

# FIRST COAST NO MORE HOMELESS PETS









ANNUAL REPORT / 2009 - 2010

A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

# Joseph A. Strasser

Joseph Strasser's passion is evident in his giving to what he believes in. His philanthropic giving includes his alma mater Syracuse University, Tree Hill Sanctuary, The Jacksonville Humane Society and First Coast No More Homeless Pets. FCNMHP is honored that Mr. Strasser supports and contributes to the vision of the organization that strives to one day have no more homeless pets.

First Coast No More
Homeless Pets was renting a
temporary facility and it was
Mr. Strasser who donated the



Joseph A. Strasser & General

funds to purchase and renovate a new permanent high volume low cost spay/neuter clinic. In April 2009 FCNMHP opened their doors to the community in the newly named Joseph A. Strasser Animal Health and Welfare Building.

"Number one, we took an eyesore of a building, and we made it into a state-of-the-art building ... Number two, we created construction jobs. Number three, we created additional jobs because we quintupled the number of spaying and neutering we had, so we actually hired more people, some of whom came from that neighborhood. Number four, and most important, that it is the solution to pet overpopulation. You can't stop the killing of animals until you reduce the number of animals entering our shelters."

Rick DuCharme Founder and Executive Director points out Mr. Strasser's role in the organization is a success. "Joe is our first lifetime member and currently sits on our board of directors. We couldn't have accomplished this without him."

Moving forward, Mr. Strasser plans to continue his philanthropic giving, saying "This is making a difference. This is what I believe in."

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Over 85,000 surgeries and counting!

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# Message from Rick DuCharme

Dear Friends and Supporters;

We continue to make great progress towards our goal of No More Homeless Pets. We have increased our spay/neuter surgery volume by nearly 45% to 24,111 surgeries this past fiscal year. Even more exciting is that more than 25% of these surgeries were performed free of charge for pets of qualified low income pet owners. Surgeries targeted at pets of low income residents are the most effective at reducing shelter admissions and deaths.

The high volume of surgeries is a means to an end. The result we seek is an end to the killing of dogs and cats in shelters. Progress in this area over the past year can only be described as incredible. We realized a 13% decrease in Duval combined shelter admissions and a 25% decrease in shelter deaths in the fiscal year just ended over the previous year. Shelter deaths in Duval County are now 11.4 per 1,000 residents down from over 30 per 1,000 residents when we began our mission. The national average is around 13.6 shelter deaths per 1,000.

Our programs and clinic continue to be held up as models of effectiveness and efficiency. FCNMHP has presented at six seminars this year and been the focus of webinars and seminars by others. Experts use our programs as examples nationwide when asked about effective programs and clinics. Our staff is currently consulting with groups from CA to NY and many places in between. Emulation of the Feral Freedom program in the coming years has the potential to save hundreds of thousands of community cats nationwide and will save tens of thousands of cats just in the coming year.

We have much to be thankful for as the year draws to a close. I estimate that nearly 50,000 fewer dogs and cats have died in Duval County shelters since 2003 because of our programs. We have accomplished much over the last eight years, but much work remains. Still 9,500 dogs and cats died in Duval shelters this past year. We have impacted shelter admissions and deaths throughout NE Florida but our work is far from complete.

With additional equipment and staff we have the physical ability to double our surgery volume. Our garage space allows for a huge amount of transport growth. As resources

permit we will extend our free, low income targeted programs to the surrounding counties and transport those pets to the clinic. Our efforts to help other organizations nationwide implement similar programs will increase.

Our work has just begun but our dedication is firm and the path to success is clear. Together we will make a real difference!

Thank you for all you do,

Founder/Director



# About First Coast No More Homeless Pets



**Our Mission:** The mission of First Coast No More Homeless Pets (FCNMHP) is to eliminate the killing of dogs and cats in our community through free and low-cost spay and neuter programs.

