

# Critter Chronicles

C.A.R.E.



*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](http://www.careshelter.org)

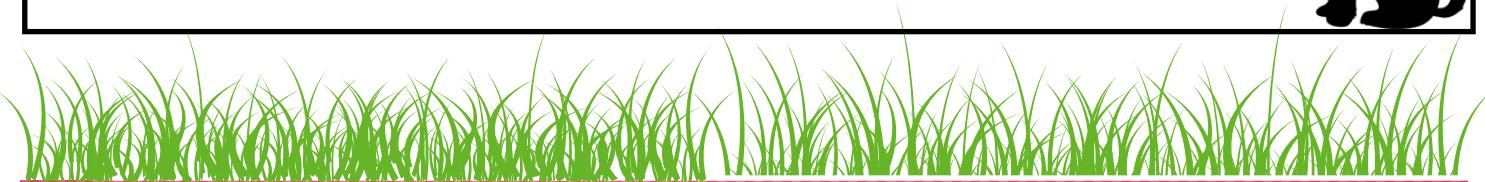


**Chico**

"I love Chico. He has the funniest personality and he loves to connect with you. It is almost as if he is talking to you. If you spend enough time with him you learn his language. He is a pretty cool dude!! So sweet," says Sheryl Jensen, who works with the dogs 5 or 6 days a week.

Chico is a pretty laid back senior doggie who loves someone to play with him, tugging on a rope toy. He will be a great companion for someone who really wants and understands a senior dog and his needs.

Stop by and meet Chico!



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

## From the President's Desk

As we leave the long hot summer days behind us and head into the season of Fall Festivals and Holidays, I see my calendar filling up fast. There is a long list of community events where C.A.R.E. will be represented by volunteers on the Outreach Committee.

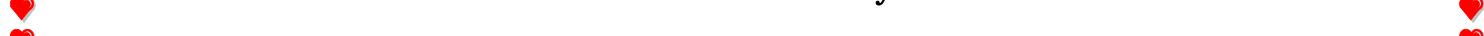
These events may be fundraisers, like the Gift and Wine Fair, or opportunities to find more shelter volunteers and showcase our dogs and cats, in order to find them homes. We could not do all this without our dedicated team of volunteers. If you would like to join the team, a volunteer application is available at the shelter and on the website at [www.careshelter.org](http://www.careshelter.org). We also welcome people who have a fundraising background. A list of some of the upcoming events is on page 8. We hope to meet you at one of these events.

There is a disturbing trend in our community. More and more animals are being abandoned on the streets to fend for themselves, or left at our gate, as the recent family of nine was. The parents and their seven puppies were left at around 11 p.m. and found at 7 a.m. the following morning. We had no choice but to take them in, even though we were full at the time, but the truth is that irresponsible acts like this put animals in danger and overload our already stretched resources. Protocol demands they be quarantined for 30 days, which is very difficult to do when we don't have the proper space. Going forward, all nine will need spaying or neutering, vaccinations and possibly other medical care. That is a considerable expense for the shelter and adoption fees will cover only a fraction of that expense. Your donations would help tremendously.

*Penny*



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November 16th ~ 10 AM to 3 PM

A Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.) Fundraiser

# Gift & Wine Fair

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122 Falls Boulevard, Apollo Beach

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Tickets will be available at the door for a \$10 donation to benefit our 501(C)(3) Animal Rescue in Ruskin. Receive a free Raffle Ticket!

