

# C.A.R.E.'s Critter Chronicles

The Official Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort, Inc.  
1528 27th Street S.E. ♦ Ruskin, Florida 33570 ♦ 813.645.2273 ♦ www.careshelter.org

## Message from Our President, Joann With

Imagine that you are representing C.A.R.E. at a large event with numerous animal societies and rescue groups in attendance. As people stop by your booth, you tell them about our great facility, wonderful animals, and opportunities within our organization. Then someone asks you what makes C.A.R.E. different from all these other groups. You might respond by saying that we're not a rescue group, but one of three facilities in Hillsborough County. You explain that we are a no-kill shelter, and the only one in Hillsborough County that accepts stray and abandoned pets. You go on to tell them that our animals are vet checked and treated for whatever medical condition they may have upon arrival. You say that because of our small size that we are able to spend considerably more time getting to know each animal. Perhaps you explain that our cats are not kept in cages, but are free roaming in spacious condos separated by age; or that our dogs are outside every day where they get plenty of fresh air, exercise and play time. And that we provide support and guidance about caring for your new pet. But perhaps most important, you tell them we are a volunteer-run organization with approximately 120 active volunteers who devote countless hours to the care of our animals and the running of our organization. And with only one paid employee, the majority of the money we receive goes directly towards the care of our animals. All of this and the loving care we give to each and every animal make us not only different, but special.



## 2010 Board of Directors

- Joann With  
President
- Joanne Rice  
Vice President
- Lori Bruno  
Treasurer
- Chris Vergallito
- Laurie Clemency
- Phyllis Wilson
- Michelle Ward

## Medical Staff

- Dr. Bob Encinosa  
Director
- Dr. Clinton Cotten
- Dr. Sarah Stalnaker  
Gloria Blue  
Animal Care Manager

## C.A.R.E. Hours of Operation

Tuesday-Saturday  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Microchips Reunite Pets & Owners

To help area residents increase their chances of being reunited with their lost pets, C.A.R.E. is offering free microchip clinics. A microchip (the size of a grain of rice) is implanted between your pet's shoulder blades and, if the pet ever becomes lost and subsequently found by a stranger, the pet can be taken to any veterinary office or animal shelter to be scanned. The standardized microchip scanner "reads" the chip information. As long as the owner's information is kept current, the chip company (typically Avid or Home Again) can then identify who the animal is registered to. The clinics are being made possible by a grant from the Sun City Center Community Foundation and are being implanted in pets through the generosity of the staff at Boyette Animal Hospital.

The first microchip implant clinic will be held at Boyette Animal Hospital on November 13th from noon - 4:00 p.m. Boyette Animal Hospital is located at 10931 Boyette Road in Riverview. An appointment is

*continued on page 2*



**C.A.R.E.  
is a No-Kill  
Animal Shelter**

## Seeking Forever Homes

### Meet Meepers!

Meepers is a special cat in need of a special home. She was found as a drop off in a feral cat colony that she didn't belong to. She came to our shelter in March ready to deliver kittens and she was just a kitten herself. After delivering six beautiful babies she was diagnosed with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). Cats with FIV can live for several years without symptoms. Treatment consists of good nourishment, protection from stress and infectious disease, and management of secondary conditions. Meepers should be in a home with no other cats. The main route of transmitting the disease is through biting and breeding. She has been spayed and is current on vaccines. She needs to be kept indoors because immunosuppressed cats are more susceptible to infection. In the right environment, Meepers quality of life could be good for many years.

Oh, and did I mention that she is one of the sweetest cats ever??!!



### If You Want Someone Who ...

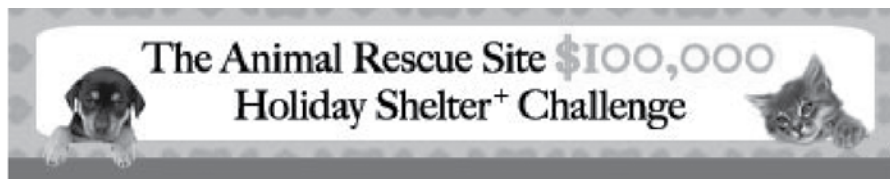
- will eat whatever you put in front of him and never say it's not quite as good as his mother's
- is always willing to go out, at any hour, for as long and wherever you want
- will never touch the remote, doesn't care about football, and can sit next to you as you watch romantic movies
- is content to get on your bed just to warm your feet and whom you can push off if he snores
- never criticizes what you do, doesn't care if you are pretty or ugly, fat or thin, young or old, who acts as if every word you say is especially worthy of listening to, and loves you unconditionally, perpetually ..

