



PRESS RELEASE

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Tax Collector Mike Fasano Receives “2023 National Animal Care and Control Association’s Bill Lehman Memorial Award”

On January 23, 2024, the **Pasco Board of County Commissioners** adopted a resolution honoring **Pasco Tax Collector Mike Fasano** for receiving the “2023 National Animal Care and Control Association’s Bill Lehman Memorial Award.” In a presentation ceremony at the county commission chambers in New Port Richey, **Tax Collector Mike Fasano** was given the resolution by the county commission as well as the national award by **Pasco’s Director of Animal Services Mike Shumate**.

The resolution lists many of his accomplishments in the field of animal welfare and protection including legislation he filed as a State Senator known as “Dexter’s Law,” which would have created a statewide animal abuse registry. While this bill did not pass, Pasco County and several other counties in Florida based their own registries on the language in **Tax Collector Mike Fasano’s** legislation. Additionally, the resolution mentions fundraisers held at the *Pasco Tax Collector’s Office* to support *Pasco County’s Animal Services* department.

In addition to county run programs, **Tax Collector Mike Fasano's** charitable giving arm **Pasco TC Gives** has raised for and donated to over two-hundred thousand dollars to such diverse animal services organizations as the Pasco Sheriff's K-9 Foundation, the Humane Society of Pasco County, the SPCA of the Suncoast, Southeastern Guide Dogs, Cindy's Pets, CARES Pet Project and the Runaways Animal Shelter.

"I was honored to be given the 2023 National Animal Care and Control Association's Bill Lehman Memorial Award," commented **Tax Collector Mike Fasano** following receipt of the award and resolution. "I accepted this National Award on behalf of all our employees at the *Pasco Tax Collectors Office*. Through their help, we have raised over \$200,000 to help Pasco's animals and their owners along with encouraging adoption and spreading public awareness of shelter and animal welfare initiatives."

[Attached: photo of Pasco Board of County Commissioners' resolution presentation & photo of Mike Fasano and his dog Seaver]

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