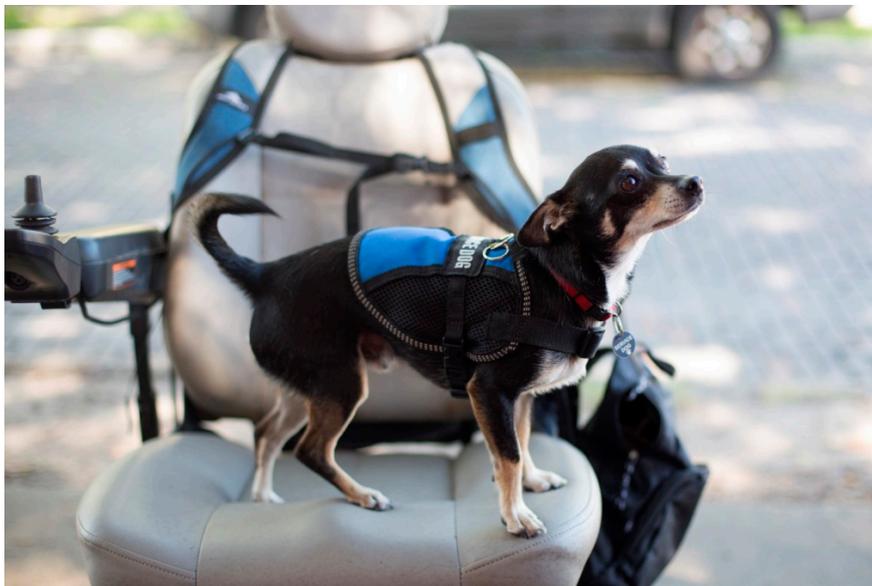


# St. Francis Pet Care

# 2014

Annual Report of St. Francis Pet Care, Inc.  
January 1, 2014–December 31, 2014

Annual  
Report



## **Mission**

The charitable mission of St. Francis Pet Care (SFPC) is to help keep people in our most vulnerable communities together with their pets, so both can benefit from the human-animal bond. To this end, we provide primary non-emergency veterinary care to the companion animals of homeless persons, veterans referred from the VA, and very low income residents of Alachua County, Florida. We provide exams, treatment, vaccines and medicines, consultations, spay/neuter services, monthly flea and heartworm preventives, pet food and pet supplies. 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. We educate our clients in responsible pet care and help them improve the lives of their pets. We do home visits when necessary to ensure the well-being of the animals and reduce the incidence of zoonotic diseases in these communities.

## **Services**

St. Francis Pet Care provides primary non-emergency veterinary care and services to responsible but homeless or very low income pet owners at our weekly Clinic. We only see pets belonging to clients who meet our eligibility criteria and have attended a screening and orientation session.

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 students and other community volunteers.

Primary veterinary services provided include exams, vaccinations, and treatment for common problems. Our vet techs do nail clipping and microchip implantation. Patients are provided with medications for common ailments such as ear infections, skin conditions, and pain. Clients are supposed to come in monthly to pick up doses of flea and heartworm preventives, and they can get pet food weekly. Pet supplies (leashes, collars, harnesses, coats, beds, cat litter, 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. SFPC arranges and pays for intact animals to be sterilized and in some cases provides transportation.

## Special Cases

St. Francis Pet Care provides a needed service in the community, and volunteering with SFPC in any capacity is a generally rewarding and often uplifting experience. However, there are also moments of sadness, frustration, and helplessness. For example, we regularly get calls from people who live outside of Alachua County looking for help or referrals to other organizations that could help them, and there often is nothing to say. Indigent people will call with acute or emergency problems – a dog was attacked by another dog, a cat has stopped eating – and all we can tell them is try to borrow from a friend and call a local vet. The saddest thing is to have a pet under SFPC care who needs more than our weekly Clinic can provide, such as surgery or radiography. Until recently there was little we could do for these animals, but in 2013 we reserved a small amount of our budget to reimburse external veterinary practices for treating these special cases.

In 2014, aided by a Veterinary Assistance Grant from the Banfield Charitable Trust (BCT), we were able to expand the Special Cases program. It is walking a fine line in more than one respect. Even with BCT support, the funds available for special cases are limited, and finding satisfying criteria for selecting which animals to treat is difficult. Should only long-time SFPC clients be eligible, or can we refer pets new to our program? Is it right to use these funds for humane euthanasia, or only for treatments that extend life? Should younger animals with better prospects be preferred, or older animals because their owners are so attached to them? What is the maximum amount that can conscientiously be spent on a single case, and how can we guarantee treatment won't exceed that amount?



Mr. King is eating again and doing great after surgery.

