magazine expanded to numerous cities throughout the southeast and is still thriving today.

Kelley was a devoted advocate—and a voice for those who had no voice. He will be missed.
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The Critter Calendar is a listing of animal and/or nature-related happenings in and around Gainesville, as well as other interesting tidbits we discover in far-off places. Please send your event information by the 15th of each month for publication the following month to: Critter Magazine, P.O. Box 140792, Gainesville, FL 32614 or e-mail: crittergville@gmail.com.

ONGOING ADOPTIONS & EVENTS
Gainesville Pet Rescue Adoptions - Meet adoptable animals. 10 am - 6 pm, every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Gainesville Pet Rescue, 5403 Archer Rd., Gainesville. For more info call 352-692-4773.
Dixie County Humane Society Adoptions - Meet adoptable animals. 10:30 am-2 pm, every Friday at DCHS, 384 NE 90th Ave, Old Town. For info, call 352-542-1081.
Yappy Hour - Social hour for pets and their people. Free treats and samples. 5:30 - 6:30 pm every Friday at Sweet Paws Bakery, Haile Village Center, 5330 SW 91st Terrace, Suite B, 352-264-8995.
Second Chance Farms Adoptions - Meet adoptable animals 12 noon - 3 pm every Saturday, Earth Pets Natural Market, 500 NW 60th St., Ste. F, Gainesville. For info email amystrisc@gmail.com or call 352-336-1191.
Petco Adoptions - Meet adoptable animals 10 am - 2 pm every Saturday at Petco, 6869 West Newberry Rd., Gainesville. For more info call 352-331-2504.
Puppy Hill Farm Adoptions - Meet adoptable animals. 11 am - 5 pm every Saturday at Puppy Hill Farm, 8714 SR 21, Melrose. For info call www.puppyhillfarm.net or call 352-479-1444.
Retirement Home for Horses Visitors Day - Tour sanctuary for abused and abandoned horses. 11 am - 3 pm every Saturday. Admission: 2 carrots. Donations accepted. Mill Creek Farm, County Rd. 235A, Alachua. For info call 386-462-1001 or visit www.millcreekfarm.org.
Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary Volunteer Day - Volunteers needed to chop produce, build monkey habitats and other one-time projects. 10 am - 2 pm every Saturday. For info call 386-462-7779 or visit www.JungleFriends.org.
PetSmart Adoption Partners - Area rescue groups showcase adoptable pets, 11 am - 5 pm every Saturday, 3736 SW Archer Rd., Gainesville 352-380-0112.
Saturday - March 3
Veg4Life Potluck - Community potluck. A presentation by Damian Caraballo of The Tempesh Shop. Admission $1 plus a vegan or vegetarian potluck dish. 6:30, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4225 NW 34th St., Gainesville. Call 352-372-8147.
Gainesville Rabbit Rescue adoptions - Educational information booth w/rabbits available for adoption. 9 am-3 pm, ‘Family Art Fest,’ Thornebrook Village, 2441 NW 43rd St., Gainesville. Also March 4. 352-528-559.
Tailblazers Hike for Dogs - Hike for dogs and their people. Potluck lunch after hike. Location TBA. 9:30 am. Also March 17 and 31. For more info call 352-871-5698 or email eager.pup@hotmail.com.
Paws on Parole Meet and Greet - Potential adopters meet Paws on Parole graduates. 10 am - 1 pm, Earth Pets Natural Pet Market, 500 NW 60th St., Gainesville. For more info email heh@alachuacounty.us or call 352-264-6881
