



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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From the Humane Society of Pinellas, Clearwater, FL.: on June 16th, 2009 the Humane Society of Pinellas received a report that a cat was shot with an arrow in the vicinity of Whitney Rd in Clearwater. Our veterinarian went to the scene to rescue the cat, and bring the cat to the HSP Clinic where the arrow was removed and the cat received follow-up treatment.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is handling the case as a criminal felony. HSP is not aware of whether the cat is owned or is an abandoned cat. Our employees named the cat Robin Hood; he is a neutered male, orange tabby with no tags or microchip. The Humane Society of Pinellas is offering a \$500.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and criminal charges against the perpetrator. Statistics show violence against animals leads to violence against humans; and HSP supports full accountability of this crime within Florida law. "We will follow through the court process when the offender is caught", says Barbara Snow, Executive Director. Citizens may also contact Crime stoppers at 1-800-873-TIPS (8477) or sfraley@pcsonet.com to anonymously report information and receive a reward according to their criteria.

Cats are wonderful companion animals that should be kept at home for safety and should be wearing tags to identify owners. Cats without a residence, responsible owners or food often become feral and have reverted to a wild state. They are forced to hunt for food by preying on wildlife above the natural order of predator/ prey status. "Their life span is significantly lower when 'feral', and cats deserve better" says Twila Cole, Event Coordinator, "We hope Robin Hood will have a speedy recovery and inspire others to keep cats at home safe from those that want to harm them." Anyone wishing to help with the cost of Robin Hood's treatment may donate to the Humane Society of Pinellas at www.humanesocietyofpinellas.org – or, in Robin Hood's honor, adopt another of the many cats waiting for their 'Forever Home' at the HSP shelter on 3040 SR 590 Clearwater.

UPDATE: from Barbara Snow, Executive Director: (photo attached)

"Robin Hood is in the healing process as he continues under Dr. Beck's, (HSP veterinarian), care. He is able to begin weight bearing on his paw, but is still skittish to human touch – this may be attributed to trauma suffered as a victim of this crime or to his fending for himself without an owner or residence for a long period of time as a process in cats becoming feral and reverting back to a wild state. Cats should not have to live like this – they are companion animals. HSP will do all we can to help Robin Hood heal physically and emotionally to return to an owner, if he has one, or to readopt him to a new and forever home – he deserves this second chance for a better and longer life." 727.797.7722 ext 223.



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