



News Release: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Animal Rescue League of NH
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Animal Shelters Combine Forces to Combat Overpopulation in Southern New Hampshire

Bedford- The Manchester Animal Shelter and the Animal Rescue League of NH have announced a collaborative spay/ neuter effort scheduled to be held on Sunday, March 14th at the Animal Rescue League of NH. This event is being held in honor of Spay Day USA. According to the Humane Society of the United States' web site, "Spay Day is an annual campaign of The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International to inspire people to save animal lives by spaying or neutering pets and feral cats." The two shelters have independently battled the overpopulation of felines in New Hampshire, but due to the large influx of unwanted litters in the past year, the organizations have decided to combine their resources to create one large subsidized clinic which will be open to the public by appointment only.

Combined, the two organizations take in approximately 3,200 animals each year with a little over 76% percent of these animals coming to the shelters unaltered. Both organizations have committed to having 100% of their dogs and cats altered prior to adoption. This collaboration will help the two groups expand their services to a wider area and create a more significant impact on the surrounding communities. Co-President of the Manchester Animal Shelter's Board of Directors, Journey Ewell said, "We are excited to be working with the Animal Rescue League of NH to help combat the overpopulation of cats. So many cats arrive at both shelters every year and we must reduce the number that come in. By spaying and neutering your pets you can be an important part of the solution."

Five local veterinarians, Drs. Kim Trahan, Karen Tinkham, Lisa Anderson, Cheryl Donnell and Masuma Barrett, have all agreed to donate their services for this special event. With their combined resources and a group of dedicated volunteers, they are aiming to alter 60 cats on March 14th. Fees will be based on a sliding scale. Owners will be able to have their cat altered and distemper and rabies vaccines brought up to date at this event. Maureen Prendergast, the Animal Rescue League of NH's Animal Cruelty

Investigator and Outreach Coordinator stated, “We are thrilled to be combining our efforts with the Manchester Animal Shelter to help celebrate Spay Day USA 2010. It means a lot to us to be able to assist so many cat owners who otherwise might not be able to find assistance to spay and neuter their pets.”

Residents of the City of Manchester can call the Manchester Animal Shelter at (603) 628-3544 to book an appointment for the upcoming subsidized clinic. All other Southern New Hampshire residents can contact Maureen Prendergast at (603) 471-0888 to book an appointment. The League is located at 545 Route 101 in Bedford, NH.

About the Animal Rescue League of NH: Pets give us so much. They teach us compassion, protect our families, work as therapy professionals, and entertain us. Pets comfort us when we've had a bad day and touch our hearts with their unconditional love. At the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire we save pets' lives, and they enrich ours.

The ARL NH is open to all residents of New Hampshire, and actively serves the towns of Amherst, Auburn, Bedford, Brookline, Candia, Dunbarton, Francestown, Goffstown, Hollis, Hooksett, Litchfield, Londonderry, Lyndeborough, Manchester, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, New Boston, Peterborough, Wilton, and Windham. Learn more at www.rescueleague.org.

About the Manchester Animal Shelter: FMAS believes that all animals are deserving of life, respect, and care. To that end, our goal is zero-population growth through spay and neuter programs and services that focus on education, medical care, fostering, and adoption.

The mission of the MAS is to:

- Act as an advocate on behalf of animals and as an enforcer of their rights.
- Provide for the well-being of our community's animals who are abandoned, injured, subject to unfair or cruel treatment, or otherwise in need.
- Cultivate in the people of our community an awareness of the animals whose world we share.
- Instill respect for and appreciation of all living things.

Learn more at www.manchesteranimalshelter.org.