EARS Sanctuary Kid’s Tour - Endangered Animal Rescue Sanctuary hosts tours for children. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. See Critter Notes p. 10.
Gilchrist Co. Low-Cost Vaccine Clinic - Low-cost vaccines and microchips for area residents. 9 am - 12 noon. Gilchrist Co. Animal Shelter, 1799 NW 10th Ave., Bell. For more info call 352-463-4084.
See Critter Notes p. 10.
Operation Catnip Spay/Neuter Clinic - Free clinic performs spay/neuter operations on stray and feral cats. Donations appreciated. For more info or to make an appointment, call 352-380-0940 or email ogainesville@gmail.com.
Tuesdays - March 13
Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers Assoc. Meeting - Meeting for those who love canine companions. 7:30 pm. Oak Hall Middle School, 8009 SW 14th Ave, (off Tower Rd.), Gainesville. For info call 352-375-4545.
Student Animal Alliance Meeting - UF students meet to plan strategies and events to educate the public about animal welfare and compassionate consumerism. Public invited. 7:30-8:30 pm, Little Hall, Rm. 125, UF Campus. Also March 27. For more information call (954) 675-9724 or email mbinder@ufl.edu.
Saturday - March 17
K-9 Nose Work Demo - All dogs welcome to try their noses for small donation to Earth Pets Charity. 4-5:30 pm. Eager Pup Dog Training Studio, 519 NW 10th Ave, Gainesville. For more info call 352-871-5698 or email eager.pup@hotmail.com.
EARS Sanctuary Tour - Endangered Animal Rescue Sanctuary tours hosts tours for ages 10 and up. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. See Critter Notes p. 10.
Gold Coast Greyhound Meet and Greet - Meet adoptable Greyhounds. 10 am - 6 pm, Gainesville Community Fest, Alachua County Fairgrounds, 3100 NE 39th Ave., Gainesville. For more info email cjpolny@yahoo.com or call 352-443-3633.
Paws on Parole Meet and Greet - Potential adopters meet Paws on Parole graduates. 10 am - 1 pm, Town and Country Pet Resort, 6980 SW Archer Rd., Gainesville. For more info email heh@alachuacounty.us or call 352-264-6881
Quilt Display Fundraiser for Animals - Pieces of the Past - A Vintage Quilt Display’ to benefit Horse Protection Assoc. of FL and Humane Society of Marion Co. 9 am - 5 pm. $2 suggested donation. Harvest Village, 22050 N. Hwy. 441, Micanopy (1 mile north of McIntosh) For more info contact quiltlegacy@juno.com or call 352-817-3441.
Sunday - March 18
Volunteer Trainer Workshop at Dream Dogz - Learn to assist shelters to train adoptable dogs. 1:30 - 3:30 pm. See Critter Notes p. 10.
Gainesville Bird Fanciers Meeting - Meeting for people who love parrots and other birds. 1 pm - 3 pm, United Way Bldg., 5031 NW 1st Pl., Gainesville (near Oaks Mall.) For more info call 352-378-9796.
Saturday - March 24
Horse Retirement Home Annual Spring Sale to benefit rescued horses. 10 am-3 pm. See Critter Notes p. 10.
Volunteer Orientation at Alachua County Animal Services - Volunteers must be 18 yrs. or older, and wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. 9:30 a.m. - noon. ACAS, 3400 NE 53 Ave., Gainesville. For more info email heh@alachuacounty.us or call 352-264-6881.
Kindred Spirits Farm Animal Sanctuary Work Party - Tour the farm and work on farm projects. Vegan lunch provided. 10 am-2 pm. Ocala. For directions and to RSVP, 352-629-0009.edspiritssanctuary.org.
Wild Ways