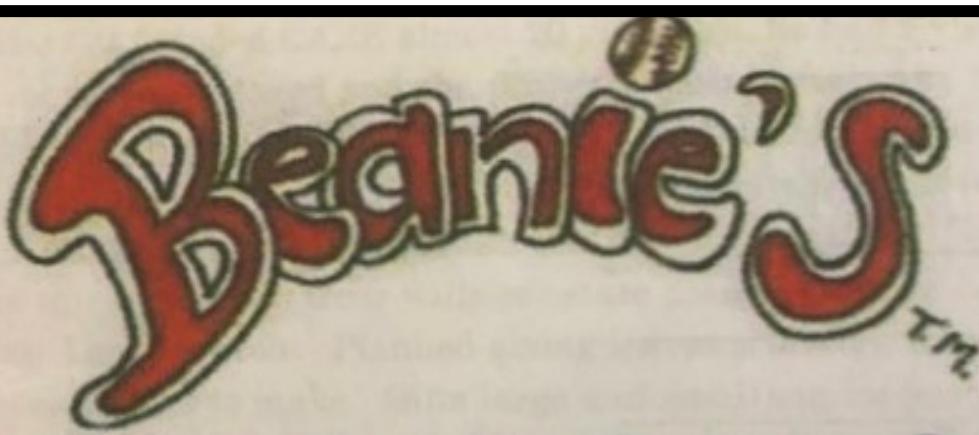
Plus, the first 50 ticket holders receive a free shopping bag.



## Preparing Your Home for a New Cat or Dog

Whether it's tightly sealing your garbage cans or paying attention to dangerous decorations during the holidays, you'll need to make your home safe before adopting. That includes keeping toxic foods, pet-unfriendly plants and dangerous household items out of paw's reach. Here are some suggestions for preparing your home to welcome a new canine or feline companion.

- Put a cozy bed for your pet in every room. Pets are much more likely to keep off of furniture if they have attractive alternatives.
- If you have a cat, try putting double-sided sticky tape or upside-down carpet runners on furniture to discourage her from scratching.
- Avoid vertical blinds, pooling drapery, ornate tassels and long cords that can become strangulation hazards.
- If you have cats, be sure to install high-quality metal screens on all windows.
- It may be a good idea to roll up and store decorative rugs until your new dog is fully house-trained.
- Provide your new cat with a variety of scratching posts and perches.
- Use dog crates and gates to confine your new dog when home alone until his house manners earn him unsupervised freedom.
- Provide plenty of "legal" things for your dog to chew. If he has attractive toys and bones of his own, he'll be much less likely to gnaw on your things!
- Check to make sure that plants in and around your home are not poisonous to pets.



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Don and Chris have been in the hearing business for over 45 years combined. The Guileys share the commitment of educating people that hearing should be treated the same as eyesight, as it is one of our contacts with the outside world. Additionally, they share the motto of "*We are not just in the hearing aid business, but in the business of helping people hear.*" Because we care, we strive to produce individual solutions for each hearing impaired person we serve.

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## For the OutReach Committee!

The **OutReach Committee** at C.A.R.E. is looking for others to join our committee to help execute our events. We are in need of volunteers to serve as **positive role models for our shelter**.

This committee is focused on community awareness and small fund raising to supplement shelter costs. We execute off-site events such as speakers for community organizations, representation at local fairs, adopt-a-road and promotion of memberships.

### Committee Member Requirements

- you need to be a current C.A.R.E. volunteer OR a new volunteer who has completed a shelter tour and training with the OutReach Coordinator.
- you need to commit to attending Planning Meetings on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 PM.
- you need to demonstrate a passion for animal rescue/welfare.
- you need to assist with off-site events as available. You need to be comfortable meeting and talking with others at public events.

If you are interested in joining us to further contribute to C.A.R.E., contact Jenn in the shelter office with your name, phone number, email address and information regarding your volunteer role at [volunteercare@aol.com](mailto:volunteercare@aol.com)

The Out Reach Coordinator will be in touch to explore your interest.



