



COMMUNITY HEALTH
& THE ENVIRONMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WARM YOUR HOME WITH HOLIDAY PET ADOPTIONS

Dec. 20 Deck The Paws Event Seeks Loving Homes for Dogs, Cats This Season

St. Charles County, Missouri – If you're seeking to add a cuddly pet to your household this holiday, look no further than the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center. Situated at 4850 Mid Rivers Mall Dr., in St. Peters, the center will host its annual **Deck The Paws** adoption event from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, where your family can find the "purr-fect" pal.

In addition to on-site adoptions, the **Deck The Paws** event will include door prizes, raffles and tips to help make you a better caregiver. Along with adoptions, Santa Claus will be available for photos with your family and your new dog or cat. The first 30 adoptions will receive a goodie bag filled with treats for the new family member. To view photos of the animals available through the Pet Adoption Center, please visit <http://www.sccmo.org/828/Available-Pets>.

Compared to fees charged through other agencies, the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center offers an outstanding value. Adoption costs are \$30 for adult cats, \$40 for kittens, \$50 for adult dogs and \$60 for puppies. This minimal fee includes a health examination, initial vaccinations, spaying or neutering and microchipping of the animal.

There are a few things that owners should consider when bringing home a new pet. First, the animal should be introduced to the home slowly, and a small, quiet area to be alone can help make the transition easier. A second consideration is to arrange set places for the food and water bowl to give the pet a set routine. A third step is to "safety proof" the home by removing potential dangers and areas of curiosity. Lastly, set ground rules for your family that outline the care and treatment of the new pet.

The Division of Humane Services has supported the residents and animal populations of St. Charles County for several decades, successfully placing more than 35,000 pets into loving homes since opening its Pet Adoption Center in 1999. The division protects and enhances the quality of life for people and animals in our region by sheltering and adopting animals, educating pet owners, providing animal control services, and investigating incidents involving animal cruelty and neglect. For more information, please call (636) 949-PETS (7387) or visit <http://www.sccmo.org/783/Humane-Division>.

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