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News Release

For Immediate Release

Animal Rescue "Streak" Hits Five Months

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Animal Control program has now reached the five-month milestone in its adoption "streak." During the last 21 weeks, all potentially adoptable dogs have been sent to one of more than a dozen no-kill rescue partners for public adoption. Nearly 600 dogs have been sent to rescue partners during the streak.

Dogs are considered potentially adoptable if they are healthy and non-vicious. Every effort is made to bring the dogs up to healthy status while at the shelter, including administering a vaccination for five common diseases and working with veterinarians in case of injuries. Dogs are also treated for worms and fleas, and groomed if necessary. Animals cannot be adopted from the shelter directly – only owners may claim animals there. If animals are not claimed, they are then made available to rescue agencies.

The current streak does not include pit bulls. Following changes to the city code regarding pit bull registration and intake in 2006, the shelter was prohibited from allowing pit bull adoption. Additionally, although more cats than ever before are being sent out for adoption from the shelter, the streak does not include cats, either, as the cat population in Springfield is simply too great for the rescue partnership model to keep pace.

The Health Department's Animal Control staff would like to remind all pet owners to identify their animals with collar tags or microchips. These are the best methods to ensure lost animals that end up at the City's animal shelter are returned to their owners. If owners can't be found or do not claim the animal at the shelter, the animals are sent to a rescue agency for public adoption. All animals taken in at the shelter are pictured online at http://health.springfieldmo.gov/shelterphotos. Animals must be claimed in person. Call the shelter at (417) 833-3592.

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department will continue to update the public on status of this "streak" as it progresses. Follow the department on Facebook and Twitter for continued updates: www.facebook.com/SGCHD and www.twitter.com/sgchd.

For more information, contact: Mike Brothers, Public Information Administrator, (417) 874-1205.