**Upcoming Events—Come Out and See Us!**

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| September 27-29 | GDX Theater in Riverview—Secret Life of Pets Movie                               |
| October 3       | Sun City Center Expo   |
| October 12th    | Halloweenie at Little Harbor, costume contest for your pets                      |
| October 18      | Sam's Club   |
| October 19      | Paws in the Park, Apollo Beach Dog Park  |
| October 22      | Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce Luncheon featuring nonprofit Organizations |
| November 2-3    | Ruskin Arts and Seafood Festival at E.G. Simmons Park                            |
| November 16     | Gift and Wine Fair at SouthShore Falls   |
| December 2      | Annual Members Meeting at the SouthShore Regional Library 6 :30 p.m.             |

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Does your homeowner's insurance policy cover you if your dog is involved in an incident? Some policies will not cover certain breeds. Some policies require you disclose up front what breed of dog you have. If you don't know the answers to these questions, call your agent, and then call Michelle at SouthShore Insurance Professionals.

### C.A.R.E. Membership

The Annual Members Meeting will be held at the SouthShore Regional Library on December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. There will be a review of our accomplishments over the last year, as well as the election for new board members.

If you were never a member before, now is a great time to join! We are embarking on a new journey for the future of C.A.R.E. and you could be a part of that. You will be able to say, "I remember when C.A.R.E. was in a small dilapidated converted house, and with my help, they were able to build a new state of the art facility." As the SouthShore community explodes with all the new housing around us, the need is greater than ever before for our shelter to rescue and rehome the abandoned, neglected and surrendered dogs and cats. We, as the only no-kill facility in South County, are their only hope.

Please join us! Call the shelter at 645-2273.

### *Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort, Inc.*

1528 27<sup>th</sup> St SE Ruskin, FL 33570



813-645-2273



[www.careshelter.org](http://www.careshelter.org)

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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\$35 - Basic Membership (includes car magnet)     \$50 - Premium Member (includes car magnet + t-shirt)

\*\*\*Premium Members, please select a shirt size:  S  M  L  XL  XXL

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Visa  Mastercard  Discover CC #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note** - The annual membership period is January 1st through December 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. For any memberships initiated during the fourth quarter (October 1 – December 31), the new member also receives their membership for that quarter free.

C.A.R.E. is a 501(c)(3) organization (59-3678003) registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Registration No. CH-14526.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800)435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



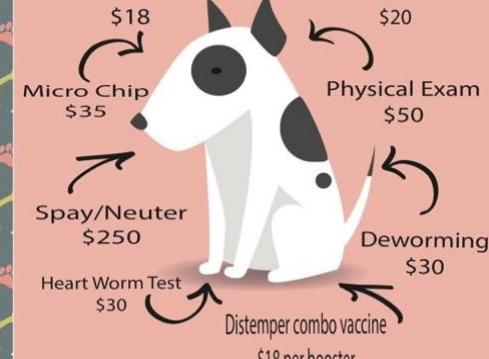
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## What does my adoption fee cover?