...then **ADOPT A DOG!**

### Microchips Reunite Pets & Owners

*continued from over*

required since quantities of microchips are limited. Owners must bring proof of a current Rabies vaccination in order to have the pet chipped. To make an appointment, please call Boyette Animal Hospital (671-3400) by Friday, November 12th. Additional free clinics will be offered in upcoming months at other locations. If you have any questions, please call Boyette Animal Hospital or C.A.R.E. (645-2273) Tuesday through Saturday 10-3.



### Click for C.A.R.E.

The Animal Rescue Site, offers a "Shelter Challenge." Click and vote for C.A.R.E. every day and the shelter has the opportunity to win grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to help our mission. You can also sign up for daily reminder to vote!

Make it your home page as a reminder to vote for C.A.R.E. daily.

*To vote:*

1. Go to [www.theanimalrescuesite.com](http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com)
2. Click on the Shelter Challenge tab
3. Input C.A.R.E. , FL, and Ruskin in the appropriate fields
4. Click Vote



This newsletter is printed courtesy of

**St. Petersburg Times**  
TAMPA EDITION  
In the know. In the Times.  
[tampabay.com](http://tampabay.com)

ADVERTISING IN THE CRITTER CHRONICLES NEWSLETTER IS AFFORDABLE AND EASY. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL (813) 661-2458.

## More Ways to Show Your Support ...

In our last issue of Critter Chronicles, we listed a number of ways you can support C.A.R.E. every day. As we approach the holidays, there are even more ways you can help us raise awareness and the funds we need to ensure a sound financial future. You don't even have to live locally to help us!

- Sign up for a C.A.R.E. 2011 Membership, make a one-time donation, or set up automatic monthly donations through our website's Donate Now button

- Join C.A.R.E.'s Legacy Circle and leave a donation to C.A.R.E. in your Will

- Get additional advertising for your business and sign up for a C.A.R.E. business membership or become a corporate sponsor for Pet Fest 2011

- Donate goods and services for office, shelter, and property maintenance

- Find out if your employer offers a Matching Gift Program

- Purchase a C.A.R.E. gift certificate for a friend or neighbor to adopt a new best friend

- Honor or Memorialize a special person or pet

- Purchase supplies and services from C.A.R.E.'s Community Partners (coming soon!)

The articles and opinions in this newsletter are the property of C.A.R.E., Inc. and are not endorsed by the Times Publishing Company or its affiliates.



## Cataracts

By Sarah Stalnaker, Boyette Animal Hospital

Cataracts are one of the most common conditions that affect dog's eyes. However, in cats they are fairly uncommon. They form in the clear structure located just behind the pupil of the eye called the lens. This structure aids vision by not only allowing light to hit the retina, or the back portion of the eye, but also by helping the retina focus images. When a cataract starts to form it decreases vision and eventually may lead to complete blindness of the eye. There are several different causes of cataracts. Some of the more common causes include dogs who are born with cataracts or who are genetically predisposed to form cataracts as they age. Diabetes can also cause cataracts. Any type of injury to the eye can eventually cause a cataract to form due to the inflammation it may cause to the lens.

**What should you do if you dog's eyes start to appear cloudy or their vision seems to be decreasing?** First, have your pet examined by your regular veterinarian. Many dog's eyes will start to appear cloudy as they grow older. Your veterinarian can determine whether this cloudiness is a cataract or if it is a more common condition called nuclear or lenticular sclerosis. Nuclear sclerosis is a condition where the fibers in the lens compress causing the lens to take on a more whitish color. Many dog's lenses will become cloudy with nuclear sclerosis as they age but it will not affect their vision and no treatment is needed.

**If your dog is diagnosed with a cataract, surgery is the only way to completely remove it.** However, not all dogs are candidates for surgical removal. Your veterinarian may refer you to a veterinary ophthalmologist who will perform several tests to examine the retina and determine if the rest of the eye will be able to function correctly after the cataract is removed. A blood test will also be performed to confirm that your dog is in good health for general anesthesia. Cataract surgery has a greater than 95% success rate.

