



# PREMIER IN THE COMMUNITY

AUGUST 2014



## FACTS ABOUT ANIMAL HOMELESSNESS

Only one in ten dogs born will find a permanent home. The main reason animals are in shelters is because owners give them up or animal control finds them on the street. Homeless animals outnumber homeless people five to one. It's impossible to determine how many stray dogs and cats live in the US, but estimates for cats alone range up to 70 million. Three to four million dogs and cats are killed every year because shelters are too full and there aren't enough adoptive homes. 25 percent of dogs that enter local shelters are purebred. Only 10% of the animals received by shelters have been spayed or neutered. Overpopulation, due to owners letting their pets accidentally or intentionally reproduce, sees millions of these "excess" animals killed annually.

5 to 7 million companion animals enter shelters every year. Help us do something about it.



## ABANDONED PET RESCUE NO-KILL ANIMAL SHELTER

Abandoned Pet Rescue (APR), founded in 1996, is a 501(C)(3) IRS registered non-profit organization that rescues and shelters abandoned, abused and neglected pets, rehabilitates them and finds them new homes. APR is one of the largest no-kill animal shelters in South Florida and is devoted to the welfare of all animals. Most of the over 300 animals are cats, dogs, bunnies, iguanas, and other animals in need of help. While pet overpopulation is declining throughout the country, the number of animals brought to South Florida shelters is increasing.



This month, Premier Eye Care is helping out by collecting "wish list" items on behalf of this wonderful organization. Look for the deposit bins throughout the month of August. APR's primary goal is to assemble a no-kill community. If you want to get involved or help out their number is (954) 728-9010 and their site is <http://apr.rescuegroups.org/>.

Remember... your pets are NOT disposable!



## HELPING OTHERS HELPS YOU

If you see someone who is drowning and throw them a rope, they derive a benefit, no question about it. But you might, too. Your body might flood with feel-good chemicals that have a deep evolutionary heritage. You might get a little extra buffer from life's stresses and your heart might beat a little healthier. Your immune system might perk up. Your mood might lift. In fact, studies suggest that you may live longer simply by helping others through volunteering on a regular basis.

There's only one caveat; you have to genuinely care about the cause. Studies on volunteering, from adults to kids, find that for people to stick with it, they need to be doing something that excites them and that they feel called to do. Volunteering is successful when the individual is doing something that he or she feels confident about, so use your gifts.

## ABOUT PREMIER EYE CARE

Premier's People, Planet, Profit triple bottom line means we are dedicated to helping the community. Contributions to 501(C)(3) charities since 2012 have topped \$400,000 and include diverse groups such as the American Heart Assoc., the Drug Abuse Treatment Assoc., the Girl Scouts, Kenya Rescue, Tampa Crisis Center, Prevent Blindness, and more. Stay tuned for company-wide opportunities.



PREMIER EXPERTISE. PREMIER SERVICE.