

The Oklahoma Alliance for Animals takes a moment from its serious work to end pet overpopulation, promote responsible pet ownership and ensure the humane treatment of animals to indulge in a bit of fundraising frivolity known as the Fur Ball Gala. This year's event, co-chaired by local entrepreneurs and animal lovers Mary Beth Babcock (Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios) and Susanne Barnard (The Bead Merchant), has as its theme "Shanghai Muttsquerade" and will be an occasion to honor several individuals and organizations for their efforts on behalf of animals in the community. "The Fur Ball event is an opportunity for us to celebrate the accomplishments of those who work tirelessly for homeless, abused and neglected pets," said Jamee Suarez-Howard, president and founder of OAA. "We can accomplish so much more when we work together, and the Fur Ball event lets guests experience that sense of community our animal welfare partners demonstrate." The Lifetime Achievement award will go to Cynthia Armstrong, Oklahoma representative of The Humane Society of the United States, for her years of work at the State Capitol to protect animals; while Animal Aid of Tulsa will receive the "Making a Difference" award for helping the injured and maimed stray animals on Tulsa's streets. The evening, emceed by Karen Keith, will also include a tribute to the late Dana Gilpin, a Tulsa artist whose work often featured highly whimsical animals and who was a longtime member of the OAA board. Several local artists have donated works to be part of the evening's auction in Gilpin's memory. Also part of the festivities will be a Lucky Fortune Cookie Raffle for a trip to California's wine country and a Peking Duck Wine Pull. Tim Sullivan and band will supply the evening's entertainment. Event details: 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at Southern Hills Country Club, 2636 E. 61st St. Sponsors: Bruce Magoon, Animal Emergency Center, Tito's Vodka, The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation, Steve and Ruthie Duenner, Hughes Family Charitable Trust, Osage Casino, Midtown KIA, Woodland West Animal Hospital, Tulsa Town Veterinary Hospital, Southern Agriculture, Williams Companies, Bette & Wynn Wozobski, Mona Smith

Tickets: \$150 To purchase and more information: 918-742-3700, animalallianceok.org James D. Watts Jr. 918-581-8

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