**Our History:** First coast No More Homeless Pets was founded in 2001 when Rick DuCharme, founder and executive director, developed the SpayJax program in response to a request by the City of Jacksonville for a city funded spay/neuter program. Following SpayJax, SpayNassau was developed along with two other low-cost programs. In 2006, our Trap-Neuter-Return program was developed to offer low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for feral, stray, outdoor and community cats. In August 2008 our Feral Freedom program kicked off saving approximately 5,000 feral cats

a year. April 2009 we moved in and opened our state of the art high volume and high quality spay/neuter and wellness clinic. 2010 we are averaging 2,000 spay/neuter surgeries every month!

**Our Accomplishments:** Since 2002 we have facilitated over 85,000 pet sterilizations in the First Coast area. We have seen an overall reduction in pet intake of approximately 31% and a 58% decrease in the number of animals having to be euthanized.

April 2009, FCNMHP opened our high volume, high quality spay/neuter clinic located in the Joseph A. Strasser Animal Health and Welfare Building, to facilitate the needed increase in surgeries. The clinic is designed with the capacity for up to 200 daily sterilizations, making it one of the highest volume clinics in the country when at full capacity.

To help support our low-cost and free spay/neuter programs, we also provide affordable pet health care. We offer vaccinations, testing, microchipping, flea and heartworm preventative and treatment in our Wellness Clinic.

March 2010, FCNMHP opened the Jacksonville Pet Food Bank. Giving qualified low income families pet food so that they may keep their pets in this challenging economy. Over 100,000 pounds of food was distributed to more than 3,500 pets!



# Making a difference from LA to NY! Rick DuCharme guest speaker



**HSUS Expo** Nashville, TN Rick DuCharme presented information about our revolutionary Feral Freedom program



ASPCA Spay/Neuter Summit New York, NY Rick Presented information about spay and neuter programs and the impact they have on animal shelters



Found Animals Foundation Spay/Neuter Forum Los Angeles, CA Rick presented on Targeted Spay/Neuter Programs



Best Friends No More Homeless Pets Conference Las Vegas, NV

Rick presented information about our revolutionary Feral Freedom program and spoke on the No More Homeless Pets panel

In addition Rick has consulted with organizations around the country on effective, targeted spay/neuter programs and bringing innovative programs to their communities; including Tampa, Miami-Dade, Philadelphia, Austin, Atlanta, NYC and Salt Lake City.



Best Friends No More Homeless Pets Conference Panel (left) Rick DuCharme, Holly Sizemore, Bill Bruce, Elizabeth Oreck & Becky Robinson

# Board Members, Staff & Volunteers

#### **Board Members**

Debbie Fields - President Tom Moilanen - Treasurer Kelly Delaney Peter Marsh Joseph A. Strasser Lee Conway Pat Delaney Matt McAfee

Judy Noon Emily MaGee Anastasia Regas Stone

#### **FCNMHP Staff**

Rick DuCharme Founder & Executive Director Dr. Kelly Farrell Medical Director Cameron Moore Program Director



Doreen Arteaga Office Manager

FCNMHP currently employees 40 people and in order to meet the increased demand for spay/neuter we will hire 10 new employees in 2011.

## Volunteer and help save lives!

FCNMHP is always looking for enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. You will help us end the needless killing of cats and dogs in our local shelters. To receive more information on volunteering for FCNMHP please send an email to our volunteer coordinator at volunteer@fcnmhp.org

# Partners & Service Area

### Groups we partner with

Jacksonville Animal Care & Protective Services
Jacksonville Humane Society
Clay County Animal Care and Control
Humane Society of Northeast Florida
Springfield Animal Care Rescue Club
Animal Haven of Hope Society, Inc.
St. Augustine Humane Society

Nassau Humane Society
Cats Angels, Inc.
Rain Humane
Cat Bugs Pet Rescue, Inc.
Lucky Cat Adoptions, Inc.
Someone Cares Rescue, Inc.
Ana's Angels
Nassau County Animal Services

First Coast No More Homeless Pets transports, coordinates transports, and serves the following Florida and Georgia Counties.