Even discussing Special Cases, as we are doing here, is risky. On the one hand, we want to be transparent to our donors and supporters, so they understand how we use their contributions. We want to publicize the good things that we do, and, of course, we want to thank our major funders, like the Banfield Charitable Trust, publicly. On the other hand, we don't want people applying to join our program only when their pets are very sick, hoping we will pay for extraordinary care. We don't want the clients already in our program to assume Special Case treatment will be available to their animals when they need it. And we worry not only about fairness, but also about the perception of fairness – it is critically important that no client feels discriminated against.

Despite all the issues, the ability to provide extraordinary treatment to some of our patients is a downright wonderful thing. We see quite a number of elderly pets, and many of them have what can only be called terrible mouths. Advanced periodontal disease not only causes pain but can impair the animal's ability to get adequate nutrition and can damage organs such as the heart, kidneys and liver. SFPC's most common use of Special Cases funds in 2014 was to perform dental cleaning and extractions, which is surgery done under anesthesia. Other cases involved tumor removal; enucleation; blood work, radiographs and/or other diagnostics; therapeutic grooming; and humane euthanasia. Special Case treatment will continue to be a part of SFPC's services, even as we work to find the best balance of cost and benefit.

## Highlights

### *Paws & Pals on the Run*



Winners of the 2014 Paws & Pals Best Costume Contest

The second annual Paws & Pals on the Run was held on April 5 at Jonesville Park. Thanks to good weather and a spectacularly dedicated event committee, the 5K Fun Run/Walk was a major success. There were 169 registrations (up 58 from 2013) and lots of four-legged participants as well. Several businesses – **Dampier Construction, Camp Marlin Doggie Day Care, Pet Paradise, No Stress Pet Sitting, Allstate Insurance, and**

**Town & Country Vets & Pet Resort** – had tables with information and giveaways. The event netted \$8000 and had a record number of event sponsors, donors to the silent auction, and sponsored teams.

We greatly appreciate all of the individuals and companies that sponsored P&P 2014 and want to give a special shout-out to major sponsor **KISS 105.3 FM** and these other generous businesses: **Shores Animal Hospital**; the intellectual property law firm **Saliwanchick Lloyd and Eisenschenk**; **Oaks Pawn & Jewelry**; **Zoetis**; **Cherished Memories Pet Cremation**; **Micanopy Animal Hospital**; **Gainesville Dodge**; **43<sup>rd</sup> St Deli**;; **Marvin Slott DDS**; **yurLogo**; **Sisset's Home and Patio**; **The Swamp**; **McGriff Williams Insurance**; **Leonardo's 706**; **Alarion Bank**; **Newberry Animal Hospital**; and **Gainesville Animal Hospital**.

### ***Closer to home***

After nearly two years of looking, SFPC found the perfect location for a new building – a lot owned by St. Francis House, Inc., adjacent to and behind the St. Francis House shelter. The St. Francis House Board of Directors worked with SFPC to sell us the property on terms we could manage, and we closed on the property in October. The lot is large enough for a clinic building, an outdoor waiting area, and parking. At the end of the year, the SFPC Board was still considering building options and potential partners.

### ***Steps beyond***

Orientation days, holding Clinic, and facilitating spay/neuter are the bread-and-butter activities of St. Francis Pet Care. However, we so often deal with exceptional circumstances that they are hardly exceptional any more.

This year we began doing a limited number of home visits in teams consisting of a vet, a senior volunteer, and when possible, a vet tech. Most visits were to clients that are housebound and have no one to bring their pets in to Clinic. We also did some tent visits for clients who have no transportation and dogs too large for the bus. The teams take care of checkups, vaccinations, nail trims, and other common needs and assess what needs to be done to help the owner insure the wellbeing of the animal.

Although we are not an animal rescue organization, it is not unusual for our volunteers to be involved in rehoming an animal temporarily or permanently. Sometimes a client will become unable to care for a pet because of illness or a change of living situation. Occasionally clients need to find fosters for their pets while they spend time in rehab or in jail. Sometimes our clients will hear about animals being mistreated or puppies being

passed from owner to owner in tent city. When we can, we will place animals with responsible clients or with rescue groups.

Although we don't normally take puppies under a year of age into our program, we will help the owner get them spayed or neutered, and we always ask where the puppy came from. Our volunteers have been known to jump through hoops to track down the mamma dog and try to persuade the owner to let us get her spayed.

## Statistics

### *Clinic and Clients*



Clinic was held every Tuesday of the year except the Tuesday between Christmas and New Years' Eve. Through purchase and donations, we had enough pharmaceuticals and pet food to serve all of our clients. It was never necessary to suspend screenings for prospective new clients. However, towards the end of the year, screening/orientation sessions were moved to a bi-monthly schedule. On

average we scheduled 50 people for each session, and had about 50% attendance.

