



### Elks Installation

The Florida Keys Elks Lodge #1872 installed the new officers for 2015-16 on March 22nd. Pictured left to right: Steve Randel, Larry McNamara, Brian Taylor, Terry Bouquenoy, Roberta Buckheit, Sherill Bothen, Ray Eubanks, Pat Eubanks, Patricia Burke, Jane Ferguson, John Mavis. Not pictured Jody Randel.

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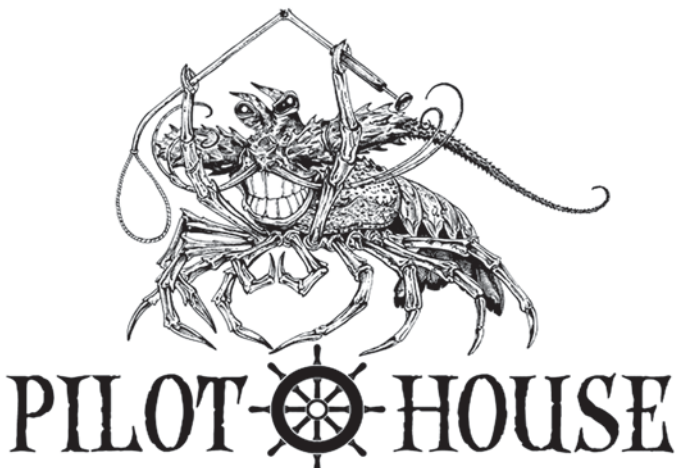


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## Do your part or shut the x!#% up.\*

Almost since the beginning of the Coconut Telegraph 9 years ago, we have been donating a half-page ad to the Upper Keys Humane Society at MM 106 and as a result, many cats and dogs have been adopted. The other newspapers and so-called magazines (that are basically all ads) charge advertisers to "sponsor" the space. The newspapers make money on it! In the course of time, our donation in dollars amounts to nearly \$30,000! Over the years I have had the privilege to see firsthand how the UKHS at MM 106 and Marcia Garrettson operate.

People who visit there will first notice these things: Take the sniff test. It is sparkling clean and sanitary. When you visit you will

notice everyone is busy. No one is sitting down.

All the animals up for adoption are healthy and have all their shots and been vaccinated. No risk of taking home an animal that might infect your other pets.

They also operate as Animal Control. When a feral cat died on my dock, they disposed of it for me. They got called to a crazy animal hoarder's house. Feces 4" thick on the floor, cats unfed in cages. A total of 33 cats had to be euthanized because they were sick and/or in respiratory failure. Only a few recovered and were adopted.

Those of us who remember what it was like around here before Marsha took over remember the thousands of feral cats. You could

not go to an outside restaurant without several sickly looking cats circling your table begging for food, and a day never went by where there wasn't at least 1 cat splattered on the highway. It was a big problem. Marsha's free spay and neuter clinic took care of it. The feral cats were trapped by volunteers, fixed by Marsha and taken back to where they came from. The feral cat population has been greatly reduced.

My friend Mr. P's beloved dog named Bear got old. She was nearly blind and deaf, incontinent and could barely walk. She was suffering. Mr. P lives on a small fixed income and could not afford the veterinarian's euthanization fee of \$221. He called Marr-velous Pets. "Sorry,"

### \*An Extra Dose of Editorial

they said, "we don't do that." He called Carla at the MM 102 Humane Society and she sent him to Marcia. There is no fee at the MM 106 UKHS. Mr. P gave them a small donation and Bear went over the rainbow bridge with dignity and love while we shed tears of sadness.

Marcia never turns an animal away. What do you think the mythical "No Kill" shelters do when an animal is sick and suffering? Sit and watch it suffer?

One time I stopped in to visit Marsha, The Fish House owner Doug Prew and his children were there volunteering. They cleaned cages and spent time with the animals. We need more people like that!

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