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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

**Partnerships Create Success at the Animal Shelter**

Animals provide companionship and enjoyment for many people in our community. And yet, animals pose problems for the community if not cared for properly. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department oversees the animal control program including the animal shelter for the city of Springfield. Over the past few years, collaborations among caring agencies and concerned staff have created many triumphant stories of saving the lives of animals and forming companionships for people.

Clay Goddard, Assistant Director of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, states that the animal control program has had many improvements over the past few years. Partnerships now exist with 33 licensed animal rescue organizations. Due to the tight budgetary constraints on the animal control programs, the animal shelter does not have the capacity to provide adoption services. Therefore, these partnerships are extremely important to the welfare of the animals and offering the community an opportunity to be a part of the solution. Through the implementation of these partnerships, the amount of animals that have been adopted from the shelter has nearly doubled.

As this community collaboration among agencies evolves, relationships have formed which have created new projects that will work to address the animal control problem on a community level. The SAAF coalition, formed in 2007, recently announced the opening of the SAAFhouse Spay-Neuter Clinic scheduled to open in May/June 2010, and has a goal to be a no-kill community by 2018. “I am thrilled about the progress we have made with the animal control program in our community. Partnerships and concerned, active community organizations have been essential to the success we have seen. We fully support and partner with the SAAF coalition and their efforts to create a no-kill community by 2018,” said Karen Prescott, Environment Services Administrator of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. In other communities that have instituted similar programs, animal intake and euthanasia rates have greatly declined, which is also expected in Springfield.

Animal welfare and control create a challenge for many communities. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department is pleased to be a part of a community based solution that has created great achievements in forming a positive solution to this great challenge.

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