

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Thriving Pet Adoption Center Reaches First Anniversary** *Success of County's New Humane Services Facility Surpasses Expectations*

*St. Charles County* — The St. Charles County Humane Services Division is celebrating the one-year anniversary of its Pet Adoption Center at 1650 Mid Rivers Mall Drive in Cottleville. The facility has seen tremendous success in placing animals with new owners and returning lost pets to families since moving to the new location in 1999. More than 1,619 animals have been adopted from the Pet Adoption Center and 1,238 pets have been returned to owners since November of last year. The county's humane service operations were previously conducted in Wentzville where the department operated for 23 years in a small facility not originally designed for animal care. In the former facility, staff members estimate that it took seven years to reach more than 1,600 adoptions. County officials are pleased that the facility is meeting the needs of St. Charles County residents as proven by the success of the adoption center in its first year.

“To reach such a high level of adoptions in our first year at the Mid Rivers facility shows that the County Executive and County Council made the right decision in making the Pet Adoption Center a

priority. We are providing care for and adopting more animals than ever due to the tremendous response from the public. The most rewarding result is that we are finding homes for

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more animals. 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,” said John Carpenter, Deputy Director of the Humane Services Division.

Citizens in search of a lost pet or who are considering a pet for their home are encouraged to visit the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center. Animals recovered from neighborhoods are checked for identification and held at the facility for five complete business days in hopes that the owner will inquire about their lost pet. If animals are unclaimed, they are considered for the adoption program.

Adopting a pet is a simple process. Interested individuals can view cats and dogs available for adoption, visit one-on-one with an animal, 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. All animals adopted at the facility are surgically altered in an effort to reduce the stray animal population. 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](http://www.scchealth.org).

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