### Georgia

Liberty County

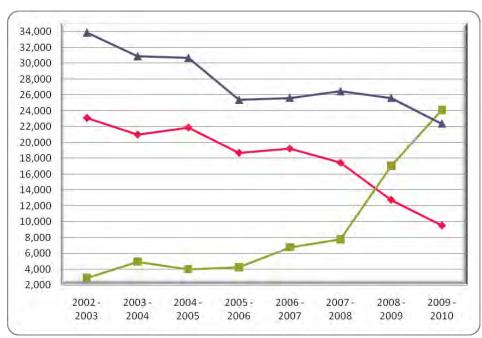
### Florida

- Duval
- Nassau
- St. Johns
- Clay
- Putnam
- Bradford



# Mission Progress Shelter Statistics

As surgery numbers increase the shelter intake and euthanasia numbers decrease. High volume spay/neuter programs are the only proven method to end the pet overpopulation problem.



Year	Total Surgeries	Total Euthanasia	Total Shelter Intake
2002 - 2003	2,910	23,104	33,847
2003 - 2004	4,937	21,004	30,862
2004 - 2005	4,000	21,886	30,658
2005 - 2006	4,232	18,690	25,355
2006 - 2007	6,775	19,242	25,616
2007 - 2008	7,744	17,430	26,443
2008 - 2009	17,062	12,744	25,603
2009 - 2010	24,111	9,500	22,359

# Programs Feral Freedom

# THERE IS A NEW APPROACH IN JACKSONVILLE TO FERAL CAT POPULATION CONTROL

### TRAP - NEUTER - RETURN (TNR)





As of August 1, 2008, any feral cat brought to Jacksonville Animal Care & Protective Services, either by the field officers or by the public, will no longer be euthanized at the tax payers' expense. Instead, these cats will be processed through the Feral Freedom Program sponsored by Best Friends Animal Society, Animal Care & Protective Services and First Coast No More Homeless Pets. Each cat will be vaccinated, spayed or neutered, ear tipped (the universal symbol of a sterilized feral cat), treated for fleas and ear mites and returned to its territory within a matter of a few days.

The chances that a feral cat would live used to be very slim. In August 2008 that changed with the inception of the Feral Freedom program. All ferals that come through our program are spayed or neutered and rereleased back into their territory and are allowed to live.

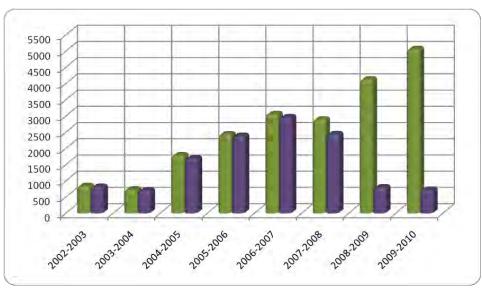








Last year First Coast No More Homeless Pets performed 4,337 Feral, Stray and Community Cat Surgeries!

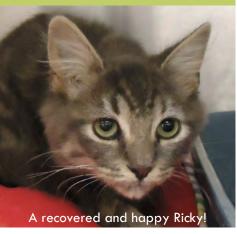


Year	Feral Euthanasia	Feral Intake
2002 - 2003	810	835
2003 - 2004	699	729
2004 - 2005	1,689	1,781
2005 - 2006	2,381	2,427
2006 - 2007	2,955	3,054
2007 - 2008	2,434	2,885
2008 - 2009	795	4,118
2009 - 2010	719	5,057

### Feral Freedom Re-homing Program

# Finding Homes for Community Cats!

In August of 2010, First Coast No More Homeless Pets started a new adoption partnership with Pet Supermarkets here in Jacksonville. (FCNMHP does not shelter animals.) Not all cats and kittens picked up by the FCNMHP Transport Team are feral or fit to be released back outdoors for a number of different reasons. Instead of leaving these cats and kittens at Animal Care and



Protective Services where they could be euthanized if not adopted, FCNMHP with the help of dedicated volunteers, now transports the felines to four local Pet Supermarkets where they go up for adoption. Since its start in August 2010; 69 cats have been adopted! FCNMHP is grateful for Pet Supermarket's dedication

to saving lives and helping cats find forever homes.