At the end of 2014, SFPC had 337 active clients, down nine from 2013. We took in 199 new patients (pets) and ended the year with 513 active patients, up 4% from last year. The number of client and patient visits was down very slightly from 2013, but the amount of flea and heartworm preventives distributed remained about the same.

### **Clients and patients, 2014 compared to 2013**

	2014	2013	Difference
Active clients	337	346	-9
New patients	199	144	+55
Active patients	513	492	+21
Inactivated patients	199	142	+57
Inactive patients	1683	1486	+197
Total active/inactive patients	2196	1978	+218

**Vet visits and food/meds pickup only, 2014 compared to 2013**

	2014	2013	Difference
Client vet visits	748	806	-58
Dog vet visits	745	810	-65
Cat vet visits	185	200	-15
Total pet vet visits	930	1010	-80
Client visits food/meds only	1266	1283	-17
Dog food/meds	1460	1462	-2
Cat food/meds	428	448	-20
Total food/meds	1894	1910	-16
Client visits food only*	518		
Dog food only*	359		
Cat food only*	355		

\*New category in 2014

“Green folder” clients are those with semi-permanent eligibility. Clinic policy does not require these individuals to maintain current documentation, such as unexpired food stamp letters. The number of green folder clients stayed about the same as 2013 (up two) but the number of veterans in HUD/VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) tripled.

**Green folder clients by category, 2014 compared to 2013**

	2014	2013	Difference
Section 8 housing	3	3	
CHOICES*	0	1	-1
Dr. referral	25	21	+4
HUD/VASH	11	3	+8
IFH	7	8	-1
Disability	66	67	-1
VA referral	17	22	-5
Verified homeless**	44	46	-2
Total	173	171	+2

\*CHOICES no longer accepted in 2014

\*\*Homeless count includes 5 at GRACE

***Spay/neuter***

We were grateful to receive a grant from the Wagmore Foundation allowing us to partner with No More Homeless Pets (NMHP) to spay and neuter pets of qualified individuals (people who met the residency and income qualifications of our program).

SFPC volunteers screened and referred people to NMHP and forwarded a list of names to NMHP staff weekly. If the referred individuals then made and kept appointments with NMHP, their expenses were paid from the grant, including the cost of rabies shots and Elizabethan collars when necessary. We were able to sterilize 181 animals in 2014 under this grant.

Pets of homeless clients, pets of people without transportation, and animals less than 20 weeks old were sterilized by the UF Veterinary Community Outreach Program. In these cases SFPC volunteers transported the animals to and from surgery. Some spay/neuters were covered by a grant that Dr. Natalie Isaza procured for UF-VCOP, while others were paid from the SFPC budget.

**Spay/Neuter 2014 Totals**

	Male	Female	Total
UFVCOP - dogs	14	14	28
UFVCOP – cats	3	7	10
NMHP - dogs	46	74	120
NMHP – cats	31	30	61
Total	94	125	219

## Grants

SFPC received a 2014/15 **Gainesville Community Grant**, which reimburses \$20 for each client visit to a Clinic veterinarian up to a total of \$3000. The Gainesville Community Grant program is open to non-profit community organizations providing eligible services to needy individuals and families. Only services to residents of the city of Gainesville proper qualify for reimbursement.

As noted above, a grant from the **Wagmore Foundation** in the amount of \$17,100 allowed us to spay and neuter 181 animals in 2014. An additional 3 animals were sterilized in early 2015 with remaining grant funds.



**Banfield**  
Charitable Trust

A grant award from the **Banfield Charitable Trust (BCT)** added \$10,000 to the same amount put aside from our own budget for Special Cases. The BCT funds allowed us to treat an additional 19 animals.

## SFPC through the year

The SFPC “Regulars,” an informal group of 12-20 volunteers, continued to meet monthly to share information, discuss procedures, and plan events and activities. Many of the Regulars also volunteer at Clinic, help with record-keeping, help raise funds, and/or do other necessary jobs that keep St Francis Pet Care running.

In January, SFPC volunteers completed our second inventory, which went a bit faster than the first. We received two large and much appreciated donations of pet food and supplies, one from the **Levy County Humane Society** and the other from the Student Government of **St. Francis Catholic High School**. The students at our namesake, St. Francis Catholic High, have been enthusiastic supporters of St. Francis Pet Care for several years.



*St. Francis Catholic High School Student Government brought a big donation.*

February planning for Paws & Pals 2014 escalated as volunteers solicited sponsors whose names would appear on the event banner and T-shirts. Some Clinic-related tasks were reorganized so that we had one volunteer dedicated to spay/neuter requests and another dedicated to screening/orientation requests.

On March 15 volunteers tabled at **The Continuum 5K-9**, a run organized by Pledge-5, and we were the happy beneficiaries of a large amount of pet food and pet supplies raised by that event. Preparations for our own 5K fun run in April moved into their final, frenzied phase.