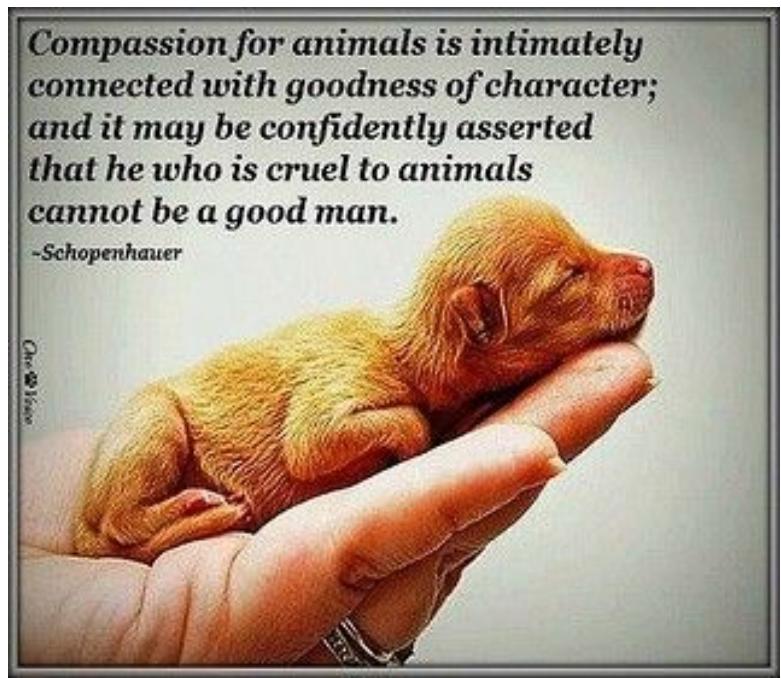
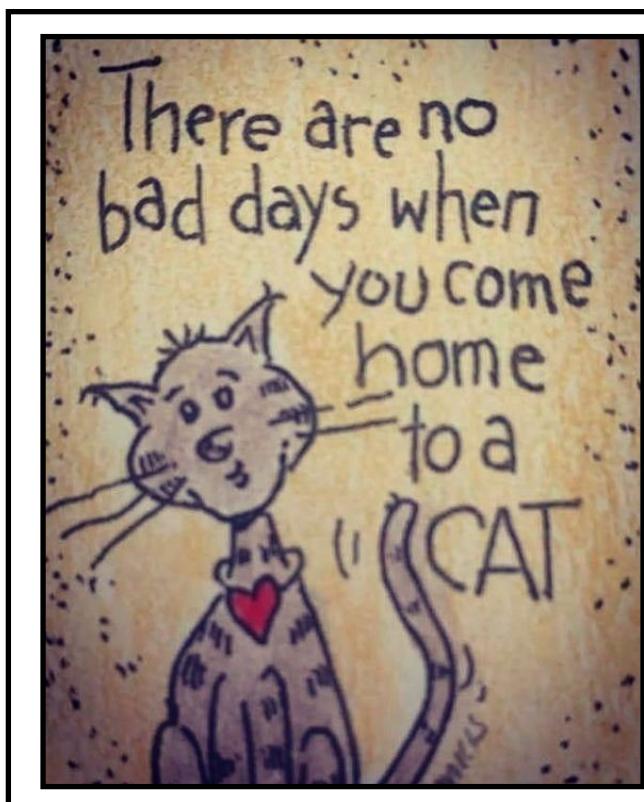


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**Our adoption fees cover a \$400+ value for only \$100!**

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Telephone: (813) 645-2273  
E-mail: [VolunteerCARE@aol.com](mailto:VolunteerCARE@aol.com)

Visit us online at [www.careshelter.org](http://www.careshelter.org) for more information



## Spotlight on Cats



### Georgy

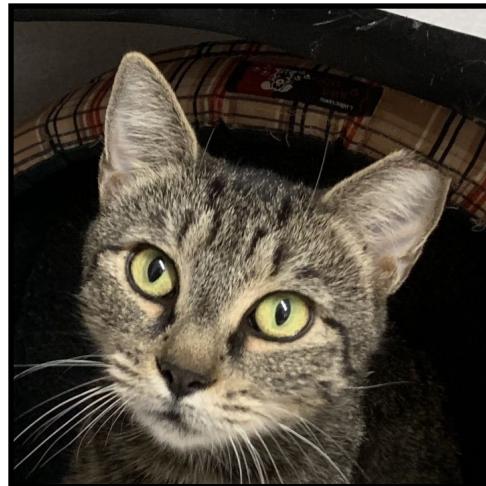
This beautiful kitty is George! He is the most affectionate cat in the world. He would love nothing more than to be right next to you or in your lap most of the day. He knows his name and comes when called. He also gets along well with the other cats in his room. Please help us find him a loving home!

Come and see him soon!



### Camille

This beautiful striped tabby is Camille. Camille used to be an outside cat on the grounds of the Firehouse Cultural Center in Ruskin. Board member Beth Ann Stein rescued her and had her neutered and then brought her to C.A.R.E. to find her a home. Camille is very sociable and gets along well with other cats and she is now ready for a permanent home.



