



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 2012

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****MEDIA ALERT****

Chicago's Neediest Animals Get Much Needed Play in the City's First Shelter Play Lots

***Chicago Animal Care & Control and Safe Humane Chicago
Partner to Bring the City the First Play Lots for Shelter Dogs
and Expert Training for Staff and Volunteers***

***Join us for a celebration of public-private partnerships
that give shelter dogs of all kinds the opportunity to socialize, play,
exercise and get homes faster! Meet some of Chicago's celebrity dogs!***

WHAT: Experts from all over the country and our city come together to provide training and consultation for Chicago Animal Care and Control, their volunteers and partnering rescue groups in the city's first shelter play lots. The play lots and volunteer training were made possible by a grant from Animal Farm Foundation, who will join us for the celebration. Organized and co-hosted by Safe Humane Chicago, three days of training and hands-on demonstrations will be punctuated by this Wednesday noon-time event to demonstrate the positive impact of dog play and exercise on the lives of shelter dogs – saving those lives, improving the quality of their lives in a shelter and better preparing them for lives in forever homes. Meet high-profile dogs held at Chicago ACC, including some of the Court Case Dogs!

WHEN: **Wednesday, April 11, 2012**
Press conference: noon
followed by photo opportunities
and a reception at 1:00 p.m. to which the press is invited.

WHERE: Chicago Animal Care and Control
2741 S Western Avenue, Chicago
Press Conference, Ceremony & Demonstrations in CACC's backyard at the play lots
Reception: in CACC backyard or auditorium, as weather permits

WHO: City of Chicago's Commission on Animal Care and Control
Executive Director Sandra Alfred
Animal Farm Foundation, Dutchess County, NY
Executive Director Stacey Coleman
Behavior and Training Coordinator Bernice Clifford
Safe Humane Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Executive Director Cynthia Bathurst
Manager of Programs Kyla Page
Lead Trainer and Behavior Consultant Janice Triptow
Court Case Dogs Program Specialist Kathleen Budrean
Longmont Humane Society, Longmont, CO
Behavior and Training Director Aimee Sadler
Southampton Animal Shelter Foundation, Southampton, NY
Executive Director of Behavior and Training Aimee Sadler
Lead Trainer Mathew Valentino
Best Friends Animal Society, Kanab, UT
Ledy VanKavage, Senior Legislative Attorney (from Collinsville, IL)
Katie Barnett, Legislative Attorney (from Lawrence, KS)
Court Case Dogs, abused dogs associated with court cases who have been adopted,
who are in rescue, or who are in training at CACC
Local Dog Trainers
High School Youth Leaders from Safe Humane Chicago
Local Animal Welfare Organizations

About Chicago Animal Care and Control: Chicago Animal Care and Control (CACC) impounds approximately 20,000 animals a year, including dogs, cats, reptiles and others. As an open-door shelter, CACC never turns an animal away. The facility includes: a 54,000 square foot building which houses 300 to 500 animals in separate kennels on any given day with a fully equipped medical division to care for the animals; a command center for Animal Control Officers with a fleet of 18 trucks; animal intake from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m., 365 days a year (after hours calls: 311); an Animobile van for off-site adoptions and vaccine clinics; and offices for the Executive Director and management staff. Visit our website at <http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cacc.html>.

About Animal Farm Foundation: Animal Farm Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, has been rescuing and re-homing animals, as well as making grants to other humane organizations, since the mid-1980's. We currently dedicate our resources to securing equal treatment and opportunity for "pit bull" dogs. Whether the dog is called a "pit bull" because of a documented pedigree, or merely on the basis of physical appearance, recognizing that these dogs are individuals for whom we are responsible is an integral step toward a compassionate future for all dogs. Visit our website at www.animalfarmfoundation.org.

About Safe Humane Chicago: Safe Humane Chicago's mission is to create safe and humane communities by inspiring positive relationships between people and animals. A not-for-profit corporation, we are an alliance of non-traditional partners that recognize the connections between animal abuse and interpersonal violence and the benefits of the human-animal bond. The organization accomplishes its mission by educating the public about responsible companion animal ownership and safety; promoting programs that stop the violence associated with dog fighting and animal abuse by providing positive, beneficial activities; and connecting pet owners to available resources. We have three key program areas: Youth Leaders, Lifetime Bonds and Collaborative Justice. For more information, email getconnected@safehumanechicago.org or visit www.safehumanechicago.org.