**What if you are told your furry friend is not a candidate for surgery or the expense of surgery is too great?** Most dogs live extremely happy, healthy lives even with cataracts that have caused complete blindness. Unlike humans, dogs rely on their other senses, especially their sense of smell more than on their eyesight. They do however need extra assistance when taken to new environments and cannot be left outside without supervision.

Currently, C.A.R.E. has an adorable puppy named Bindi who has congenital cataracts. Although Bindi may never be able to see correctly, she has been able to use her other senses to run and play like any other dog her age. Bindi is looking for a good home where she will be loved in spite of her vision impairment.



If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dr. Sarah at Boyette Animal Hospital (813) 671-3400.

CARE medical staff provided by:



813/671-3400

[www.BoyetteAnimalHospital.com](http://www.BoyetteAnimalHospital.com)

Dr. Bob Encinosa  
Dr. Clinton Cotten  
Dr. Sarah Stalnaker

## Upcoming Events:

### **Thursday, November 11th Yappy Hour at Green Iguana**

Riverview

6:00 to 8:00PM

Bring your pet, sit on the patio and enjoy food and spirits.

### **Saturday, November 20th Pet Photos with Santa at Mercantile Bank**

HWY 41 Apollo Beach

2:00 to 4:00PM

\*15.00 Sitting Fee. You will receive a digital copy of your photo.

### **Thursday, December 2nd Wine Tasting and Jewelry Party**

at Four Paws Animal Hospital

9430 Balm Riverview Road,

Riverview

6:00 to 8:00PM

Wine and light hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and jewelry \$15.00 Per Person. Advance tickets can be purchased from C.A.R.E.

(813) 645-2273, Four Paws

Veterinary Hospital, or the Riverview Chamber of Commerce.

*\* Proceeds to benefit C.A.R.E. and the Riverview Chamber of Commerce*

## Want to Help? C.A.R.E. Offers Two New Programs

By Michelle Ward

### **Property Donation**

C.A.R.E. has partnered with the Works of Life Ministries to accept property donations of vehicles, boats, real estate, and collectibles. Works of Life Ministries is a non-profit organization that provides charitable works for other like-minded organizations and individuals in need. Their goal is to help non-profit organizations such as C.A.R.E. easily accept tangible property donations through their partnership program. They handle all aspects of the transactions (DMV paperwork, repair costs, closing costs, title insurance, and any other fees) and provide expert guidance for our donors. Because Works of Life is also a non-profit, our supporters can be assured that C.A.R.E. is receiving a substantial portion of the end donation (75% after expenses).

In this economy, many folks are wondering what to do with unwanted property. You can try to sell your property, and it could take months. Or you might end up selling for much less than your property is worth. In the meantime, you might also have the burden of maintenance costs. By donating your property to a charity such as C.A.R.E., you can claim a fair market value tax deduction. Donations are accepted nationwide and pick up is free anywhere in the U.S. Our donors will receive a receipt from C.A.R.E. upon pick up. For more details and a link to a donation form, visit our website at [www.careshelter.org](http://www.careshelter.org) and see our ad in this issue of Critter Chronicles.

### **Business Memberships**

Now our community business supporters can make a difference

and receive benefits such as additional advertising and invitations to participate in events hosted by C.A.R.E. At C.A.R.E. we understand that business owners are inundated with requests for donations each year, and usually, they receive very little back for their support. C.A.R.E. has hundreds of members in the South Shore area and that number is growing. By becoming a member you can support C.A.R.E. with your tax deductible donation and promote your business at the same time! With all of our packages you will receive a digital C.A.R.E. Business Member logo for use on your own marketing materials. You will be reaching the largest consumer group out there: Almost 80% of US families own a pet! So set yourself apart from your competition by showing your consumers you are doing your part to help your community and that you CARE. For more information about our business membership packages, call our office at (813) 645-2273 or email [CARevents@aol.com](mailto:CARevents@aol.com).

In addition to Business Membership benefits and as a reminder, C.A.R.E. also has ad space available for purchase in our quarterly newsletter. You can choose to publish a business card size ad, or larger to half or full page. The ads are coordinated and printed thanks to our St. Petersburg Times partnership. For more information, please see the Advertising section of our website (go to [www.careshelter.org](http://www.careshelter.org) – select Sponsorships and Donations then Advertising on the left navigation pane). You can also contact the St. Pete Times directly by calling Kelly Mariskanish at (813) 226-3397 or email her at [kmariskanish@sptimes.com](mailto:kmariskanish@sptimes.com).

