

# THE BRODY PROJECT FOR ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

*Improving Human Health  
Through the  
Assistance of Therapy Animals*



## "Calling All Pet Lovers" a Huge Success

A huge thanks to all who came out and participated in the two-day events with international acclaimed animal behaviorist, [Dr. Patricia McConnell](#).

Both nights' phenomenal turnout helped to raise almost \$22,000.

The first evening, January 6, 2010, filled with dogs, laughter, cocktails, dinner, and fun, was beautifully hosted at the [Bamboo Café in Naples](#).



[Photos taken on Jan 6th by Giovanni Photography](#)

The following night, January 7, 2010, was the lecture on the "Power of Pets" at the Moorings Park Retirement Community.

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

A training for new volunteers will be held on April 16th, 2010 from 2 -5 at Moorings Park Continuing Care Retirement Community, in Naples, FL.

You must be a registered Delta Society Pet Partner team to volunteer with The Brody Project.

Contact Karen Lasker at 239 325-9328 or use our [contact page](#) to request more information

For more information about the **Delta Society** go to their website at:

<http://www.deltasociety.org>

For more information about the local Delta Society affiliate, **Gulf Coast**

**Pet Partners** go to their website at:

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The lecture was led by Dr. McConnell, and followed with dessert, coffee, wine, and a chance to get your book signed by Dr. McConnell.

“The Power of Pets” revealed some powerful evidence about the health benefits of pet interaction and ownership. At a time when healthcare costs are rising, a burgeoning body of research shows that the best medicine for a healthful, long life may be interaction with a pet.

Dr. McConnell explained that because pet interactions lower cortisol (stress) levels, the body has more energy for self protection and cell growth. Exposure to pets lowers bad neurochemicals such as cortisol, which can lead to depression and anxiety, and it boosts good ones like oxytocin, which produces happiness and relaxation.

At a time when healthcare costs are rising, a burgeoning body of research shows that the best medicine for a healthful, long life may be interaction with a pet.

Researchers around the world have shown a direct correlation between pet ownership and improved health. From increased survival rates after heart attacks and surgery to reducing stress, depression, and anxiety, pet ownership may not just improve mental and physical health, it may actually extend a person’s life.

When asked to comment on her time in Naples, Dr McConnell praised Moorings Park Wellness Department for including Animal Assisted Therapy in its services for their residents and added “What a pleasure it was to participate in something as special as the Brody Project! I hope the Naples community is proud to be the home of such an important effort--the project combines cutting edge science and a love of both people and animals to make a profound difference in the lives of many. It was a joy to help in any way that I could.”

<http://www.gulfcoastpetpartners.org/> Moorings Park  
Our founding sponsor.

[mooringspark.org](http://mooringspark.org)



Photos taken on Jan 7th by Sylvia  
[www.PinkDoghouse.com](http://www.PinkDoghouse.com)