

CRITTER NOTES

EARS Animal Sanctuary hosts Family Day

EARS Animal Sanctuary, a non-profit sanctuary that originally focused on big cats, is opening its gates for public tours of their facility, which has now expanded to housing a variety of wildlife. All donations are tax-deductible will go directly to caring for the animals.

On Saturday, June 11, from 10 am-12 noon, take a trip to Citra for EARS Sanctuary Family Day Membership Drive & Animal Tour. Fees for adults are \$8 and children 3-16 years are \$4. Tour sizes are limited to 150 people, and reservations must be made in advance.

Please call Steffie (407) 647-6328 or Gayle at (352) 454-6454, or email SKB255@aol.com to book your reservation. For more information, visit www.earsinc.net. Checks are the preferred payment method. EARS Sanctuary is located 25 miles south of Gainesville in Marion County at 2615 East Highway 318, Citra.

Poker Run benefits

Second Chance Farms

Second Chance Farms, a non-profit animal rescue and sanctuary, houses dogs, cats, horses, goats, and even poultry and reptiles until they are adopted. Those that cannot be adopted are offered permanent sanctuary. To raise funds in order to continue their efforts, the rescue group is hosting the "Cruizin' Fur Critters" Poker Run on June 18.

Motorcycles and cars are welcome. Registration begins at 9:30 am at Gainesville Harley-Davidson, 4125 NW 97th Blvd., and is just \$10 for the first hand, \$5 for each additional hand. After five stops from Newberry to High Springs, participants will have the opportunity to win a prize for best and worst poker hand. Raffles, door prizes, a 50/50 drawing, and live music by "Hung" add to the festivities.

For more information about this fundraiser, contact Kelly Tate at (352) 278-4840. To learn more about Second Chance Farms, visit www.secondchancefarms.org.

New dog training center offers free classes to rescue and foster dogs

Dream Dogz has opened a new dog training center at Aalatah Animal Hospital in NW Gainesville. Victoria Warfel, owner of the new 2700 sq. ft. facility, offers many

of her classes free for rescued and foster dogs. The center also offers "Doga," (dog yoga), and a class specifically for pit bulls, hosted by Michelle Dunlap of Phoenix Animal Rescue. An open house is planned for August, and pet adoptions will be held at the center in the future. For those dogs needing special attention, Warfel offers her services in the client's home, as well.

Making dog parenting in Gainesville just a little easier, Dream Dogz also hosts www.DogFriendlyGainesville.com. Pet guardians can find places to play, eat, and rest that welcome canine friends with open arms. With much more information coming soon, dog parents can expect a one-stop website for all things dog.

For information, visit www.dreamdogz.com or call (352) 278-7404. Dream Dogz Training Center is located at 3909 NW 97th Blvd in Gainesville.

Vegans for Peace group encourages animal-friendly dialogue

Vegans for Peace, an online and face-to-face group that started in December 2010, encourages dialogue and educates about animal/human issues. Tim Gier, founder and member of the group, understands that people can disagree in many ways, but may come together for a common goal, working to make the world a better place. While the website gives members a place to respectfully debate a variety of topics related to the overall welfare of living creatures, the Meet-Up group aspires to go a step further by bringing the discussion to the public. The group's plans include hosting information tables at local events, sponsoring vegan food tastings, and organizing demonstrations.

Because the group's purpose is broad and inclusive, any and all levels of participation are encouraged. Currently, the group arranges potlucks and planning meetings to include as many members as possible. The group invites vegans, vegetarians, or those interested in veganism/vegetarianism to join and get involved. Joining Vegans for Peace is free. For more information, visit www.vegansforever.org or call Tim at (352) 258-8116.

'Rescue Chocolate' benefits local animal rescue groups

Earth Pets Organic Feed and Garden, a locally-owned pet shop, garden center, and feed store, is joining efforts with Rescue Chocolate, a Brooklyn-based company founded to raise funds for animal rescue groups. Earth Pets is putting a local spin on the fundraiser by making sure that \$1 from the sale of each candy bar is donated to a different Gainesville animal rescue group each month for at least 12 months.

Rescue Chocolates are on sale at Earth Pets for \$5.99 each. The candy bars are vegan, kosher, and come in flavors like Peanut Butter Pit Bull, Pick Me! Pepper, Foster-iffic Peppermint, and Mission Feral Fig. Each one brings awareness to different aspects of the pet overpopulation epidemic. These treats are for human consumption only and the sweetest way to save a life!

To vote for the group to benefit from the chocolates, visit the store's blog at earthpetsorganic.wordpress.com. For more information about Earth Pets, visit www.earthpetsorganic.org or call (352) 377-1100. The store is located at 404 NW 10th Ave in Gainesville.

