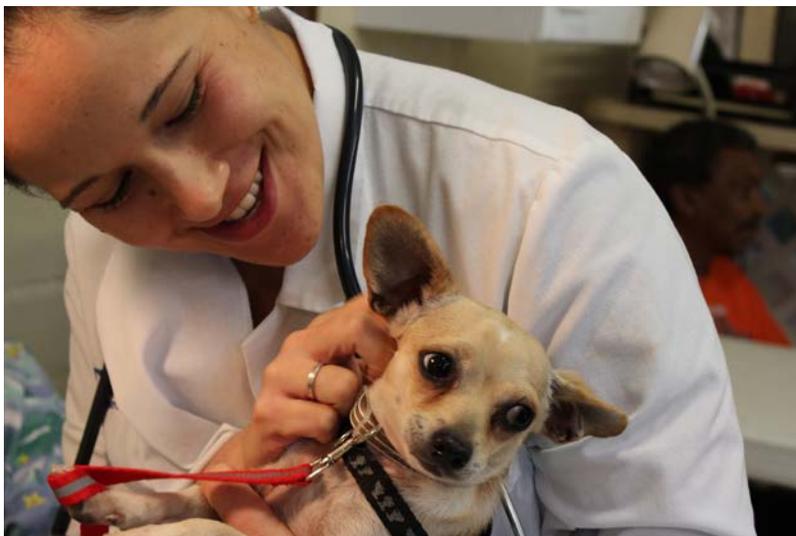


St
Francis
Pet
Care

2012

Annual Report of St. Francis Pet Care, Inc.
January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

Annual
Report



Mission

The charitable mission of St. Francis Pet Care (SFPC) is to provide primary non-emergency veterinary care to the pets of homeless persons, veterans in transitional housing, and very low income residents of Alachua County, Florida. We provide care, medicines, consultations, education, spay/neuter services, monthly flea and heartworm preventives, and pet food. In our most vulnerable communities, we try to keep people and pets together so both can benefit from the human-animal bond. We work to reduce the number of companion animals turned into shelters because their owners can no longer afford their care, and to increase the proportion of spayed and neutered pets in the population we serve.

Our Services

St. Francis House Pet Care provides primary non-emergency veterinary care and services to responsible but homeless or very low income pet owners at our weekly Clinic. Veterinary care at the Clinic is provided by veterinary students and faculty of the shelter medicine elective at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine and by local veterinarians donating their time. Non-veterinary functions such as scheduling, client screening, cleaning, and record keeping are handled by student and community volunteers. Primary veterinary services provided include exams, treatment, and vaccinations. Non-veterinary services are also performed, including nail clipping and microchip implantation. Consultations are provided regarding diagnoses, treatment, and home care.



Patients are provided with medications for common ailments such as ear infections, skin conditions, and arthritis pain. Their owners are encouraged to come in monthly to pick up pet food and doses of flea and heartworm preventatives. Pet supplies (leashes, collars, harnesses, shampoo, pet beds, toys and treats) are

offered when available.

A major objective of SFPC is to teach responsible pet ownership and to encourage the spaying and/or neutering of all cats and dogs. Clients are allowed to have no more than two animals in the program at any one time, and in order to be accepted as clients, all animals in their household must be spayed/neutered. With the owner's consent, SFPC arranges for intact animals to be sterilized by the College of Veterinary Medicine, the No More Homeless Pets program, or other veterinarian-run services. Transportation to and from the surgery is provided by SFPC volunteers. SFPC also tries to discourage its clients from adopting young animals on the

assumption that free medical care will be provided. To this end, puppies and kittens under one year of age are vaccinated and scheduled for spay/neuter but are not seen on an ongoing basis.

Pet Care is Human Care

A volunteer was staffing a table for SFPC at a fall art festival when she got into a conversation with a woman passing by the table. The woman asked whether it was wise to provide services that encourage homeless people to have pets – didn't that put the pets at risk? Shouldn't the homeless be concentrating on other things?

Our volunteer explained that most of SFPC's clients are not homeless but very low income individuals, for example elderly people living on fixed incomes. But she also tried to explain that it can be good for homeless persons to have pets and it can be good for the animals too. It is common knowledge that pet ownership decreases blood pressure and feelings of loneliness and increases opportunities for exercise and socialization. Even the national Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has a web page on the health benefits of pet ownership. But for the homeless, poor, and vulnerable, the benefits can be immeasurable. For many of our clients, their pet is their best friend, their primary companion, and even their protector.

