



# Blessing *of the* animals

*Let's celebrate and honor the great bond and relationship between pets and their people.*

*Bring your dogs, cats, birds, lizards, rabbits, pot-bellied pigs, fish and turtles...whatever well-behaved pet (or pets) owns you!*

**Sunday, Oct. 2, 1 p.m.**  
**Raccoon River Park**  
**Biddell Shelter (near dog park)**  
**West Des Moines, IA**

- 1 p.m. assemble at park
- 1:15 p.m. brief ceremony to address the interconnection among all living beings
- 1:45 p.m. optional individual blessings for the attending menagerie

- Pets must be contained by leash or carrier.
- No more than two well-behaved pets per adult over 18, one pet per youth 13-18.
- Animals must control their humans at all times, and vice versa.
- Misbehaving pets (or humans) will be asked to leave.
- Pets must be at least 6 months old & spayed/neutered if outside a carrier.

**Free, interfaith, non-denominational event open to all!**

..... Organized by *the* **pet project**  *midwest*

October 4 is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. St. Francis was in love with all of nature - the sun, moon, air, water, fire, flowers. He had humor, too. According to his history, he chided the noisy swallows that were disturbing his preaching: "Little sister swallows, it is now my turn to speak; you have been talking enough all this time." His warmth and humor and appreciation of the value and importance of living things is a perfect symbol of the animal lover in all of us.