

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** "Tag Day" 2006

**DEPARTMENT:** Public Safety      **DIVISION:** Animal Services

**AUTHORIZED BY:**       **CONTACT:** Mike Wittmer      **EXT.** 5202  
*MW*

Agenda Date 3/28/06\_ Regular  Consent  Work Session  Briefing   
Public Hearing – 1:30  Public Hearing – 7:00

**MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:** Approve sponsoring "Tag Day" to be held on May 7, 2006, and authority to waive the rabies vaccination, pet license and microchip fees during this event. (Mike Wittmer)

**BACKGROUND:**

The American Humane Association (AHA) sponsors a nationwide campaign, "Every Day is Tag Day", to encourage pet owners to microchip or tag their companion animals. According to a 1997 study, on average only 16% of dogs and 2% of cats taken in as strays at animal shelters are returned to their owners. At Animal Services last year, 35% of dogs and 4% of cats were returned to their owners.

Animal Services would like to sponsor a "Tag Day" public awareness event at the shelter on Sunday, May 7, 2006. The goals of the program are to educate residents

Reviewed by:  
Co Atty: \_\_\_\_\_  
DFS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
DCM:   
CM:   
  
File No. CPSAS01

about the benefits of tagging their companion animals, and administering rabies vaccinations as part of the Division's rabies control efforts. Rabies vaccinations are especially important considering Seminole County has been under a rabies alert since May 25, 2005. Event activities, that day only, would include free rabies vaccinations and free pet licenses for Seminole County residents, limited to five (5) pets per household, and giving away 25 animal identification microchip implants. The veterinarian under contract with the County would administer the rabies vaccinations.

Michael J. Napier, Seminole County Health Department Administrator, is working with staff to support this event.

This would be the fourth year the County sponsored a "Tag Day" event, which is a budgeted event with associated costs of \$1,341. The previous events have been well attended by residents.

Staff recommends holding the event on a Sunday when the shelter is closed to the public. This allows the veterinarian, staff and volunteers to work in an air conditioned building with the facilities to confine animals, if necessary.



Jeb Bush  
Governor

M. Rony Francois, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph. D.  
Secretary

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March 6, 2006

Michael Wittmer  
Manager, Seminole County Animal Control  
232 Bush Boulevard  
Sanford, Florida, 32773

Dear Mr. ~~Wittmer~~: *Mike*

Seminole County Health Department extends our support concerning Animal Services Public Awareness Campaign about the benefits of tagging and vaccinating companion animals. The community event, "Tag Day", that you have planned for May 7, 2006 is a great educational opportunity and will certainly enhance the public's awareness of the importance of care to all animal owners.

As Administrator of the Seminole County Health Department, we support and encourage your efforts to educate our citizens and vaccinate their pets.

Please feel free to contact me concerning any issue that I may be able to help you with, and I sincerely hope that this community event is a successful one.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Napier, M.S.  
Administrator  
Seminole County Health Department

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Michael J. Napier, M.S., Administrator  
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