



For Immediate Release

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Pets Celebrated at Mission San Luis

~Sixth 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 sixth annual *Blessing of Animals* to be held on Saturday, October 2, 2010 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. This event will feature:

- Individual pet blessings by Franciscan Father Robert Young. Photographs of each blessing will be available for purchase.
- The North Florida Paso Fino Horse Association showcasing this breed's unique history and abilities.
- Hands-on art activities for children.
- Complimentary pet treats.
- Representatives from various animal organizations exhibiting with pet adoptions and information about their services.

This special event is included with the regular admission fee to Mission San Luis. (Adults: \$5. Seniors 65+: \$3. Ages 6-17: \$2. Children under 6, Members, & Active Military: FREE)

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.

“More than 700 guests attended the 2009 blessing with pets ranging from dogs and cats to an iguana and a large caterpillar,” 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.” The event is sponsored by the Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc, the Mission's citizen support organization.

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 living history interpreters, exhibits, archaeology, and colonial 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 850.245.6406 or visit www.missionsanluis.org

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