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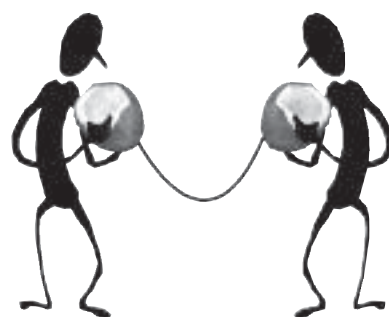
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Editorial continued

The U.S. Department of Commerce Census records from 2012 say that there are 990,558 homes in Miami/Dade County and there are only 52,552 in Monroe County. It is hard enough to get the animals from our own county adopted into permanent homes without accumulating animals from another county that has 938,006 more homes than we do. More homes equal more adoptive families.

Is there a fine line between compulsive animal rescuers and animal hoarders? Is it obsessive-compulsive disorder? Is the person so preoccupied with "rescuing" animals that they can't see the final result? Is that all they talk about? Are they under the misconception that simply preserving the life of an animal is more important than providing for the ongoing quality of its life?

Many of the animals are not rescued but stolen from Dade County and do not get spayed or neutered, so our county must now take on the burden and most of it lands right here in Key Largo. The Humane Society at MM 106 currently has 10 puppies because one of these so called "rescues" reproduced. By bringing in a stray from another county, you could be introducing illnesses to our

pets. What if there is a family desperately searching for their beloved lost pet that you just stole? A little kid is crying himself to sleep at night for his dog that he will never find because you took the family pet to another county that is already inundated with animals that need homes!

The ideal scenario is one that some friends of mine recently did. They waited until their home situation was ready and then they adopted a dog from the Humane Society at MM 106. They paid for surgery the dog needed. They spend quality time with the dog training him and showering him with love. These people are the true "rescuers".



If you should see a stray pet in Dade County call the Homestead Police Department 305-247-1535. They will send someone out to get the animal. Or you can call Dade County Animal Services 305-884-1101 as they are obligated to take the animal. Don't bring it back to the Keys.

Editorial: A Terrible Choice

The terrified dog ran across the busy 6-lane highway, darting between cars and oncoming trucks just to reach the dried up chicken wing that was laying in the dirt by the side of the road. The sad little dog's ribs were visible since he hadn't eaten in days, maybe weeks since he was lost and forced to fend for himself on the streets of Florida City.



What if you take this dog from Miami-Dade County...

Along comes an animal lover who sees the frightened dog just miss getting hit by a car so she pulls over, gets out of her vehicle and stupidly chases the little dog until she catches it. She then stupidly puts it in her car and drives across the stretch to the Keys. The dog is pacing back and forth across the back seat and begins to howl. The ignorant lady looks in the rear view mirror and now realizes the dog is full of fleas, is matted, and needs immediate veterinary care. The vet bills on this dog are going to be very expensive. The dog she just "rescued" has heart worm and needs surgery to remove a tumor. Ka-ching! \$800 and counting. So what should she do next?

Scenario #1- She pays the veterinary bills and

takes the dog home to live happily ever after. This is a good scenario, right? Right? Almost but not quite...

Scenario #2 - She pays the vet bills and finds the dog a home here in the Upper Keys. The lady is happy, the dog is happy, the new owner is happy and the vet is happy. But there is still something wrong here...

Scenario #3 - The lady pays for the initial veterinary office visit but the animal still needs help and lots of it. She does not want to spend her hard earned money on it. So what should she do? Dump it on someone in a bar? Take up a collection from other people to pay for an animal that she "rescued"? Take it to the Humane Society? When she tells them the dog came

from another county and needs surgery will they take it in? If they do take it in, will it find a home or will it live out its days confined to a cage?

Here is the problem and it is a big one. Chances are that even if that dog finds a home here in the Keys it may be taking a home away from another dog! Here is the reason why.



...and then this one doesn't get a home?

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Coins Left On Tombstones

While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave.

These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America's military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin.

A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect. Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited.

A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with him or her in some capacity. By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he or she was killed.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries



is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.

In the US, this practice became common during the Vietnam war, due to the political divide in the country over the war; leaving a coin was seen as a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave than contacting the soldier's family, which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war.

Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a "down payment" to buy their fallen comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited.

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men and women can be traced to as far back as the Roman Empire.

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