

June 21, 2011

News Release

For Immediate Release

Animal Shelter to Get Extreme Makeover

This weekend community volunteers will give their time and effort to provide an Extreme Shelter Makeover for the Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Animal Shelter. More than 18 animal rescue organizations have coordinated volunteers, supplies and necessary time to provide needed improvements to the animal shelter to improve the health and comfort of the animals residing in the shelter. Although the long-term goal is to provide a new facility for the animal shelter, this event will provide temporary improvements to the antiquated facility. The innovative partnership between the local animal rescue organizations and the animal shelter staff at the Springfield-Greene County Health Department and the partner animal rescue organizations have led to a multitude of successful animal rescue adoptions. Improvements at the facility will lead to a better environment for animals and improved safety for staff. This outpouring of continued support from the animal rescue organizations displays the constructive outcomes that have come from an ongoing public-private partnership between the rescue organizations and the animal shelter with the goal of making improvements that will benefit the entire community.

On Saturday, June 25 & 26, 2011 from 8 am – 5 pm, volunteers will descend on the animal shelter and begin work on planned makeover projects. Planned projects include deep cleaning, constructing block walls to separate animals, replacing needed supplies, painting and setting up animal pens. In addition to the work, the rescue organizations will be collecting donations of unopened dog and cat food or treats and registering donors for free prizes. The rescue organizations are still registering volunteers to help with the makeover. To register, please contact Kristy Ritter, Halfway Home Rescue and event coordinator at whitetiger4me@hotmail.com.

Latichia Duff, Halfway Home Rescue and one of the coordinators of the event says, "We are looking forward to helping the animals and hope the citizens of Springfield will join us in this venture. We look forward to meeting them when they come to drop off food donations on Saturday and Sunday and get their ticket for drawing prizes!!"

On Monday, June 27, 2011, the public is invited to attend a 'reveal' of the shelter makeover scheduled for 10:00 am at the Springfield-Greene County Animal Shelter located at 4002 North Farmer Ave, Springfield MO 65803. Participating rescue organizations, volunteers and staff will be in attendance to celebrate the accomplishments of the collaboration among the City of Springfield, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, volunteers and the tremendous help of the participating animal rescue organizations. Please join us for this event!

Please follow the Springfield-Greene County Health Department on Facebook ([facebook.com/SGCHD](https://www.facebook.com/SGCHD)) and Twitter (twitter.com/SGCHD) to see updates and more information over the coming days.

For more information about the shelter makeover, please contact Latichia Duffy, Halfway Home Rescue at 417-693-7555 or crsdke@aim.com.

For more information contact: Katie Towns-Jeter MPH, Public Information Administrator, 417-874-1205



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