



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jan Wiley
Office: 850.245.6389
jan.wiley@dos.myflorida.com

Pets Celebrated at Mission San Luis **Saturday, October 5, 2013**

~Ninth Annual Blessing of Animals to be held at Tallahassee's foremost historic site~

TALLAHASSEE — Mission San Luis invites pet owners, animal lovers, and furry, feathered, or other friends to the ninth annual *Blessing of Animals* to be held on Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. This event is free and open to the public. It will feature:

- Individual pet blessings. Free certificates of each blessing will be available. Bring your camera to record the event!
- The North Florida Paso Fino Horse Association showcasing this breed's unique history and abilities.
- Craft activities for children, including woodland animal mask-making.
- A parade and blessing of the Mission San Luis woodland animals.
- Representatives from various animal organizations exhibiting with information about their services. Some organizations may have pets available for adoption.
(Big Bend Bird Club, Big Bend Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), Bruster's Real Ice Cream, Coco's Treat Shop, CUE Center for Missing Persons, It's Meow or Never for Ferals, North Florida Paso Fino Horse Association, Pets ad Litem, TMH Animal Therapy, and TREATS)
- Dog agility demonstration at 11:30 A.M. by Red Hills Bark Busters.
- Hands-on archery and living history.
- Vendors with food available for purchase.

Guests are requested to bring pet food donations for area animal shelters. Animals must be on leashes or in carriers.

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.

The *Blessing of Animals* allows exhibitors to showcase their services, pet owners to show off their beloved companions, and animals to socialize and feel special. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc, the Mission's citizen support organization, and the site is administered by the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources.

Mission San Luis is *Florida's Apalachee-Spanish Living History Museum*. It was the western capital of Spanish Florida from 1656 to 1704 and is on 63 beautiful acres of north Florida. Today, the 17th century is brought to life through living history guides in period dress, exhibits, archaeology, and reconstructed colonial buildings. The site is pet friendly all year round and 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 850.245.6406 or visit www.missionsanluis.org

###