



PRESS RELEASE

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Alaqua Animal Refuge Announces Holiday Open House & Shopping Fair

FREEPORT, Fla., (Nov. 22, 2010) – Alaqua Animal Refuge, the Northwest Florida’s premiere no-kill animal shelter and adoption center, will host its third annual holiday open house on Dec. 11, noon to 4 p.m.

The family friendly event will feature live entertainment by the band Blackwater, holiday treats and beverages, photos with Santa, a petting zoo and children’s games, while showcasing the unique refuge in Freeport. Guests will also have the chance to meet Champ, a miniature horse that was rescued in September and quickly became an international Internet sensation through his courageous tale of survival.

As well, this year’s event will offer a holiday shopping fair, with groups of local youth, civic and service organizations and interested shelter supporters, along with artists and retailers, selling products and services to raise funds for Alaqua Animal Refuge.

A suggested donation of \$5 for guests 13 and older will be collected at the entrance, and each donor will receive five \$1 tickets redeemable at the holiday shopping fair.

“Our annual holiday open house is an opportunity to celebrate another year of saving the lives of neglected, abused and homeless animals with our supporters and members of the Alaqua Animal Refuge adoption family,” said Laurie Hood, founder and president of Alaqua Animal Refuge. “And this year’s holiday shopping fair will add another fun element to our family event that will help us raise funds to continue our mission.

“This event is also an opportunity to invite the community to experience and explore our refuge. It’s much more than a shelter, it’s a peaceful farm-like setting where animals can find care and safety until their perfect owners come along, no matter how long that takes,” Hood added.

For groups or businesses interested in participating in the fair, please e-mail April Madr at amadr@aarflorida.com or call (850) 880-6399.

About Alaqua Animal Refuge: Alaqua Animal Refuge, an independent, nonprofit organization located on Florida’s Emerald Coast, advocates the general welfare and humane treatment of animals by providing shelter, prevention of pet overpopulation and adoption services. Alaqua, located on 10 acres in the town of Freeport, was formed by Walton County, Fla.-resident Laurie Hood in 2007 when she discovered that countless animals were being euthanized due to a lack of a no-kill shelter/adoption organization in the area. Since that time, Alaqua Animal Refuge has helped find homes for more than 5,000 animals. Currently, up to 100 animals are adopted per month from this unique rescue facility, which serves as a true refuge for more than 250 animals at any given time.