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An Overwhelming Problem. Two Steps Towards A Solution. ***Indiana-PAW Encourages Citizens To Open Their Homes To Save Homeless Hoosier Pets***

Indiana (October 16, 2005) – 13,000. Read it again: 13,000. Is that the number of yards the Colts offense will have this season? Tom Cruise’s salary per minute for his next movie? The number of new theories for where the castaways are in the T.V. juggernaut, Lost? Unfortunately, it’s nothing so light-hearted. 13,000 is the number of dogs and cats surrendered to shelters every day nationwide, according to the ASPCA. And shelters are forced to euthanize more than 4 million of those pets annually due to a lack of homes, according to the Humane Society of the United States.

The numbers can be overwhelming. Fortunately, there are two things Hoosiers can do to help bring about a solution: adopt and/or become a foster parent.

Adopt A Pet, Save A Life. In response to the fact that shelters are forced to euthanize thousands of healthy animals every day, the ASPCA established October As “Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month.” The month is dedicated to educating the public about the wonderful pets – with a special focus on dogs – who are awaiting adoption at shelters and rescue groups across the country. Indiana-PAW urges citizens who have decided to add an animal companion to the family to contact a local shelter or rescue group for help finding the perfect match. Please visit the Indiana-PAW “Super Database” at www.indiana-paw.com to find contact information for more than 340 Indiana shelters and breed-specific rescue groups from which one may adopt a wonderful pet. Adoption: it’s the responsible option.

Foster An Animal, Save A Life. Even if you aren’t ready to make a lifetime commitment to a pet, you can still be a lifesaving hero to homeless Hoosier animals who are at risk for euthanasia. How, you ask? Simple – by becoming a foster parent and opening your home temporarily to an animal who is at an overcrowded shelter, or who needs socialization, time to recover from an injury or illness, or maturation (i.e., puppies and kittens). You’ll not only save an animal’s life, but you’ll also educate your family about compassion and have the opportunity to experience having a pet in your home without making the permanent commitment. **To help now, join the Indiana-PAW “Foster Roster,” so that you can be connected with shelters and rescue groups needing foster parents. You can join the “Foster Roster,” and learn more about fostering, at the Indiana-PAW website: www.indiana-paw.com.**

Indiana-PAW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit all-volunteer organization dedicated to Indiana animal welfare education. Its mission is to use education and advocacy to reduce the number of companion animals who are euthanized in Indiana, and to cultivate in the community a sense of respect for the needs of those animals with whom we share our world. For more information, visit www.indiana-paw.com.

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