FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tennis Ball Fête for Pets A Huge Success

The 8th Annual Tennis Ball, benefiting the programs, services, and homeless animals of Suncoast Humane Society, packed the house at the Boca Grande Club on January 27. Over 190 attendees enjoyed an exciting live auction featuring an exclusive trip to Napa Valley, a Nat Italiano spaghetti dinner for 100, a fondue cocktail party at the Boca Grande Club and a plane excursion around the island. A delicious dinner, cocktail hour silent and live auction rounded out the evening. The Tennis Ball is sponsored by Italiano Insurance Services, Inc. and Grande Aire Services, Inc.

Executive Director Phil Snyder says, “We would like to extend our gratitude to the sponsors, donors, and everyone at the Boca Grande Club for making this fundraiser a huge success. A special note of appreciation goes to Blake Kennedy of Kennedy Brothers Auctioneers, in St. Petersburg, for conducting a highly spirited and very successful live auction. We raised over $60,000 from the Tennis Ball Fête for Pets, and donations from the seven week professional tennis exhibition that will be held every Wednesday from February 3 through March 9 will add to that total.”

There 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 will also be on hand at the matches.
If you are interested in learning more about Suncoast Humane Society’s programs and services, please visit their website at www.humane.org. All donations to Suncoast Humane Society are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

For more information, contact Suncoast Humane Society at 941-474-7884, visit www.humane.org, or stop by their adoption center at 6781 San Casa Drive, Englewood.

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.

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Photos provided by Ingrid Simke.

Attendees of the 8th Annual Tennis Ball hosted by the Boca Grande Club were greeted with a chance to win cash prizes and gift certificates to local businesses, all in a collectible mug.
The silent auction at the 8th Annual Tennis Ball featured 28 exclusive packages of entertainment, local dining, getaways, and luxury items that attendees were able to bid on throughout the evening’s festivities.

From left to right: Leah Cornish (Director of Business and Finance at Suncoast Humane Society), Blake Kennedy (Kennedy Brothers Auction Services), and Cheryl Casey (Director of Operations at Suncoast Humane Society), pause for a brief moment during the cocktail hour of the 8th Annual Tennis Ball at the Boca Grande Club.
A cocktail hour and silent auction awaited attendees of the 8th Annual Tennis Ball before a gourmet sit-down dinner was served in the dining room overlooking the Gulf of Mexico at the Boca Grande Club.

From left to right: Suncoast Humane Society supporter, Mary Ann Burke, and Lee. A cocktail hour and silent auction awaited attendees of the 8th Annual Tennis Ball before a gourmet sit-down dinner was served in the dining room overlooking the Gulf of Mexico at the Boca Grande Club.
From left to right: Jacqueline Elliott (Special Events Manager at Suncoast Humane Society), Ginger Frig, and Sara Jackson (Development and Marketing Manager at Suncoast Humane Society), pause during the 8th Annual Tennis Ball’s gourmet dinner and exciting live auction in the dining room of the Boca Grande Club.

Attendees of the 8th Annual Tennis Ball enjoyed a gourmet dinner and exciting live auction set in the picturesque dining room of the Boca Grande Club, situated on the beautiful Gulf of Mexico.
From left to right: Nat Italiano (Italiano Insurance Services) and Phil Snyder (Executive Director of Suncoast Humane Society) announce the winners of the silent auction at the 8th Annual Tennis Ball hosted by the Boca Grande Club.
From left to right (members of the Tennis Ball Committee): Yvonne Anderson, Jacqueline Elliott, Phil Snyder, Lori Coerver, Jack Johnson, Nancy Lake, Rosemary McIntosh, Stephanie Benton, Bryan Troutman, Jen Fiers, DeeAnn Phillips, Peter Elser, Nat Italiano.