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Animal Services Launches Partners for Pets Program

Santa Rosa County Animal Services has launched a new donation program in hopes of addressing the number one problem facing companion animals- pet overpopulation. The Partners for Pets program was established with the goal of seeing every adoptable pet finding a loving, forever home. Donations to the new program will be used to enhance current animal service efforts including creating a low cost spay and neuter voucher program, increasing educational outreach on the benefits of spaying and neutering, and offering more adoption events throughout the county. When combined, these efforts have been proven to make a dramatic difference in local pet populations and in reducing the number of animals that must be humanely euthanized. Many donation options are available and more information can be found at www.santarosa.fl.gov/partnersforpets or by calling (850) 983-4680.

Unlike private shelters that can have limitations on the number of animals they accept, Santa Rosa County's shelter accepts each one with over 9,000 animals passing through our doors. Unfortunately, only an average of 18 percent are adopted, sent to rescue organizations or reunited with their families when found straying from home. Sterilization of pets is the best solution to the overpopulation problem in our county. Although our local education efforts have increased the percentage of animals that are spayed and neutered in Santa Rosa County, more sterilization is needed to reach the critical thresholds necessary to control overpopulation.

Partners for Pets donations are tax-deductible and unlike national donation plans, 100 percent of all Partners for Pets donations will benefit animals in Santa Rosa County. Many types and levels of support are available:

- **Supply Donation-** Gift cards, new and gently used items including pet toys, blankets, towels and carriers. A complete supply "wish list" can be found at www.santarosa.fl.gov/animals, under donations.
- **One-time Donation**
- **Monthly Supporter-** Donations are automatically deducted from a bank account or credit card each month and can be canceled or modified at anytime.
- **Gift Donation-** Give the perfect gift for any animal lover; a donation in their name. Animal services will mail a personalized greeting card to the person designated.
- **Memorial Gift-** With a Partner for Pets Memorial Donation, you can honor a special person or pet that has passed by making a donation in their name. Animal services will mail a personalized sympathy card to the person designated.

Donations can be made securely online at www.santarosa.fl.gov/partnersforpets or by requesting a donation form by calling (850) 983-4680.

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