Below are some animals that people sometimes try to keep as pets. But wild animals belong in their natural habitats. Draw lines to match each animal with a clue on the right and a clue on the left. Each clue should used only once.

One reason I don’t make a good pet is because...

I can grow to be 12 feet long and weigh more than 100 pounds.

prairie dog

I should be...

swinging by my long tail in tropical tree-tops.

iguana
digging deep tunnels in the western United States.

kinkajou (honey bear)
slithering along forest floors, hunting animals to eat.

boa constrictor

I’m used to living with many others of my kind.

I’m hard to take care of. I need just the right amount of heat and light.

I sleep during the day and search for sweet fruit at night.

Imagine you’re one of the animals above. Write a short story about how it would feel to be kept in a cage. Use an encyclopedia or the internet to learn more about the animal you chose.

Locate near Ocala and spanning over 30 acres, EARS exists to provide dignified living for endangered lions, tigers, bears and more!

EARS is a Non-Profit Organization
Fed ID #59-3741622

For a tour, please call Steffie at (407) 647-6328 or Gayle at (352) 595-2959.

PLEASE DONATE OR VISIT US SOON!
Donations needed and are tax-deductible. Contributions can be sent to:
P.O. Box 306, Citra, FL 32113 or visit WWW.EARSINC.NET
Shores Animal Hospital holds Open House  
By Bob Ryan

On January 21, Dr. Stephen Shores opened his new state-of-the-art veterinary facility to the public, located just two doors down from the original location on NW 13th St., Gainesville. An open house was also held at the old location which has been converted into a modernized boarding facility.

Tours of the new buildings were given by the staff of Shores Animal Hospital. Those who took the tour were amazed at the spacious new clinic, the larger surgical suite and lab, and the comfortable reception area.

While tours were being given on the inside, there were activities and entertainment outside. Pet product vendors were on hand to pass out free samples of pet treats and educational information, door prizes were given away, and a DJ provided music.

Labrador Retriever Rescue of Florida and Second Chance Farms Animal Rescue were on hand with dogs available for adoption. The dogs were very popular with children, many posing to have their photos taken with them. The event was well attended as evidenced by the full parking area, with more cars pulling in and not many leaving. The Big Dog was on hand to direct traffic, with help from Dr. Shores himself!

The staff worked hard to prepare for the event and all were pleased that everyone had a great time. Shores Animal Hospital is located at 3717 NW 13th St., Gainesville.
All the finest felines gather here ... Critter Magazine is the purr-fect place to promote your business ... with VERY affordable advertising rates!

Your ad support helps abandoned and rescued animals find new, loving homes.

Call (352) 672-6032 for more information.

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Call today to schedule an appointment!

GYPSY is a beautiful calico feline looking for her forever home. She is about 3-years old and weighs about 8 lbs. Gypsy is sweet and affectionate, and enjoys being an indoor cat. She has been spayed and vaccinated for rabies, and she tested neg. for FeLV/ FIV. For more information or to adopt Gypsy, please call 352-225-3017.
LEARN TO PLAY GOLF AND COMMUNE WITH NATURE
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Animal Protection Legislation:
You can be a voice for animals!
By Jessica Torrence

During each legislative session, new bills are introduced or renewed. Below are just some of the recent developments, at both the federal and state levels. Contact your representatives in the House and the Senate and tell them you want animals protected.

FEDERAL
H.R. 7: Ban on Double-Decker Trailers for Horses
Horses require a 7'-8' ceiling clearance to be safely and humanely transported. Double-decker trailers, which have been used in the past to transport these animals, generally have a ceiling height of 5'5" (5'11" when modified). These conditions lead to injuries of the shoulders, as well as a variety of other injuries caused by a horse's neck being placed in an unnatural position for an extended period of time, causing panic and balance issues. The U.S. House of Representatives will be reviewing H.R. 7, which includes a ban on double-decker horse trailers.

In 2007, horse slaughter houses were banned in the U.S. Due to the absence of a ban specifically on horse slaughter, businesses still ship horses across the border for slaughter. Those same businesses are lobbying to reopen horse slaughter houses in the U.S. The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011 has been introduced to keep those efforts from being successful and to stop the export of U.S. horses to other countries for human consumption.

The National Institute of Health will no longer fund research performed on chimpanzees unless the research requires the chimpanzees and there are no other alternatives. This decision comes after the NIH received reports from the Institute of Medicine that found most research on chimpanzees was unnecessary. Hopefully, this action will influence the above bill that would deem all chimpanzees endangered. Currently, only wild chimps are protected, but the new bill includes captive chimps, including research animals, pets, and chimps used in entertainment.

FLORIDA
S.B. 818/H.B. 597: Florida Animal Rescue Act
It is a sad truth that some animal shelters do not want to work with non-profit rescue groups, thus allowing animals to be killed that would otherwise be saved. Some rescue groups receive conflicting information from different shelter staff at the same shelter, and some groups fear reporting inhumane shelter conditions with the belief they will no longer be allowed to work with that shelter. The Florida Animal Rescue Act would set statewide standards for rescue group access and make it illegal for a shelter to kill an animal when a qualified non-profit rescue organization is willing to save that animal.

