



Orange County Animal Services
2769 Conroy Rd., Orlando, FL 32839
Contact: Vanessa Bouffard, (407) 254-9141

For Immediate Release

THIS EARTH DAY, GOING GREEN GOES TO THE DOGS

Orange County Animal Services Launches Environmentally-Friendly Poop Scooping Campaign

ORLANDO, Fla.—(April 20, 2009)—Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22, 2009, and with so much focus on environmental change why not include your pet in the movement to go green?

“Many citizens in our communities are choosing to leave pet waste behind,” said Katherine Lockett, Manager for Orange County Animal Services. “People think its natural—organic if you will—and simply breaks down over time but what they don’t realize is that not only does it make public areas unsightly, it also hurts the environment.”

Most animals generate disease-causing bacterium harbored in the stomach, coliform and even salmonella, which can make other pets and people, especially kids sick. Pets, kids playing where animals frequently defecate, and adults who garden are at most risk to some form of infection from animal waste.

“When pet waste is washed into our lakes and streams, the pollutants contribute to nutrient loading which can result in algae blooms and poor water quality,” said Lori Cunniff, Manager for the Orange County Environmental Protection Division. “Overly fertile water can become cloudy and green, and excessive fecal coliform bacteria from pet waste may cause the water to become unsafe for swimming and fishing.”

Orange County Animal Services recommends several tips to help people and their pets go green:

- When walking your pet, bring an eco-friendly bag, such as a used bread or grocery bag
- Carry an extra bag to avoid being caught off guard or to give to someone that appears to have forgotten their bag—one to care and one to share
- Dispose of pet waste properly—in the trash, not down the toilet
- If you live in a home with a yard, try to clean up pet waste at least once weekly
- Provide outdoor litter boxes for outdoor cats to reduce waste where people may be exposed to it

“In addition to environmental concerns, a hefty fine may also come with not picking up after your pet,” says Lockett. “We launched our ‘What’s the Scoop with Poop?’ campaign complete with door hangers and a new Web page to help educate citizens about the law and to remind people that picking up after your pet isn’t just a courtesy, it’s the healthy and environmentally sound thing to do.”

For more information about the “What’s the Scoop with Poop?” education campaign and environmental hazards associated with pet waste, please visit www.ocfl.net/poopscoop.

About Orange County Animal Services

Orange County Animal Services is one of Central Florida’s largest pet rescue and adoption centers. Last year, Animal Services received more than 24,000 animals at its shelter. For 40 years, the agency’s mission has been to protect pets and people in Orange County through courteous enforcement of the Orange County Code. Its vision is to give abandoned and neglected pets a second chance to live long, healthy lives in safe, loving homes.

###