

## Vaccinating cats and dogs

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Published: March 10, 2010

WIMAUMA - More than 800 people stood in the pouring rain recently to get their pets vaccinated - for free.

Rabies and distemper vaccines were administered to 783 dogs and 102 cats, which were then registered with the county. Free pet food and toys were given to people in financial need.

The clinic was made possible by a partnership between the Humane Society of Tampa Bay and Hillsborough County Animal services, and a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center.

"We usually do between 800 and 1,000, so this was a normal turnout for us," said Connie Johnson, chairwoman of the Hillsborough County Animal Advisory Board and vice president of the Humane Society. "Considering the weather, though, the turnout (in Wimauma) was amazing. It was so cold; it took me three days to thaw out my socks."

Sherry Silk, executive director of the Humane Society, said the turnout showed the dedication pet owners have for their animals. She said people were there as early as 7 a.m. for the event, which was scheduled to open at 9.

"We are very pleased so many came and so happy we could help," she said. "You don't have to have a lot of money to want the best for your pets."

"This is a fantastic opportunity," said Rosanne O'Brien of Ruskin, who couldn't afford to see a vet.

Watching her Labrador-mix, Bear, get his shot, she added, "This really helps out a lot."

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