

Phoenix Animal Rescue
Gainesville, Florida 32608

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BULL-ieve in Pit Bulls: Education Meets Rescue

Phoenix Animal Rescue seeks homes and a better image for the pit bull breed through adoption and education event

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – In an effort to change perceptions of the pit bull breed, while simultaneously reducing the number of pit bulls in local shelters, Phoenix Animal Rescue will host an event providing education and rescue efforts.

Phoenix Animal Rescue will host “BULL-ieve in Pit Bulls” from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 1, at the Archer Road PetSmart in Gainesville, Fla.

More than 200 pit bulls from local rescue groups will be available for adoption at the event. Adopters save 50 percent off normal adoption fees. The first 50 adoptors will also receive 50 percent off PetSmart training classes.

Michelle Dunlap, founder of Phoenix Animal Rescue, said “the purpose of this event is to educate the community about the truth behind the stigma of pit bulls as a ‘bully breed,’ and ultimately change that perception.”

In addition to showcasing adoptable, local pit bulls, “BULL-ieve in Pit Bulls” will feature various other educational and supportive resources for responsible pet ownership, including:

- Free engraving on dog tags for all community pit bulls
- Pit Bull 101 Seminar: an educational workshop addressing the myths surrounding the breed and providing information on responsible pet ownership. This seminar is an hour long and will be held at 10 a.m., and again at 2 p.m. In addition, offering “Ask-the-Vet” and “Ask-the-Trainer” booths for a little Q&A.
- Beyond the Myth: showing of the documentary. The first showing will be at 11 a.m. till 12 p.m. and will be show again, followed by a discussion section from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Adore-A-Bull Beauty Pageant and BBQ celebration: A chance for local community members to show of their well-behaved, beautiful pit bulls. This will take place from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. but contestants must register by 1 p.m. The first 15 contestants to register will receive a voucher good for a spay/neuter surgery or any single vaccination. Prizes for most well-behaved dog, receive the “Beautiful Inside and Out” award.

The shelters participating in this event include Phoenix Animal Rescue, Plenty of Pit Bulls, Gainesville Pet Rescue, Helping Hands Pet Rescue and Alachua County Humane Society.

PAR would like to extend its gratitude to PetSmart for hosting the event, PetSmart Charities and the ASPCA for providing grant money to fund the event, PetSmart trainers and West End Animal Hospital for donating their time and expertise.

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Phoenix Animal Rescue is a non-profit animal rescue group and pit bull advocacy organization. PAR is committed to providing adequate rescue and rehabilitation to dogs in need. The organization's mission is to rescue, provide sanctuary, and ultimately rehome abandoned, stray and neglected animals from the Levy County, Fla., area.