## Lookalike Contest

Email photos of you and your lookalike dog/cat to [newscare@aol.com](mailto:newscare@aol.com) for a chance to win a t-shirt and be featured in our next newsletter.



# Have Unwanted Property? DONATE IT ... and SUPPORT C.A.R.E.



## Vehicles

Donate a vehicle (car, truck, RV, motorcycle, etc.) and claim a fair market value tax deduction. Pickup is free anywhere in the US.



## Boats

Donate a boat or other watercraft and enjoy a fair market value tax deduction. Pickup is free anywhere in the US.



## Real Estate

You can quickly liquidate your assets while benefiting from numerous tax breaks. Real estate donations are accepted anywhere in the US and abroad.



## Collectibles

All types of collectibles (vinyl records, antiques, coins, comic books, jewelry, stamps, etc.) are accepted as donations. Don't miss out on the great tax benefits!

*Proceeds, from your donation, benefit the abused and abandoned animals supported by C.A.R.E. No-kill Animal Shelter.*

**For more information, go to [www.careshelter.org](http://www.careshelter.org) or call 1-888-228-7320**  
*(Be sure to mention Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort as your charity.)*



Loving, In-home Pet Care  
for your "Furry Children"

**The Furry Godmother**

**Pet Sitting and More!**

Diana Nipper-McLaughlin

(813) 416-3866 • (813) 671-4060

[www.furrygodmotherpetsitter.com](http://www.furrygodmotherpetsitter.com)

E-mail: [furrygodmotherpetsitter@hotmail.com](mailto:furrygodmotherpetsitter@hotmail.com)

Licensed  
Bonded  
Insured

FA38726

## BARK BUSTERS

### HOME DOG TRAINING

- Any Dog/Any Age/Any Issue
- No Harsh Methods
- Ask about our "Life of the Dog" Guarantee
- Behavior Problems/Obedience
- Jumping Up/Aggression/Barking
- When All You Want is a Well Behaved Dog
- We come to you

**Happy Dogs = Happy Families**

**FREE Rate your dog's behavior at**  
[www.barkbusters.com](http://www.barkbusters.com)

Call 1-877-500-BARK

FA41139

## Alumni Mail



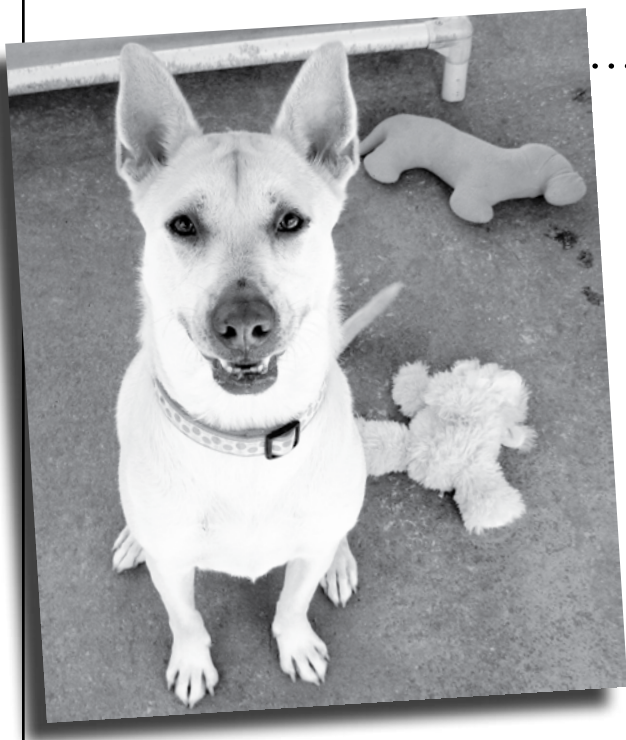
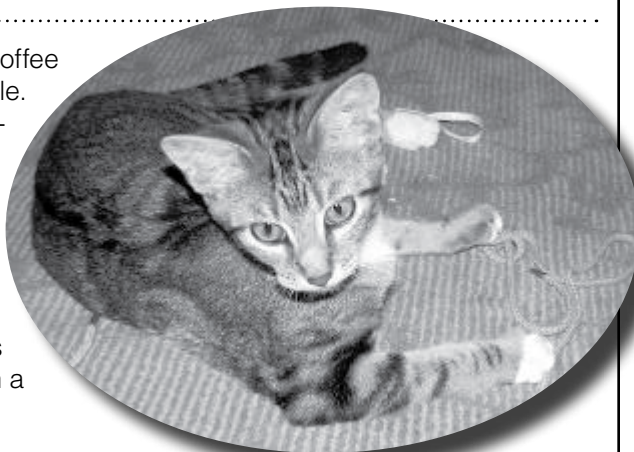
Hello to all my friends at C.A.R.E. I know that it has been a long time since you have seen me. I have been at my forever home for over a year now and am LOVING LIFE! My parents adopted me in July 2009 and have taken such good care of me. I'm proud to say that I am an inside dog now and am always on my best behavior. My dad takes me for a walk every morning and I even have my own fenced in backyard that I play in. I greet my Mom everyday when she comes home from work with kisses and my tail wags like crazy as soon as she walks in the door. Of course, I still use my paws to tap my parents when I want a little more attention and they always pet me (which I LOVE). Finally to all my friends waiting for your forever home, believe me it will happen as my dream came true! Thank you to all of you that took care of me before my parents came and took me to my forever home.

