



For Immediate Release

Contact: Jan Wiley
Office: 850.487.3655
jhwiley@dos.state.fl.us

Pets Celebrated at Mission San Luis

~Fifth Annual Blessing of Animals to be Held at Mission San Luis~

TALLAHASSEE — Mission San Luis invites pet owners, animal lovers, and furry, feathered, or other friends to the fifth annual *Blessing of Animals* to be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. This free event will feature:

10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

– Individual pet blessings by Franciscan Father Robert Young. Photographs and certificates of each blessing will be available for purchase.

1 to 2 P.M.

– Juan Carlos Galeano will read poetry featuring the many animals from Amazonian folktales.

10 A.M. to 2 P.M.:

– Hands-on art activities for children.

– Complimentary pet treats.

– Representatives from various animal organizations exhibiting with pet adoptions and information about their services.

The *Blessing of Animals* originated in the 13th century in remembrance of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and the environment, who believed that all animals should be treated with dignity and respect. Similar ceremonies are held across the country each October.

“Over 500 guests attended the 2008 blessing with pets ranging from dogs and cats to snakes and hawks,” said David B. Ramsay, Chairman of the Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc. “*The Blessing of Animals* is extraordinarily satisfying because it allows exhibitors to showcase their services, pet owners to show off their beloved companions, and animals to feel special and pampered.”

This event is sponsored by the Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc, Brusters, Real Ice Cream, New Leaf Market, Super Perros, and Tallahassee Coca-Cola. Donations have been made by Magic & Fun Costume Shop, PetSmart, Sam’s Club, SignPrinters and Winn Dixie.

Mission San Luis is a living history site and National Historic Landmark. It was the western capital of Spanish Florida from 1656 to 1704 and has 65 acres of nature preserve. Today, the 17th century is brought to life through costumed interpreters and period buildings. The site is located at 2100 West Tennessee Street. Daily hours are 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., Tuesday through Sunday. For more information please call 850.487.3711 or visit www.missionsanluis.org