

Tammany Tracker: Duck Derby gives pooches second chance



Advocate staff photo by SCOTT THRELKELD -- Volunteers gather up a raft of rubber ducks at last year's Duck Derby to raise money for the St. Tammany Humane Society.

BY ABBY DONALDSON

Special to The Advocate

Whether they've been picked up off the streets, taken from an abusive home or surrendered by an owner who can't take care of them anymore, the thousands of dogs and cats that fill the kennels at the St. Tammany Humane Society every year depend on the community to help them find a forever home.

"There is always that dog or cat that tugs at your heart strings, and when they get adopted, it's the best day ever. It reminds us why we're doing what we're doing. It keeps us going," said Susie Kaznowitz, St. Tammany Parish Humane Society director of development.

The St. Tammany Humane Society will host its annual Duck Derby and Festival on Saturday, beginning at noon at the Bogue Falaya Park in Covington.

"What we're really looking forward to is a great time out there, getting some of the animals adopted and increasing awareness about our mission," said Humane Society CEO Scot Bernier.

The Duck Derby and Festival is one of the main fundraisers for the humane society, which

operates one of the only no-kill animal shelters in the area. It is also a nonprofit, privately owned shelter.

“I don’t think people realize the scope of the work we’re doing, and without the people of St. Tammany Parish and the surrounding parishes, we wouldn’t be able to do it,” Bernier said.

The Humane Society finds homes for about 1,200 cats and dogs each year. This event will have 10 to 15 dogs available for adoption.

“Even if you don’t find one at the event, we have a whole bunch more at the Humane Society. You can still find the perfect companion,” Kaznowitz said.

The festival will have a lot more to offer besides adoptable dogs. The highlight of the day is the duck derby, in which participants can purchase one of the 5,000 rubber ducks that will race down the river, for a chance to win \$1,000 cash, \$1,000 in groceries from Whole Foods Market or a fitness package from Pelican Athletic Club.

The family-friendly event also will include live music by Big Al and the Heavyweights, draft beer by St. Arnolds, food vendors, a live broadcast by Triple U 98.9, raffles every hour and duck-themed games and activities for the kids.

Copyright © 2016, Capital City Press LLC • 7290 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810 • All Rights Reserved