S.B. 382/H.B. 641: The Greyhound Decoupling Bill
This bill would eliminate the mandatory racing requirement for greyhound tracks. It does not prohibit greyhound racing, it simply gives proprietors the option of running races at their facility according to visitor demand.

Greyhound dogs that cannot race anymore are often killed if they are not rescued.
S.B. 618: Dexter's Law
This bill forces those individuals convicted of animal abuse to register with an animal abuse registry within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Each time the individual moves, he/she must notify the registry and failure to do so would be a first degree misdemeanor. Dexter’s Law is a memorial to Dexter, the kitten who succumbed to the injuries of a brutal beating by a woman and her sons at a park in Brooksville.

S.B. 288: Domestic Violence Against Family Pets
Often, pets become the target of blackmail and anger when domestic violence is present in a household. This bill would give custody and protection to pets in the household of a petitioner who has gotten an injunction against a potential abuser. The bill was created after a dog named Horatio protected a woman from her abusive son, taking the full weight of the beating from the grown man.

S.B. 1184/H.B. 1021: The “Ag-Gag” Bill
This bill, which was recently reintroduced, makes it illegal for whistle-blowers to take a photo or video of any activity at any agricultural operation, including farms that handle live animals for human consumption. This bill takes away the ability for the public or farm employees to reveal illegal or inhumane conditions at farming facilities, therefore potentially protecting animal abusers.

Animals cannot speak for themselves, so compassionate humans must be their voice. Let your legislators know that you support animal protection laws. To find the name of your U.S. and Florida State representatives and their phone numbers, addresses, and websites, visit www.usa.gov. You can also call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.
LILAC is a beautiful Calico mom. She can be a little shy, but would warm up with love and time!

THEODORE is a 2-year-old Jack Russell/Chihuahua mix with a big personality! He’s very affectionate and would be best as an only dog.

SOX is a 5-month old Tuxedo male. He’s great with other cats, dogs, and, of course, people! He’s a love-bug!

ALVIN, brother to Theodore, is an adult Jack Russell mix who’s a great, energetic small dog! He gets along well with other dogs, loves to play, and loves his people.

Phoenix Animal Rescue
(352) 226-0228

Our mission: to rescue, provide sanctuary, and ultimately to re-home abandoned, stray and neglected animals from the Alachua County, Florida area.

BLOSSOM is 2-years old and was confiscated in a cruelty case. She is friendly with dogs and is a take-charge kind of girl who can handle goofy, rowdy boy dogs. She’s playful and snuggly with people and is on the shy side. She needs a home with a quiet family.

We are a volunteer-run, non-profit, no-kill animal rescue group. All of our animals are housed in foster homes, where they are provided huge amounts of love and any needed medical attention prior to going to their forever homes. Visit our website to see our child-friendly dogs who love cats, sports dogs, plus foster-program facts, an adoption application and more.

www.phoenixanimalrescue.org
See us at PetSmart in Gainesville on Archer Rd. every Sat. 11:30 am to 4 pm.

Adoptions held at the Humane Society on Fridays 10:30 - 2
Be sure to visit us at our indoor/outdoor yard sale every Friday & Saturday from 11 - 3!

Ruff Ruff! My name is SMOKEY. I’m a rescued American Eskimo mix. I can relax and sleep well, knowing that the rescue volunteers are working hard taking care of me and looking for my fur-ever home. Come meet me! I’m one really sweet, loving boy with very good manners.

384 NE 80th Ave., Old Town, FL 32680 • 352-542-1081
E-mail: dixiecounty.humanesociety@yahoo.com
www.dixiecountyhumanesociety.rescuegroups.org
Please visit us online to see some of our many dogs and cats looking for their forever homes.

Haile’s Angels Pet Rescue
5231 SW 91st Drive, Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 395-6131 • www.hailesangels.org
Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am to 6 pm
Saturday 8 am-noon

CANDY
Hey - I’m Candy! True to my name, people love me and I’m sweet. All I want is for someone to come to the shelter and adopt me. Can you be that person? I promise to be good ... I’m only 3½-years old and I’ve got lots of living to do!

