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Jupiter Farms has its own Dr. Dolittle



By [JANIS FONTAINE](#)
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

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True happiness happens when you pursue your passions. At least Jupiter Farms resident Duncan Strauss thinks so.

"You can never go wrong operating from your passion," Strauss said.



Lab

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Duncan Strauss combined his love of animals with his love of radio journalism and public service to create a radio show, Talking Animals.

He should know. In June of 2003, Strauss started the radio show Talking Animals, in California.

"I took my love of animals, combined it with my love of radio, journalism, music and comedy, put all these ingredients in a blender, hit puree, and poured out the colorful concoction: Talking Animals," Strauss says.

In 2005, just two days after Hurricane Wilma, Strauss moved his family to Jupiter Farms, and found a new home for his radio show at NPR station WMNF in Tampa. The half-hour show airs at 11:30 the second Wednesday of the month and uses comedy, animal songs and special guests to focus on animal issues. There are several ways to listen online and you can even hear previous shows by visiting the archives. (Visit <http://www.talkinganimals.net>).

"I just always loved radio," Strauss said. "I think whether it's music or talk, it's a medium that commands a different sort of attention. There's something special about just listening."

The show also satisfied Strauss' need to give back to the community. "I come from a big public service family. The importance and the love for it, I got from my dad who was sort of a lifelong public servant. We all kind of took that interest and ran with it."

The show has found its own little public service niche, Strauss says. "There was a false start or two, but I knew I had something unusual. For the first few months it was tough, figuring out where I wanted to go with it."

Strauss says his goal with the show is to "educate and illuminate, but not proselytize. Fun is important. Having researched the shows out there, I didn't want to get too serious. I wondered if that was the most effective way to reach people. Not too light, but with some substance. It's hard to balance sometimes, but that's what we strive for."

Strauss achieves that by inviting an eclectic mix of guests designed to attract listeners who might not tune in otherwise. And, he says, "It's not just about pets, but animals issues of all kinds. Celebrating the animals, that's the objective, interwoven with music, comedy and talk."

Guests on the show range from Triumph the Insult Comic Dog to Bob Barker. Tune in on May 9 when Strauss' guest will be PETA's senior vice president Dan Mathews, who will talk about his recently published memoir Committed.

When he's not on the air, Strauss shares his Jupiter Farms home with his wife and son, and three cats: Curtis, Elwood and Homer. "But we're going to add more animals. Especially after our three-year-old gets ready to handle living with a pet. We'd like to have some chickens, maybe adopt a horse."

Upcoming pet events

An Outstanding Gift

for the Animals

The Barry Crown Charitable Trust made a \$2 million gift to the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League, Phil Kaplan, director of community relations, reported April 19.

Members of the Crown family will be attending the fourth annual Fur Ball on May 5th at the Country Club at Mirasol. This year the Fur Ball will be celebrating the life and acts of kindness of Barry Crown and his wife Beverly, said Janet Leveridge, chairman of the Fur Ball.

The Barry Crown Walk For The Animals supports the league's low-cost spay/ neuter programs. This year the record-setting event attracted more than 1,100 people.

The Fur Ball will be held from 7-11 p.m. May 5 at the Country Club at Mirasol, 11624 Mirasol Way, Palm Beach Gardens. It features a silent auction, cocktails, dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$200. Can't attend? Buy a raffle ticket to win a \$3,000 shopping spree at the Mall at Wellington Green. Tickets may be purchased online at www.hspb.org or by calling (561) 472-8870.

The Whitey Ford

Dog Days of Summer

Back by popular demand, The Whitey Ford Dog Days of Summer continue at 6:05 p.m. Saturday, May 26, June 30, July 21 and Aug. 18.

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Gates open at 5 p.m.

The concourse at Roger Dean Stadium will be transformed into a dog-friendly shopping area with dog agility demonstrations, games and activities for owners and their dogs. Additionally, the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League Pet Mobile will be on hand with dogs and cats available for adoption.

The first 100 dog owners will receive a free Dog Days of Summer T-shirt. Adult tickets \$7.99 plus tax; a Dog Pass for the season (Peggy Pass) is \$5, a direct donation to the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League. Roger Dean Stadium is located at 4751 Main Street (Abacoa), Jupiter. Call (561) 775-1818.

Fido fact of the week

That whole one year in a dog's life is the equivalent of seven in a human's isn't exactly true. A more accurate calculation is as follows:

At one year, a dog is the equivalent of 16 human years; at two dog years they are 24 human years; at three dog years, 30 human years; and for every dog year after that, add four human years.

Source: www.bestfriendspetcare.com



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