FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boca Grande Club’s Tennis Ball raises nearly $70,000 for Suncoast Humane Society

Animal lovers gathered to enjoy dinner, drinks and a Silent & Live Auction at the Boca Grande Club on January 25th for their 9th Annual Tennis Ball: Fête for Pets, benefiting the animals and programs of Suncoast Humane Society. It was a record year for the Club’s event with nearly $70,000 raised by over 200 people who attended and volunteered at the event! Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner and cocktail hour while taking in the spectacular view that the Club affords. The silent auction, featuring select art, dining and golf packages, was followed by a vigorous live auction from Kennedy Brothers Auctioneers that kept the paddles in the air. By the end of the evening the featured package of 2 Sea Doo Jet Skis with a trailer, went under the hammer twice. The first winning bid raised $10,000 and then they were donated back again where they raised another $9,500. It was an exciting night for all, but most importantly for the animals of Suncoast Humane Society. In addition to the Boca Grande Club, the event was generously co-sponsored by Italiano Insurance and Grande Air Services.

Suncoast Humane Society, Executive Director Phil Snyder says, “It is the support of donors and organization’s like the Boca Grande Club that allow us to further our mission of reducing the number of homeless animals and improving the quality of life for those entrusted to our care. The event had a record year and we expect the final total to reach $75,000 with the additional donations that are raised during the Club’s 7-week Professional Tennis Exhibition that will be held every Wednesday from February 1st through March 15th.” The Professional Tennis Exhibition is cosponsored by Gulf to Bay Sothebys International Realty.

The exhibition will be Men’s, Women’s, and Mixed Doubles featuring top professional and collegiate players. A $5 donation is suggested at the entry gate, which benefits Suncoast Humane Society. Adoptable dogs and volunteers from the society’s Pet Therapy program will be on hand throughout the series to promote adoption and responsible pet ownership.
Suncoast Humane Society has been serving animals and people since 1971. Founded as Englewood Animal Aid Society, the organization’s services and programs were soon challenged to meet the demands placed on them by the pet over-population crises.

Expansions to their facility in Englewood during the 1980s and 1990s helped the Society to more effectively provide for a growing service area. To reflect the changes, the organization became Suncoast Humane Society. Today their service area includes Charlotte County, most of Sarasota County, and the Boca Grande portion of Lee County, a total of over 450 square miles.

Visit our adoptable pets and learn more about Suncoast Humane Society online at www.humane.org, in person at 6781 San Casa Drive, Englewood, FL 34224 or at one of our many community events!

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Photos by Heidi Marie Photography and submitted by Suncoast Humane Society

It was a colorful scene as guests arrived to the sit down dinner reception.
Monica Lucia and Suncoast Humane Society Board Member, Nat Italiano
Paddles were raised throughout the live auction in support of the humane society’s work to reduce the number of homeless animals in Sarasota, Charlotte and Boca Grande region of Lee Counties.
Lindsey Warren, Skylar Warren, and Carol Milne manned the “50/50 Plus” chance drawing.
Nancy Lake and Linda Sommerville showed their support for Suncoast Humane Society.