### Lucky Black Kitties!

Lucky because we rescued them but now they need permanent homes. They are all very sociable and curious and have been neutered already. They will be awesome family members and keep you entertained for hours.

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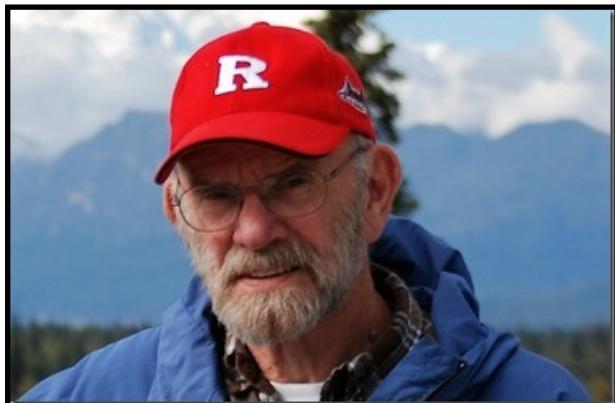
Dr. Rochelle Campbell

Dr. Damen Muller

Kelsey Hinsz CVT

Gloria Blue, Animal Care Manager



**John Fischer, Vice President**

I joined CARE in early 2006, shortly after retiring. I became acquainted with the shelter while attending the Ruskin Seafood Festival in Simmons Park. I began working Wednesday mornings with the dogs and was soon tapped to assist on spay and neuter days to clean the instruments after surgery. I did that for about seven years. While I no longer do that, I have continued to clean and

maintain the autoclave which is used to sterilize the instruments.

A couple years ago I became Wednesday shift lead when Juli Thome moved to Arizona. I also replaced her on CARE's Board of Directors at that time. I had been attending meetings as an interested volunteer for almost a year before that. I have been vice president for the past year.

As a board member, I am the chair of the Emergency Planning Committee and a member of the Long Range Planning Committee. For the past two years I have been picking up donations from Amazon to supply CARE's food shed. After my wife Becki retired a couple years ago, I convinced her to volunteer at CARE, which she does on Saturdays in the office and Mondays in the cattery.

We have a dog which we adopted from CARE about two years ago. He was Gerber then and now he is Rex.



Phyllis Gannon lived much of her life in the Northeast, but relocated to Florida in 1994. She has two daughters and two grandchildren.

She received a BA in Psychology from American University and an MSW from The Catholic University of America, both in Washington, D.C. She was in Human Resources for most of her career.

Phyllis has been on C.A.R E.'s Board of Directors for 8 years, an officer for 2 years, and has also been on the Development/Outreach Committee for 8 years. She is on the Long Term Planning Committee and the Disaster Planning Committee. Phyllis and her dog, Harper, live in Apollo Beach.