Ricky is one lucky kitten! Ricky, just 15 weeks old, came to FCNMHP through the Feral Freedom Program. During Ricky's surgery preparations, the FCNMHP Vet Tech noticed a lesion around his neck that went all the way around and under his leg. After shaving his fluffy fur, she found that he had a milk ring



that was still connected, embedded into his skin. Poor Ricky must have slipped into the ring as a very young kitten and grew with it stuck around his body and neck. The milk ring was removed and amazingly Ricky did not need stitches. He recovered at FCNMHP for a few weeks. Ricky was adopted the first day he was up for adoption and aside from a slightly crooked foot, he is healthy and happy in his new forever home!

## SpayJax



"Titan was dumped at the local Animal Control at just 6 weeks old. I saw Titan and decided I had to save him. I was struggling to get by, but knew about the FCNMHP SpayJax Program and low-cost wellness care they offered, which afforded me to save Titan's life! Thank you FCNMHP! – Dana and Titan"

To Continue to meet the increasing need of free spay and neuter surgeries FCNMHP provides the **SpayJax Program**. SpayJax is a \$300,000 a

year program with half funded by the city and half funded by FCNMHP. In 2003 the SpayJax program was 100% of the FCNMHP budget, today it is 2% of our budget. In order to continue to offer free surgeries, FCNMHP needs to raise a minimum of \$150,000 every year for this program alone.

Owners that qualify for free spay/neuter surgery for their pets under the SpayJax program must have documentation of their participation in one of the following assistance programs:

- Food Stamps
- Medicaid, MediPass, MedKids, HealthEase, Healthy Kids, (Shands)
   Community Health, JaxCare
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- SSI (Supplemental Security Income this is not Social Security)
- Section 8, Public Housing
- Or have proof of Low Income Level calculated with number of persons living in household

#### Scheduling the surgery appointment:

- Owners that qualify must schedule their pets SpayJax or surgery appointment with the FCNMHP clinic located in the Joseph A.
   Strasser Animal Health & Welfare Building.
- Owners must produce their pets city license tag or will have to purchase one at time of surgery. All pets must be licensed by the city to qualify for the free surgery.
- Owners must produce a picture ID, proof of residence in Duval County, and proof of their participation in one of the above programs or proof of income.

## Low-Cost Spay/Neuter

Looking for Low-Cost Pet Care?



Spay & Neuter Services about 40% less than normal prices!

Appointments call Monday - Saturday 904.425.0005

**Low-Cost Spay & Neuter Program** is open to everyone. Surgeries are discounted and available through our spay & neuter clinic. Money raised from the low-cost spay and neuter clinic helps fund free spay and neuter programs.



"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" Mahatma Gandhi



### Wellness Clinic

#### The FCNMHP Wellness Clinic

is open to everyone and is located in The Joseph A. Strasser Animal Health and Welfare Building. Money raised from the wellness clinic helps fund spay/neuter programs. Low-Cost vaccinations, micro-chipping, flea and heartworm preventatives and a variety of tests are available.

Pet Wellness Services about 40% less than normal prices!

Walk in Clinic! Monday - Saturday 10am to 6pm

# Saved by the Wellness Clinic!

Letha has been an animal lover and supporter of FCNMHP for years. During a regular visit outside, Kissie, Letha's 8 year old, 5 lb Chihuahua, escaped from her fenced yard and was attacked by a large dog walking in her neighborhood.



Letha feared the worst and rushed her beloved pet to FCNMHP with life threatening injuries. Kissie received over 100 stitches around the circumference of her abdomen, three drains for infection and medication.



Letha says "I was sure I would not be able to afford to save Kissie and thought I was going to have to euthanize her. The staff at FCNMHP are lifesavers and I am so thankful they were able to save my little Kissie!"

We are happy to report that Kissie's injuries are completely healed. Kissie now has her normal princess attitude back and enjoys snuggling with her mom again!

## Partnership with Sulzbacher Center



# If you lost your home, your job or your health, what would you do?

What would happen to your pet that depends on you for their survival? In April 2010 a new community partnership between First Coast No More Homeless Pets and the Sulzbacher Center was born.

