

**PURINA 2009 WALK FOR THE ANIMALS BENEFITED THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF  
GREATER MIAMI ADOPT-A-PET**

***This 9<sup>th</sup> annual event attracted a record 3,300 participants***

MIAMI, FL—February 21, 2009—It was a record gathering of 3,300 participants and their dogs at Bayfront Park. The occasion: the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Purina Walk for the Animals! It was a most amazing scene as dogs and humans pushed toward the starting line in order to participate in the one-mile stroll around Bayfront Park.

Before the start of the walk the crowd was greeted by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman, Grand Marshall; University of Miami President Donna Shalala, Leader of the Pack; Divine Savior Church, and Academy Principal Ben Troge, M. Ed, Education, Chairman. Then, exactly at 10 AM--it was off and walking!

For people who arrived early and those folks who didn't participate in the actual walk, there were lots of activities to enjoy. The Miami Science Museum had fascinating displays; the Miami Children's Museum and Miami Seaquarium provided interactive exhibits; there was a bounce house, inflatable basketball court, face painting, games and more for the kiddies. Vendors offered great food and there was a special bakery tent filled with mouth-watering pastries to be enjoyed with a cup of fabulous Café Pilon coffee. Yum! Even the dogs were creative with their own paw art!

The Walk is the Humane Society of Greater Miami's largest annual event. This year's event was a success as the event's fundraising goal was met. Since we receive no government funding, we depend 100% on private donations and special fundraising events such as the Purina Walk for the Animals. Every dollar raised from the Walk goes toward sheltering more than 250 homeless cats and dogs everyday and supporting important programs like low-cost and free spay/neuter services, quality adoptions, humane education and pet therapy.

For further information on the Humane Society of Greater Miami Adopt-A-Pet, please contact Laurie Hoffman at [laurie@humanesocietymiami.org](mailto:laurie@humanesocietymiami.org).

*The Humane Society of Greater Miami Adopt-A-Pet is dedicated to placing every dog and cat in our care into a loving home and to promoting responsible pet ownership and spay/neuter programs.*