**Love Josie**

*UPDATE: Josie and her family were recently at C.A.R.E adopting a brother for her named Logan (Rottie puppy).*

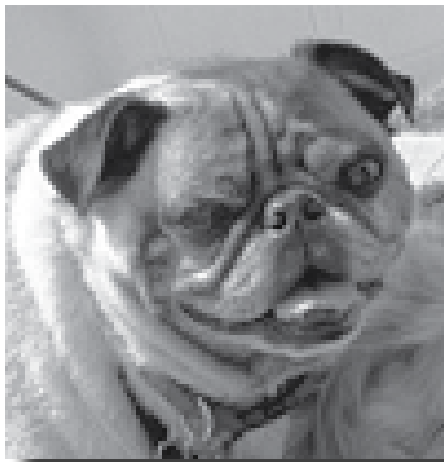
Molli is doing just great ! She spent the first few days under the coffee table and venturing out and back under until she was comfortable. She now is very happy with her big brother Arnold, a 15 pound dachshound, who she wrestles with. A slightly bigger sister, who was also a rescue the same day Molli came home to us, and a 22 lb cat named Barney. He rules the roost here and keeps everyone in line. Molli's favorite thing to do is run frantically around the house chasing nothing. It's a burst of energy that happens a couple times a day and the rest of us just get out of the way. She is most happy when she can account for everyone, if I am in the shower she cries outside the door until I am done, and if my mom is outside Molli is in a window watching her.

*She is a sweet little addition to our home and we love her! Thanks so much!*



## A Bittersweet Success Story ...

If you have ever lost someone you've known most of your life and loved, then you know how Sprocket is feeling right now. Sadly, Sprocket's owner died suddenly, leaving her homeless. A note that came with her said that she was the light of her owner's life. It also said that she was housebroken, had great house manners, and knows some basic commands. Spending time with Sprocket, the shelter volunteers also discovered that this beautiful Shepherd was very sweet, loves food and the doggy pool, and had a soft sad howl that would crush your heart. But the best ending to this story is that at the time of printing of this issue of *Critter Chronicles*, Sprocket has found that special someone to give her the love she deserves in a forever home!!



## Letter to Darwin

Dear Darwin,

Oh no. The holidays are coming and me and Angie really get miffed when the relatives come in and change our lives for days at a time. We both came to our new house three years ago and our humans are a great pair. Their kids are grown up, so it's just the four of us and we get lots of attention. But then their kids had kids and that was the end of our happy holidaying!

They come and stay with us and sometimes the little ones give us grief when the grownups are all busy talking and cooking and wrapping presents. I am big so they think they can ride me like a horse, and Angie has a fluffy tail and they try to turn her into a pull-toy. If we nip or hiss, we get in trouble. Thanksgiving weekend is four long days! What can we do?

*BigBo and Angie*

### Dear BigBo and Angie,

Many household critters go through the same thing. You have to decide if you are just upset because you aren't getting all the attention, or if you are really concerned that the children don't know how to treat animals.