People entering the center that have pets can have FCNMHP arrange temporary foster homes for their pets while they are getting back on their feet.

KEEPING PETS WITH FAMILIES AND OUT OF

**SHELTERS!** Every day, Sulzbacher Center is home to more than 330 homeless members of our community, many of whom have children and/or pets.

Sulzbacher Center Mission: To empower homeless and at-risk men, women and children to achieve a better life through a full range of services, both direct and in collaboration with community partners, thus renewing hope and restoring lives back into the fabric of the community.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent please contact <a href="mailto:dlfields@bellsouth.net">dlfields@bellsouth.net</a>. Minimum 60 day commitment.

The owner of dogs Bashful, Peggy, Bitsy and cat Nelly was going to have to give up her beloved pets, the single woman was facing homelessness when she entered the Sulzbacher Center. Our partnership with the center allowed FCNMHP to care for her pets while she got back on her feet. FCNMHP brought all the pets up to date on vaccinations and heartworm preventative, Bitsy even got a desperately needed dental with seven rotten teeth removed! We are happy to report that the pets have been reunited with their owner after just two weeks of being in our foster care.



Bashful :: Bitsy :: Peggy

### Pet Food Bank

Since March 2010 the Jacksonville Pet Food Bank has given out over 100,000 pounds of pet food to more than 3,500 pets!



#### Message from Sandra Ingram, FCNMHP Volunteer and Supporter:

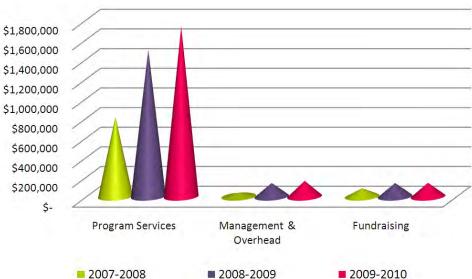
I volunteer for the Pet Food Bank distribution day each month. On these Saturdays, so many people show up to receive pet food, which in many cases enables them to keep their pet. One Saturday, I had a single mom with her two kids come to receive pet food. She was so uncomfortable that she had to use this program. For the first time ever, she recently lost her job and was not able to afford pet food. She was going to have to get rid of her animals, so this program seemed to be her last hope! As she was leaving with the food, she and her children came by and thanked me and FCNMHP for the kindness and the pet food. What a great feeling to know that this fantastic kindness can make a financially stressed family able to keep their pets and feel hope in such bad economic times!



Pet food is distributed one Saturday every month. For dates, times and qualifications please visit www.iaxpetfoodbank.org

# FCNMHP Budget





	Program Services	Management & Overhead	Fundraising	Total Expenses
2007 - 2008	\$811,890 87%	\$40,191 4%	\$85,547 9%	\$937,628
2008 - 2009	\$1,496,037 84%	\$138,709 8%	\$138,214 8%	\$1,772,960
2009 - 2010	\$1,732,424 85%	\$161,348 8%	\$140,976 7%	\$2,034,748

# **FCNMHP** Goals and Future

This year 9,500 cats and dogs were euthanized.

Our goal for 2010 - 2011 is to see Less than 8,000 cats and dogs having to be euthanized.



# Our long term goal is to have no more homeless pets!

- Within 5 years we can end the killing of dogs and cats in Duval County.
- Within 8 years we can end the killing of dogs and cats in the First Coast grea.
- Within 10 years we will be well on our way to no more homeless pets in Florida!

### To achieve our goals:

- We have a Full Service Veterinary Clinic providing low cost care.
- The clinic will be operating at 220 surgeries a day.
- 6 Transport vehicles will be delivering pets for surgery from throughout the First Coast area.
- Our facility will act as a hurricane refuge for small animal shelters in the path of approaching storms.





# FIRST COAST NO MORE HOMELESS PETS









First Coast No More Homeless Pets, Inc.
Joseph A. Strasser Animal Health & Welfare Building
6817 Norwood Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32208

Phone: 904.425.0005

### **Donations**

Please mail your donation to the above address Call the fundraising department at 904.520.7900 or visit our website at www.fcnmhp.org

A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization