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Animal Tales - October a busy month for pets

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October is considered the month for harvest and Halloween, but it's also become the season for animal-related events.

World Animal Day was Oct. 4, and National Feral Cat Day is Oct. 16. We've got the American Humane Association's Adopt-A-Dog Month, and Petfinder highlights it as Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month.

Last week I mentioned the Walk for Farm Animals scheduled for 10 a.m. Oct. 16 at Hugh MacRae Park. And blessing of the animals services are held over the first days of the month, coinciding with the birthday of Saint Francis of Assisi. (Check in at [Critters.blogs.StarNewsOnline.com](#) for more on these events.)

As a reminder, three more local events are coming up soon on the calendar.

Visit the second annual Salty Paws Festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 16 at Carolina Beach Lake Park. Admission is \$5 (children under age 10 are free) and pets are invited to attend. Funds raised will benefit area animal rescue organizations.

The event will feature entertainment and free gifts for the first 300 attendees, pet contests, children's activities, arts and crafts and food.

A \$30 microchip clinic will be conducted and rescue animals will be on hand, looking for homes.

For more information, call Jeannie Mintz at 520-6810 or visit www.SavingAnimalsDuringDisasters.org.

The third annual Paws-Ability Wag Shag is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 24 at the Sea Trail Convention Center in Sunset Beach. Festivities will include a buffet lunch, best-dressed dog contest, a doggie talent contest, a Halloween costume parade, obedience and other demonstrations.

Tickets, which must be purchased in advance, are \$35 for adults and \$20 for kids under 12. Dogs can attend for free.

For ticket information, visit www.Paws-Ability.org or call 579-4707.

The Hanover Kennel Club, Inc. will mark its 100th and 101st AKC-licensed, all-breed dog shows on the weekend of Oct. 16-17 at Legion Stadium in Wilmington. An estimated 550 dogs are slated to compete for the Best in Show prize.

Admission is free and the event is scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to around 4 p.m. both days, with tours to be offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Refreshments will be available, along with vendors offering dog-related items for sale.

For more animal news, go to <http://Critters.blogs.StarNewsOnline.com>. Contact Tom Grady at jtgrady@ec.rr.com.

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