April was a banner month! Paws & Pals 2014 was a huge success, both financially and in terms of participation and fun. Clinic photographer Andrew Stanfill made a great short video about SFPC posted on YouTube (see <http://tinyurl.com/sfhpc-video>). We added the link to the video to the trailer of our letterhead and to all emails we send thanking donors. Final information from the United Way showed we had 76 total donors through the 2013 **UF Campaign for Charities**, including 32 people who had never donated to SFPC before.

In May we received another large donation of pet food and supplies from the **UF Pre-Vet Club**. No Regulars meeting was held so volunteers could recover from the Paws & Pals Event.

The idea of purchasing land from **St. Francis House** arose for the first time as a serious possibility in June. Kent Vann, the Executive Director of St. Francis House, went out of his way to work with his board of directors to facilitate the sale. **Daytime Dogs and Friends** made SFPC the beneficiary of proceeds from the June Canines and Cocktails for a Cause at Chopstix Bistro, which raised \$273.

In July SHPC volunteers toured Grace Marketplace for the first time with Elizabeth Howard of the **Home Van Pet Care Project**, and discussions began about how we could best serve the veterinary needs of pets at Grace. We also discussed concerns with the Alachua County Animal Services (ACAS) about the number of dogs adopted through ACAS that were ending up at Grace.

September marked the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SFPC, which saw its first client in September 2007. Several SFPC volunteers tabled at WOW!, the UF pre-health volunteer fair, on September 3. This event has traditionally been a good source of new clinic volunteers, especially vet techs. Also in September we changed screening/orientation session from monthly to bi-monthly.

October was a busy month. SFPC volunteers had a table at the UF Campaign for Charities kickoff breakfast on October 3, and staffed a table at the **Gainesville Pride Festival** on October 25. The **Humane Society of Alachua County** made an arrangement with a local

distributor to obtain their returns of pet food and cat litter and to allow local animal welfare groups, including SFPC, to pick up what they needed. **Earth Pets of Gainesville**, a committed supporter of all area animal welfare organizations, made SFPC one of the beneficiaries of their October 11 Day of Giving. On October 23, Daytime Dogs and Friends made SFPC the beneficiary of **Canines and Cocktails for a Cause** for the second time in 2014. The contract with **St. Francis House** was signed and first payment on the property made. The Regulars reviewed and revised SFPC procedures for spay/neuter, as well as the policy on eligibility for new clients.

On the weekend of November 8-9, volunteers staffed tables all day, both days, at two events: the **Gainesville Downtown Arts Festival**, and **Crossed-Over Connections**, a Psychic Fair held at the Paramount Plaza Hotel. The organizer of the Psychic Fair, **Barbara Patrone**, arranged for SFPC to receive the entire proceeds of an auction held the second day of the event. November 9 was also Mitzvah Day in the local Jewish community, and our very good friends in the congregation of **Temple Shir Shalom** bagged over 400 pounds of pet food and treats for our patients. Veterans Day fell on Tuesday November 11 and we had the slowest Clinic day of the year, reminding us how many of our clients rely on the bus for transportation. On November 14, the UF student organization **PAW (People for Animal Wellness)** held a dog wash fundraiser on our behalf.

On December 14, volunteers gathered at the house of **Dr. Kaplan-Stein** for a holiday pot-luck and stocking stuffing party. More than 100 tube socks and totes were filled with toiletries, candy, playing cards and other small gifts for distribution to clients of the Home Van, residents at Grace Marketplace, and our own SFPC clients. The holiday party at Clinic was December 16, and there were plenty of gifts and treats for both pets and people. Later in the month, staff of the **New York Times Editing Center** and of the **Shands Human Resources Department** visited Clinic with boxes of food and supplies in hand. Both of these organizations are wonderful friends of SFPC, and we are very grateful for their support. To end the year on a high note, **Gainesville Animal Hospital** collected and donated a bundle of pet food, treats, supplies and medicines.

Unfortunately it is possible to mention only a few friends and supporters here. SFPC would like to express our gratitude to all the people and businesses in the community whose generosity with their time and resources continue to make our Clinic possible.



# Balance Sheet

SFPC unaudited 2014 balance sheet as of December 31, 2014

## ASSETS

Current Assets	
Alarion checking	5,757.15
PayPal account	1,209.32
UF Foundation	731.21
	<hr/>
Total Current Assets	7,697.68
Fixed Assets	
Furniture and equipment	2,452.07
Real property	55,000.00
	<hr/>
Total Fixed Assets	57,452.07
	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS	65,149.75
	<hr/>

## LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities	
Accounts payable	133.52
Final payment on property	30,000.00
	<hr/>
Total liabilities	30,133.52
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Net Assets	35,016.23
	<hr/>
Total Net Assets	35,016.23
	<hr/>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	65,149.75
	<hr/>