OLIVER
My name is Oliver and I was adopted as a very small kitten. Recently, there has not been a lot of time for me in the household, so I was brought back into rescue to find someone who can give me much deserved attention. I am a sweet boy and just want to cuddle! Please help me find another mommy or daddy?

Williston Animal Group
a non profit corporation
PO Box 752 • Williston, FL 32696
352-528-9888 • willistonanimalgroup.com

SADIE is a 5-year old, spayed female, Yellow Lab mix. She is blond in color and LOVES to play fetch-the-ball but she is not fond of men. She has been wormed and is current on her shots. Sadie is a sweet, fun loving dog seeking her forever home.

Membership: $15 Individual / $25 Family
Mission Statement: To protect and find homes for stray cats and dogs and to encourage the spaying and neutering of all dogs and cats not used for breeding purposes in the Williston area.
WAG a Happy Tale!
**The Nose Knows: Dogs and their people have fun with K-9 Nose Work**

By Melanie Phillpot

K9 Nose Work® is fast sweeping the U.S. as THE inclusive urban sport for dogs of all ages and abilities. The activity and sport of K9 Nose Work® takes advantage of what comes naturally for dogs - sniffing things out - and takes very little training. It is designed to develop dogs’ natural scenting abilities by using their desire to hunt and their love of toys, food and exercise. It’s a great way for dogs to have fun, build confidence, and burn lots of mental and physical energy.

K9 Nose Work is the specific sport created and sanctioned by the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW). This sport was inspired by the training methodology of detection K9s and borrows elements of that training for recreation. The terms ‘nose work’, ‘fun nose work’, ‘scent work’ and ‘search work’ are all commonly used references to describe any activity where the dog is using his nose to locate a target scent or odor. K9 Nose Work is the term that defines this detection-inspired sport that has evolved from the pursuit of many dogs (with their handlers) to practice nose work and have fun.

The training begins with simple searches in cardboard boxes and gradually progresses to challenging searches in and around buildings and vehicles. To start, the handler holds the dog on a leash while the instructor takes the reward - either a toy or food treat that the dog really loves in a container that allows the odor to flow through the air - and teases the dog with it. Then the instructor takes the toy or food and hides it in one of several boxes scattered around a room.

The dogs get very excited by this activity. They don’t know for sure which box the toy or food is in; a good hider will pretend to hide it in several boxes and not make it obvious which one it’s in. The instructor moves boxes around after hiding the item. Then the handler lets the dog do his thing.

Dogs learn to search four elements – containers, interiors, exteriors and vehicles. Handlers are often amazed when they realize just how little of a scent a dog can detect and then follow it to a source. It is routine for dogs to search and find half of a cotton swab that is very faintly scented with the target odor in an open field, under the edge of a rug, in a closed box, in a pile of leaves or a bin of toys…and so many more “difficult” places. Handlers can’t help but develop a genuine appreciation for their dog’s olfactory talents.

No prior obedience or other training is necessary to participate in Nose Work. It is wonderful for keeping dogs’ minds sharp and happy. Dogs benefit from the physical activity, the success, and the cooperative teamwork with their handlers. Guardians enjoy seeing their own dogs excel and often cheer for each others’ dogs. Shy dogs may become more confident and reactive dogs more relaxed as they develop focus on the search. Active dogs gain a natural outlet for their energy. Dogs of all ages, breeds, temperaments, and physical abilities enjoy participating in the fun!

There are national titling events, camps, workshops and more for those who wish to take it to the top. In Florida, two Introduction to Nose Work seminars will be held in Clearwater on March 10 and 11. Everyone is welcome, but registration is limited. Contact Ann at Newdawnabc@gmail.com or call 727-415-1567 for more information.

K9 Nose Work® can be a low key hobby for you and your dog, or it can become a team sport for the two of you. To find out more about K9 Nose Work®, visit the National Association of Canine Scent Work website, www.nacsw.com, or www.k9nosework.com.

Melanie Phillpot is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer and Associate K9 Nose Work Instructor. She can be contacted by emailing eager.pup@hotmail.com or by calling 352-871-5698.
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