One of our clients told his own story this way: "When I first got [the dog] I told them I didn't want him because I couldn't take care of myself. I mean I was mentally and physically just... I was down... Then doc brought over a couple of dogs and I wasn't interested in no dog. And then all of a sudden I went into his office and he had this one here and I go, 'I'll take him.' And he says, 'what are you going to name him?' I go 'Rags.' And he's been right beside me ever since. ... since I've had this little pooter, I've got to be here because no one else is going to love him like me. They could love him but not as much as me. ... I call him my angel. He's my soul finder."

Being responsible for a dog or a cat can provide a reason to get up in the morning, a reason to take your medications, a reason to take care of yourself so that you can care for a pet that needs you. It is not at all unusual for people who have shunned health, mental health and social services to come to SFPC to get care for their animals, sometimes giving us the opportunity to get them connected with other service providers.

SFPC volunteers see helping pets as an opportunity to help people. Volunteers provide clients with transportation to and from the Clinic when needed, call around to locate tents and tarps, and call in other agencies as needed. They go out of their way to find help for those who need it. One woman found herself homeless after a year-long slide into poverty. First she lost her job, then she used up her savings paying her rent, then she was evicted from her apartment. She ended up at the St. Francis House which does not allow animals. SFPC volunteers fostered her two senior cats so she could get back on her feet.

An elderly female veteran from Alachua County was accepted into VA-subsidized housing in Lake City but the apartment manager would not allow her to take her cat along without a "certificate of health." Formally, SFPC can only take clients from Alachua county, but this woman would have been living in the county if she hadn't gotten this housing opportunity. SFPC arranged for a veterinarian in Lake City to provide the certificate *pro bono*, and the veteran and her cat are now living in a much improved situation.

Our clients help each other too. One of our clients lost her dog to old age and said the pain of loss was so great she would never have another dog again. But when another client living in the same building became too ill to care for her own dog, the grieving woman began to take care of Sparky. Sparky's owner is dying, but he'll continue to have a home.

2012 in Review

A new name

2012 was a year of big changes for SFPC: we changed our location, our name, and our mission. We changed our name legally from "St. Francis House Pet Care Clinic" to "St. Francis Pet Care" after moving out of the St. Francis House at the end of 2011. We remain grateful to the St. Francis House Homeless Shelter and Soup Kitchen for letting us use their facilities and their name for so many years.

The URL <http://StFrancisPetCare.org> is now equivalent to <http://StFrancisHousePetCare.org> -- both will take you to our rebranded website.

A new mission

At the same time we changed our name, we also changed our mission statement, to explicitly include spay/neuter services and the provision of pet food. This makes donations of pet food legally tax deductible, and allows us to account for these donations on our balance sheet, starting in calendar year 2013.

A new location

From November 2011 through February 2012, Tuesday Clinics were held at the Civic Media Center and Library (CMC) in downtown Gainesville. Joe Courter of the CMC was a generous and gracious host, and the location was conveniently close to St. Francis House. However, the CMC has no secure storage area, so all Clinic files and supplies had to be carried into and out of the building every Tuesday, which quickly became un-manageable.

Volunteers began to look for a location where we could be the only occupant. After a few promising opportunities fell through, we were lucky to be able to rent the building formerly occupied by Dogz Rule doggie day care at 501 SE 2nd St., a wonderful location only one block north of the Rosa Parks downtown bus station.

From mid-January to mid-February, volunteers scrubbed walls and floors, painted, landscaped, and renovated. Several area businesses donated cleaning and painting supplies; plants and



landscaping materials; plumbing, HVAC and electrical work; and an alarm system. SFPC wants to give a shout out to these businesses, who all did superb, professional work:

- Bounds Heat and Air of Newberry
- Churches Plumbing of Gainesville
- EnviroTek of Tampa
- Florida Concrete Recycling, Inc. of Gainesville
- Grandiflora Nursery of Gainesville
- RBI Electrical of Alachua
- Security Safe Company of O'Brien



The first clinic was held in our new location on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012, and on March 16 we held an open house to show off. We have two rooms and a bathroom. The larger room is divided into a reception/records area and an examination area with three exam tables, a sink and a bathtub. The smaller back room is used for storage, additional exam space, and isolation space for nervous cats or aggressive dogs.

Clinic and Screenings

At the beginning of the calendar year, screenings for new clients were suspended because of a scarcity of medicines and supplies, and because of the uncertainty of our location. Once we resumed holding Clinic at the 501 SE 2nd St. location, formal screenings resumed, with a waiting list of approximately one month. During calendar 2012 we accepted 170 new clients and 221 new patients into the program.

Once in the new location, SFPC procured a dedicated phone line with voicemail (352-372-4959) and Internet. Our clients had no trouble transitioning to the new building. The side yard was designated as a waiting area and Pete Peterson provided awnings to provide shade and shelter from rain. The owners of the property of the closed Louis' Lunch allowed our clients and volunteers to park in their lot so long as they signed waivers of liability.

