

Pet Adoption Center Celebrates Milestone at New Location *1000 Animals Adopted in Record Time at St. Charles County Facility*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 4, 2000

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St. Charles County — The St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center reached a milestone today with its 1000th animal adopted from the new humane services facility since the beginning of the year. Christi Ray and her daughter Brianna arrived at the facility today to inquire about adopting a cat. After viewing the nine felines available for adoption, a ten-month old, brown and beige, female Siamese cat named China was selected to become the first pet of the Ray family. Mrs. Ray first visited the Pet Adoption Center a few weeks ago when she found a kitten and brought it to the facility in hopes that the owner might be looking for their pet.

The county's new Pet Adoption Center has experienced a tremendous increase in citizen interest since relocating to Mid Rivers Mall Drive in November 1999. Humane service operations were previously conducted in Wentzville for more than 23 years where the highest adoption rate numbered 323 pets in one year. More than 2000 people visit the Pet Adoption Center monthly, resulting in record setting adoptions and 778 lost pets returned to owners to date. County officials credit the new, highly visible, convenient location, dedicated professional staff, increased services, and state-of-the art equipment as key factors in the success of the new facility. St. Charles County Government contracts with Gentle Doctor Animal Hospital to perform basic veterinary services for

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the facility each week. In addition, due to the success of the adoption program the veterinarians have contributed a great deal of their personal time to meet the public demand for healthy adoptable pets.

“Citizen response to our new Pet Adoption Center has been tremendous. It is a good feeling when you know that you helped to place an animal into a loving home with a family or an individual truly interested in owning a pet. Reaching 1000 adoptions at this point in the year shows we are providing a good service to the St. Charles County community. We have even established a volunteer program to assist the humane services staff due to the positive public reception and the tremendous success we are having in placing animals with owners,” states John Carpenter, Deputy Director of the Humane Services Division.

Adopting a pet from the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center is a simple process. Interested individuals can view cats and dogs available for adoption, visit one-on-one with an animal in special get-acquainted rooms, and, after selecting a pet, complete an application for adoption. A \$30 adoption fee includes initial immunization, a one-year rabies shot, spay or neuter service, and microchip insertion. Animals in the adoption program may be viewed weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Pet Adoption Center serves St. Charles County through sheltering and adopting animals, providing pet owner education, animal control services, and investigation of incidents involving animal cruelty and neglect. The St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center is located at 4850 Mid Rivers Mall Drive, three miles south of Highway 70 across from St. Charles County Community College. For further information about pet adoption services in St. Charles County, call 636-949-PETS (7387) or visit the Department of Community Health and the Environment website at www.scchealth.org.