



# PAWSITIVE PRESS

Caring for Pets with Love & Kindness Since 1977

## Great News!

**The AHOD is now seeing Exotic Pets!**  
As of November 1 Dr. Sandra and Dr. Fazio will see your exotic pets too! Call now to schedule appointments for:

- Guinea Pigs
- Hedgehogs
- Ferrets
- Hamsters
- Rats
- Mice
- Gerbils
- Tortoises
- Turtles
- Bearded Dragons
- Non-Venomous Snakes

Visit [ahofd.com](http://ahofd.com) for a full list of our services for exotic pets.



## Fun Facts About Exotic Pets

BY DR. SANDRA IRURUETA, DVM

While we love our dog and cat patients, we also love other types of fur babies, scale babies and feathered friends. Did you know that basic veterinary school teaches the doctors about all kinds of animals and their basic care, not only dogs and cats? Here are some fun facts about some of those other species that may surprise you.

- In Pinellas county, **you are allowed one pot-bellied pig** per address and they are allowed pet status if they live indoors.
- In certain zoning districts of Pinellas County, **you are allowed four FEMALE chickens** per single family home for personal use, such as eggs.

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### NOV. COUPONS

- > Dental Cleaning
- > 5% off Wellness Fridays



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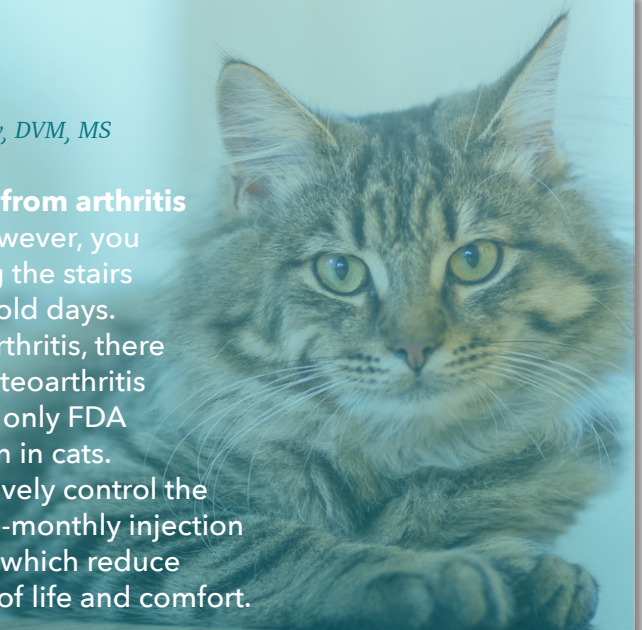
- **Ferrets** should have routine, yearly exams and Rabies vaccines, just like dogs and cats.
- **Rabbits and guinea pigs** can have tooth issues and may need to have their teeth trimmed for comfort and optimal health.
- **Guinea pigs and rabbits** are social animals and generally do best in a group. This does not mean that they cannot be happy as single pets with lots of attention and love.
- **Choose pets for children wisely.** Some non-traditional pets can have surprisingly long lives.
  - **A regular goldfish** can have a lifespan of 10-15 years with the right conditions and some varieties can even reach to be 30 years old.
  - **Guinea pigs** typically live 5-7 years as pets.
  - **Hamsters** typically live 2-3 years as pets.
  - **Rabbits** generally live 5-8 years but can live as long as 12 years.
  - **Bearded dragons** can live 10-20 years in captivity as pets.
  - **Many pet snakes** live 15 - 20 years as pets.
  - **Pet parrots** can live 15-80+ years depending on the type of parrot.

**Reptiles like snakes and lizards can bond with their owners and show affection.**

- **You can train ferrets, rabbits and guinea pigs** to use a litter box to help maintain their enclosures cleaner.
- **Most exotic pets** are kept in enclosures that are too small for them. For example, the ideal cage for 1 to 2 guinea pigs is at least 2 feet x 4 feet and many easily available cages are about half that size.
- **Have you ever smelled a ferret** and thought they stink? All ferrets sold in the US have actually been “descended”. Without this, their scent would be much stronger.
  - Speaking of smelly, **domesticated skunks** are generally extremely affectionate and loving pets.
  - **Rabbits and guinea pigs** can be affected by Bordetella bronchiseptica, the bacteria associated with kennel cough. If you have a dog or cat that has kennel cough, they can transmit it to your pet rabbit or guinea pig.
- To keep a **pet reptile** at their healthiest, you usually need some specific items like a heat source or heat lamp and a way to keep humidity at a certain level in the enclosure.
- Just because they’re cold blooded, doesn’t mean they are cold...**Reptiles like snakes and lizards** can bond with their owners and show affection.

## Did You Know? — By Michael Bartholomew, DVM, MS

**As your cat ages, you may not notice signs of pain from arthritis because cats are masters at hiding such things.** However, you may notice that your furry feline is no longer climbing the stairs with gusto or jumping onto that bookcase like in the old days. Despite the multitude of medications for dogs with arthritis, there has been very little in the way of safe and effective osteoarthritis treatments for cats, until now. Solensia is the first and only FDA approved treatment to help control osteoarthritis pain in cats. While arthritis is not curable, Solensia can help effectively control the associated pain and help improve mobility via a once-monthly injection which works like your cats naturally made antibodies which reduce pain signals. It can improve your furry feline’s quality of life and comfort.



## NOVEMBER COUPONS

Present these coupons during any qualified appointment scheduled during the month of November!



**10% Off  
DENTAL CLEANING**

**Call for your appointment today 727-733-9351**

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental lab work. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts.  
**Coupon must be presented at the time of service.**

EXPIRES 11/30/23



**5% Off  
WELLNESS SERVICES  
ON FRIDAYS IN NOVEMBER**

**Call for your appointment today! 727-733-9351**

This coupon is good for 5% off annual exams and vaccines when you schedule on Fridays in November. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Discount applies to: Annual Exam, Annual Fecal Test, Annual Heartworm Test, Vaccines.  
**Coupon must be presented at the time of service.**

EXPIRES 11/30/23