## How Spaying Your Pet Could Save Its Life

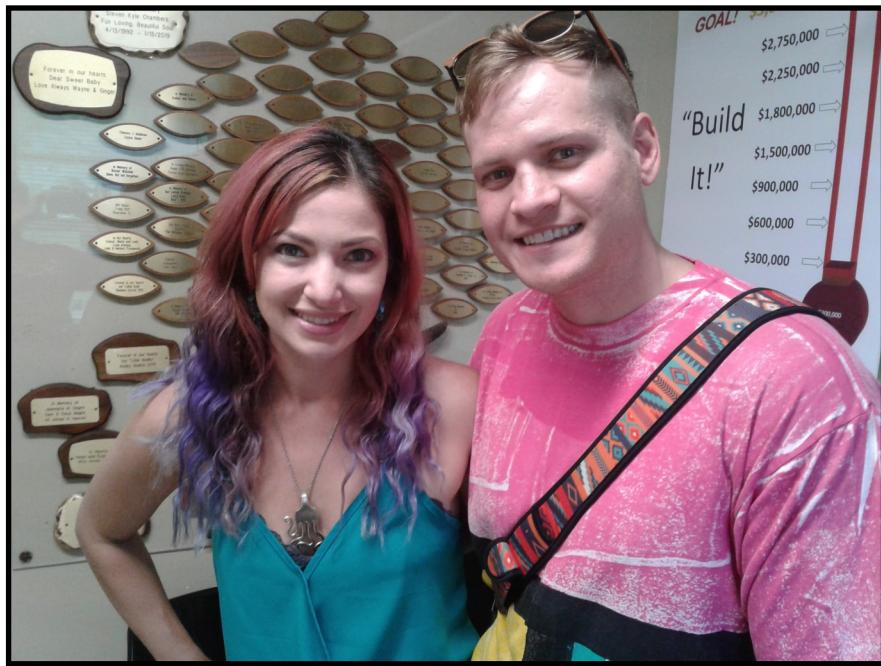
Did you know that spaying your female dog or cat does more than just prevent an accidental pregnancy? It also eliminates the risk of a deadly disease, pyometra. This term literally means “a uterus filled with pus.” I once removed a canine uterus that weighed over 5 pounds due to the fluid and infection that accumulated! This condition occurs more frequently in older females who have never had a litter; usually a few months after their heat cycle has ended. They are at an increased risk as they age due to the hormonal effects that can cause the walls of the uterus to become diseased and leak fluid. Symptoms may be fairly obvious with pus dripping from the vulva or excessive licking of the area. Other times symptoms can be quite vague. Pets may act lethargic, not want to eat as much, drink a lot of water, vomit, or even have a swollen belly.

Cats are excellent at hiding illness until it becomes severe, so even minor symptoms should be addressed with your veterinarian. Without treatment this infection can progress until the uterus eventually ruptures and life-threatening sepsis ensues. Thankfully, if caught early, most dogs and cats will make a full recovery. The diagnosis must be confirmed with bloodwork, x-rays, and sometimes an ultrasound.

Once I saw a suspected pyometra that in reality was a surprise pregnancy when x-rays were taken! The cornerstone of treatment is emergency surgery to remove the infected uterus and ovaries. This surgery is similar to a spay except it carries a higher complication rate due to the risk of the uterus tearing or leaking. Antibiotics, as well as pain medications and hospitalization with intravenous fluids are also required.

If your family includes a middle aged to older dog or cat, consider having them spayed now before a pyometra has time to develop. Not only is a traditional spay substantially less expensive, but it is also safer for your beloved pet.

**Sarah Hilario, DVM**



### Ralli Roots Supporting C.A.R.E.

Our friends, Alli and Ryan, were back to visit the shelter. They have over 100k followers on their You Tube channel where they share their love of re-selling, travel and animals. They were able to video some of our wonderful animals and plan to post them to their site soon.

As true rescue animal supporters they sponsored a fund raising sale on their site, contributing \$700 to CARE. <https://www.youtube.com/user/ryanrootsinc/featured>

# Out**A**bout in the community



Volunteer Karin Smith at a recent outing to Sam's Club

The CARE OutReach Committee is busy this fall with over 12 off-site events. These events give us the chance to collect donations, share information about the shelter, and recruit volunteers. You will find where we are on the flyer on the bulletin board posted by the office. Maybe stop by and see us! The OutReach Committee is always open to member volunteers. See the notice posted on the office bulletin board to learn more.



### Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort, Inc.

1528 27th St. S.E., Ruskin FL 33570

CARE has a three acre shelter located in Ruskin and is a mostly volunteer effort. We rely on the generosity of public donations to continue our work. We have adopted over 2,000 animals and have spayed and neutered over 4,000 in our discount clinic. We are unique in the sheltering world as our animals do not spend their time 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.

CARE Medical staff provided by:



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*Dr. Bob Encinosa*  
*Dr. Rochelle Campbell*  
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