One innovation this year has been regularly taking file photographs of our patients (dogs and cats). Since the volunteer veterinarian seeing a pet on any given Clinic day may not be the same who last saw an animal, having a file photo helps them notice possibly significant changes in the animal's appearance. An ad on Volunteer Match for volunteer photographers yielded several responses and a regular Clinic photographer who also supplies pictures for our website and Facebook page.

An innovation we tried but failed to initiate was a therapeutic grooming service. Some of our clients' pets are so matted and dirty that it constitutes a health hazard. SFPC volunteers attempted to assemble a group of professional groomers willing to volunteer either at Tuesday Clinic or on special grooming days, but did not succeed for logistical reasons. We may try this again in 2013.

In mid-2012 we lost a major source of pet food donations and struggled to provide our clients with monthly rations of dog and cat food. In November we completed an arrangement with Pet Food LTD, a distributor of high quality pet food in Tampa, FL. We now make bi-monthly trips to Tampa to pick up recently expired food and/or food in damaged packaging. This has made a huge difference in our ability to be a reliable source of pet food for our patients.

Clinic was not held on Christmas Day, but we were open the remaining 51 Tuesdays of the year, and compensated for the Christmas closing by holding a food-and-meds distribution day later that week. During the year we enrolled 170 new clients with 221 pets, and we saw a weekly average of 17 clients for vet visits and 25 clients picking up food and/or medications only. Starting August 2012 we began to keep separate counts of vet visits for dogs and cats. During the remainder of the year we saw an average of 18 dogs and 5 cats every Tuesday, and provided monthly heartworm and flea preventives to an average of 30 dogs and 10 cats weekly.

	2012 Clients	2012 Patients	2011 Clients	2012 Patients
Active	366	542	269	401
Green folder active	103	151	66	112
Total (active & inactive)	1127	1702	690	1480

Active and inactive client and patient totals, 2012 compared to 2011.

	2012 Active	Inactive
Doctor's recommendation	12	6
IFH	9	42
SSI, disability	28	5
Verified homeless	31	6
VA referred veterans	20	12
Other	3	3

Special category clients by category, active and inactive.

Spay/neuter

The Clinic was privileged to receive a \$13,500 grant for 2011/2012 from Florida Animal Friend, the organization that distributes funds raised through sale of the official Florida Animal Friend Spay and Neuter License Plate. The grant ended in August 2012, but we requested and received a 30-day extension to the end of September.



The grant amount was based on our estimate of 300 spay/neuters to be performed during the grant period, but we were unable to reach this target. This was due to a number of factors that were mostly beyond our control. Because of our policy that all cats and dogs in a household be sterilized as a requirement for being accepted as a client of the Clinic, most of our spay/neuter referrals come from new clients to the program. Since screenings for new clients were suspended for several months during the grant period, we had fewer spay/neuter referrals than

normal. Once screenings resumed, the volume required by the grant quickly overwhelmed the capacity of our partner, the UF College of Veterinary Medicine Merit Clerkship in Shelter Medicine, so we had to add new partners to our grant and get them approved by Florida Animal Friend.

In the end we were able to perform 167 surgeries on grant funds, costing a total of \$7710.00. The remaining \$5,790 was returned to Florida Animal Friend. Despite our difficulties, this outside funding for spay/neuter made a significant difference to our bottom line, allowing us to spend money that would otherwise have gone to sterilizations on other needs like medicines, equipment, and moving expenses.

On and off the grant, SFPC referred a total of 259 spay/neuter surgeries.

Source	Number of surgeries
On Florida Animal Friend Grant	167
Non-FAF, UF Shelter Medicine	57
Non-FAF, No More Homeless Pets	35
Total spay and neuters	259

Spay and neuter surgeries referred by St. Francis Pet Care in 2012

Grants

As noted above, SFPC received a 2011/12 spay/neuter grant for \$13,500 from Florida Animal Friend.

SFPC also applied for, and received a 2012/13 Gainesville Community Grant which will reimburse us \$20 for each client visit to a Clinic veterinarian up to a total of \$2,500. The Gainesville Community Grant program is open to non-profit community organizations providing eligible services to needy individuals and families. In 2012 the Gainesville City Commission voted to expand the program to include veterinary care as an eligible service, allowing us to apply for the first time. SFPC is deeply grateful to the City Commissioners and to John Wachtel in the City's Housing and Community Development Division for helping us through this process.