Unfortunately, kid-play can either go unnoticed by the adults or it (egads!) can be considered "cute." Some of the most common kid actions should be stopped:

- Chasing pets - tempting, but aggressive and unnecessary.
- Applying excessive clothing to a pet or trying to turn the pet into a piece of art.
- Giving a pet some of their food or candy – not all people food is healthy for pets.
- Excessive teasing - pets don't like that anymore than kids do.

None of the above is acceptable



and can lead to worse behavior. Sometimes schools and playgroups just forget basic things – like how to interact with animals. Sometimes it takes 'til the kids grow up before they realize how important pets can be to their lives. And, I hate to say it, sometimes some of them don't ever learn and they're always mean to animals – and that's why we have to rescue them and bring them to the shelter.

Four days of a house full of people can be a lot. Here's an idea for a family outing that can give you two a little break. How about putting the family (all of them) into the car and send them down to C.A.R.E to see me. Some of my staff will be happy to give them a tour of the place, and the kids can learn all about why the cats and dogs are here with me.

But, I really don't want to forget the other side of your issue. Are you sure you two aren't just miffed because the kids are getting all the attention? If that is so, just remember the other 361 days of the year and give them a break. OK?

**Happy Holidays everybody!**

Darwin



## Renew Your Membership in Just a Few Clicks

A **Donate Now** button has been set up on the home page of our website ([careshelter.org](http://careshelter.org)) through Network for Good. In just a few clicks, you are able to help CARE's rescues and continue to receive this newsletter by renewing your yearly membership.

**Need help locating pet friendly apartments?**

**Check out [www.myapartmentmap.com/apartments/fl/](http://www.myapartmentmap.com/apartments/fl/)**



### The right partner for success.

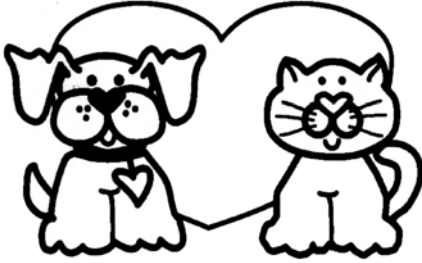
*The Times Community Development Program (GDP) was created to help raise the profile of your neighborhood while supporting your goals of promoting a well connected, engaged community.*

- Providing marketing and promotions support that enhances local community events.
- Newsletter production, customized welcome packages, fundraiser events and customized racks.
- Designing promotional materials that advertise community events to both residents and non-residents.

When you're ready to partner with a proven leader and explore the many benefits of the Times Community Development Program, call 813-661-2458.



# C.A.R.E.



Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort, Inc.

1528 27th Street S.E. ♦ Ruskin, FL 33570

C.A.R.E. has a three-acre shelter located in Ruskin and is an all volunteer effort. We rely on the generosity of public donations to continue our work. We have adopted over 2000 animals and have spayed and neutered over 4000 in our discount clinic. We are unique in the sheltering world as our animals do not spend their time at C.A.R.E. living in cages. Dogs are outside during the day and cats live in three open bays. We encourage visits and offer tours to local groups. For more information, visit our website at [www.careshelter.org](http://www.careshelter.org).

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
RUSKIN, FL  
PERMIT NO. 192

## Help Make A Difference. Join C.A.R.E. Today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  New Member  Renewal

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Newsletter? (circle one)  Yes  No    E-Mail C.A.R.E. Updates? (circle one)  Yes  No

Membership Level:  Regular Member (Bi-Monthly Newsletter)    \$30 donation

Premium Member (Bi-Monthly Newsletter+ T-shirt)    \$50 donation

T-Shirt Size:  S     M     L     XL     XXL

*Please send a check made payable to C.A.R.E. and mail it with this form to:*  
**C.A.R.E. / Attn: Membership ♦ 1528 27th Street S.E. ♦ Ruskin, Florida 33570**

### IN THIS NEWSLETTER

November 2010

Message from the President	1	If You Want Someone Who ...	2	Lookalike Contest	4
Microchips Reunite		Click for C.A.R.E.	2	Have Unwanted Property?	5
Pets & Owners	1	More Ways to Show Your Support	3	Alumni Mail	6
Seeking Forever Homes	2	Cataracts	3	Bittersweet Success Story	6
		Upcoming Events • Want to Help?	4	Dear Darwin	7