



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

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Pets Celebrated at Mission San Luis

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

TALLAHASSEE — The Friends of Mission San Luis invites pet owners, animal lovers, and furry friends to the third annual Blessing of Animals to be held on October 6. This free event, which begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m., will feature individual pet blessings by Father Robert Young, the only Franciscan residing in Tallahassee. Complimentary treats will be provided for all dogs and cats, and photographs of each blessing will be available for purchase.

The Blessing of Animals will feature artwork by local K-12 students, musical performances, hands-on art activities, costumed living history, archaeology demonstrations and museum exhibits. Representatives from Angels That Purr, Animal Service Center, Big Bend Bird Club, ComForT, D.A.R.T., Florida Aussie Rescue, Leon County Humane Society, PAWS, Suzy Q's Pet Boutique, St. Francis Wildlife Association, Talleon, TLC Rabbit Rescue, and Watercolor Pet Portraits will be present with information on their programs and pets for adoption.

“Over 500 guests attended the 2006 blessing with pets ranging from dogs and cats to snakes and sugar gliders,” said Bonnie McEwan, Executive Director at Mission San Luis. “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., Panhandle Pet Supply, Pollo Tropical, Rambana and Ricci, P.A., Ruby Tuesday – West Tennessee Street, Sam's Club, Staples, Tallahassee Pepsi-Cola, The Fresh Market, and Winn-Dixie Stores. The Blessing of Animals originated in the 13th-century in remembrance of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals

(more)

Division of Historical Resources • Bureau of Archaeological Research
Mission San Luis • 2021 West Mission Road • Tallahassee, Florida 32304
Administration, Archaeology & Research Telephone: 850.487.3655
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and the environment, who believed that all animals should be treated with dignity and respect. Similar ceremonies are held across the country each October.

Mission San Luis was the western capital of Spanish Florida from 1656 to 1704. Today the Mission brings the 17th century to life through costumed interpreters, period buildings, exhibits and archaeological demonstrations. The site is a National Historic Landmark and recipient of a 2006 *Preserve America* Presidential Award. Mission San Luis is located at 2021 West Mission Road in Tallahassee, Fla. The site is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is free. It is managed by the Florida Department of State's Bureau of Archaeological Research. For more information on Mission San Luis, call 850.487.3711 or visit www.missionsanluis.org.

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