Finally, in 2012 SFPC applied for grant funds from the Banfield Charitable Trust (BCT). The BCT helps financially challenged pet owners keep their pets healthy by assisting with veterinary emergencies and preventive care, as well as giving grants to community-based nonprofits who provide veterinary assistance to vulnerable populations. We applied for funding to purchase needed medicines and other pharmaceuticals, veterinary supplies, and equipment beyond what we receive through donations. Award winners were notified in January 2013 and (although this jumps the gun on our 2013 Annual Report) we are very excited to be a recipient of an \$8000 grant.



Banfield
Charitable Trust

Partnerships and Networking

SFPC volunteers Celia Martin and Deborah Harris have been attending the monthly meetings of Community Caregivers, representatives from a number of local organizations working in health and human services.

In May SFPC joined the Non-Profit Center of North Central Florida and sent a volunteer to the Non-Profit Summit on May 24. She found the keynote speaker from the Prison Entrepreneurship Program both inspiring and full of good advice.

In October SFPC participated in the annual "Breakfast on the Plaza," sponsored by the Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry. Dozens of service providers had tables explaining their programs and handing out food, clothing, supplies and information.

The HealthStreet program on Archer Road aggregates services including health screenings, community classes, computers and the Internet, job skills and job searches, and other health, social and educational opportunities for underserved populations in Alachua County. SFPC is exploring how we can have a closer connection to HealthStreet and a tour of the facilities has been scheduled for early 2013.

Events, Outreach and Other Activities

The SFPC "Regulars," a group of 20 or so volunteers, continued to meet monthly to plan events, fundraising, outreach and other activities. Some of the Regulars also volunteer at Clinic, some help with record-keeping, pricing inventory and goods donations, and/or do other necessary "back room" jobs that Clinic staff rely on.

Chris Machen and Dale Kaplan-Stein, DVM, spoke about SFPC at the January meeting of the Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association. The GGDFFA has been a great friend of SFPC over the years, making us the beneficiary of several donation drives.

Cassidy Rist, DVM, spoke about SFPC at the February 2012 meeting of the Alachua County Veterinarian's Association. Dr. Rist, a long-time Clinic regular, moved to Atlanta mid-year and is currently a Fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

On February 25, SFPC participated in the 5K-9 Dog Run and Pet Supply Drive at University Commons. The event, sponsored by the Pledge 5 Foundation, allowed us to hold a silent auction and to request donations of goods such as kennels, pet food and unopened flea and heartworm preventives.

On March 15 Sweet Dreams Homemade Ice Cream donated a percentage of their profits to SFPC, and volunteers staffed a table outside the store to provide information about the organization.

March 16 was the official Open House for the Clinic's new SE 2nd St. location. The Liquor Shop in Jonesville donated wine and beer, and Leonardo's donated pizza and bread rolls. WUFT FM gave us a 15 second Public Service Announcement to promote the event, which was quite well attended.

On March 23 two SFPC volunteers attended the Non-Profit Symposium sponsored by the United Way.

On April 26 Beef O'Brady's on Archer Road held a benefit night for SFPC. We received a percentage of the bill for any customer who mentioned SFPC to their server.

On May 19 we held our annual yard sale in the grassy area at the intersection of NW 34th St. and NW 53rd Ave. This great location benefited from traffic going to and from the nearby Farmer's Market, and the sale was a good success.

In June we got a wonderful offer – a new Chuy's Tex-Mex restaurant was opening in Butler Plaza, and they invited us to be the beneficiary of their Pet Wall of Fame promotion. For one weekend afternoon, a Chuy's photographer took photos of dogs outside of PetSmart for framing and hanging on the wall over the bar at the restaurant. The entire \$5.00 photo fee was donated to SFPC.

Earth Pets of Gainesville held a Gator Pets photo event as a benefit for SFPC in September. It was not only an unexpected source of donations, but also provided volunteers with the opportunity to talk about SFPC to people who had not heard of us before.

Volunteers staffed a SFPC table at the Gainesville Downtown Festival & Art Show October 13-14 and the Micanopy Harvest Festival October 20-21.

SFPC participated in the Belks Charity Sale Raiser on November 2. Volunteer sold tickets to the special sale and tabled at the event.

Balance Sheet

Our unaudited 2012 balance sheet is provided as an appendix.

APPENDIX: St Francis Pet Care, Inc. Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2012

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Alarion checking	27,304.25
PayPal account	61.08
SF House account	-10.00
UF Foundation	731.21

Total Checking/Savings	<u>28,086.54</u>
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Total Current Assets	<u>28,086.54</u>
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TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>28,086.54</u></u>
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current liabilities

Credit cards	230.72
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Total Current liabilities	<u>230.72</u>
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Total liabilities	230.72
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Equity

Unrestricted Net Assets	26,349.37
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Net Income	2,506.45
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Total Equity	<u>27,855.82</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>28,086.54</u></u>
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