

Greater New Orlear

'Ducks' float to victory for the St. Tammany Humane Society



By **Ann Benoit**
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The second annual St. Tammany Humane Society's Duck Derby at Bogue Falaya Park was a quack-tastic success. Tension mounted as over 4,000 ducks jostled their way to the starting gate. The event raises money for the Society by having donators "adopt" a duck like betting on a horse at a horse race.

At the sound of the starting quack, the ducks bobbed and weaved for positioning. Thrusting a webbed foot forward to the finish line was Top Duck, owned by Ms. Ava Heigle, who won the \$1,000 purse. All the long hard hours of training paid off for this lucky ducky.

Owner Kaci Woodall's second-place duck netted her a \$1,000 gift certificate from Whole Foods. Diane Herrin's duck placed third, bringing home a fitness package from cousin Pelican Athletic Club. Beak to beak fourth, fifth, and sixth-place winners paddled furiously, bringing home Nonna Randazzo's Baskets for owners Debbie Brooks, Daniele Palen and Nanette Martin.

Top Duck was not the only winner.

Some people fall in love at the Duck Derby.

Nyko, Gracie, Pepper, Spiffy, Katie and Gumbo, residents of the St. Tammany Humane Society, fell in love and found their forever homes at the Duck Derby. All were adopted at the event.

Spiffy was particularly outstanding at the kissing booth, his pink tongue never stopped licking.

Sweet Daddy's BBQ, Saint Arnold Brewery, Whole Foods, Sugar Shack Snowballs, Champagne Beverage Company, Pepsi, Nationwide Auto Sales, Pelican Athletic Club, the Pontchartrain Law Center, Camp Bow Wow, In Memory of Reba, Min Pins Rule, Nonna Randazzo's, Painting with a Twist, Second and Charles, Dusty's Services LLC Heating and Cooling, Liberty Storage, Bevolo Gas & Electric Lights, Jamberry Nails, Damsel in Defense, and Perlis Clothing were this year's sponsors.

In addition to the pets adopted at the Duck Derby, the event raised money for the St. Tammany Humane Society shelter in Covington.

St. Tammany Humane Society is Louisiana's largest non-profit (501)(c)(3), no-kill animal welfare organization and shelter. Since 1953, STHS has been assisting the ailing, abused and abandoned animals of the gulf coast region, and relies solely on the financial support of the community.

There are lots of ways to participate in addition to the Duck Derby. As new pets are available, they are posted on the St. Tammany Humane Society Facebook page.

The St. Tammany Humane Society also has a weekly summer camp for kids ages 8-13 and a program for seniors. Humans ages 65 years or older and animals 8 years or older can make the perfect match.

There is no adoption fee and the animal receives free vaccinations for the life of the pet and continued senior citizen discounts on all products and services.

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You can purchase tickets for The St. Tammany Humane Society's more formal fundraising event named "Unleashed." That will be held Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Pontchartrain Yacht Club on the Mandeville Lakefront.

There are opportunities to make straight donations online at www.sthumane.org or by calling 985.892.7387.

There are also volunteer opportunities at the shelter, located at 20384 Harrison Avenue in Covington. Adults and young adults ages 14-16 can volunteer there when accompanied by a parent or guardian, who also volunteers.

You can also apply to provide foster care for an underage, sick, injured or under-socialized animal in your home. Foster care helps to prepare the animals for adoption.

Send all Covington news, events, meetings, interesting stories, and just plain fun to resident Ann Benoit via CovingtonTownTalk@gmail.com.

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