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ASPCA Launches Partnership in Louisville, Ky.

Program aims to reduce shelter intake, increase live outcomes through collaboration

NEW YORK—Together with local agencies and city officials in a press conference at Metro Hall, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) today launched its ASPCA Partner Community program in Louisville, Ky. in an effort to save the lives of more at-risk and homeless pets through a collaborative effort called The ASPCA Partnership.

The ASPCA Partnership includes the following Louisville-area animal welfare agencies: Louisville Metro Animal Services or LMAS (an open admission public shelter); The Kentucky Humane Society or KHS (a private, non-profit animal welfare agency that focuses on pet adoption, spay/neuter efforts and education); and Alley Cat Advocates or ACA (a local TNR group).

“By continuing to collaborate – as these agencies have already done with joint adoption events and spay/neuter clinics – we know our partners will be able to affect positive changes for animals most at risk in the Louisville community,” said ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. “They’ve displayed tremendous potential for progress and we look forward to the future success of the program.”

“Homelessness is the number one risk factor for companion animals in the United States,” Sayres added. “To reduce this, the ASPCA believes that all animal welfare organizations in a community must work together. Both the public and private funded organizations must buy in to collaboration and share resources. By understanding that it’s the community’s animals that are at risk—not just the animals in the care of one agency or another—the community can save the most lives possible.”

The ASPCA Partnership will include annual planning meetings with Louisville partners to determine and monitor goals, strategies and needs. It also includes a grant allocation process, where partner agencies will have the opportunity to apply for substantial grants to address the community’s needs and implement targeted, sustainable programs aimed at increasing live outcomes for animals. The agencies will also have access to ASPCA resources, expertise and guidance, as well as strategic planning support, statistical analysis, training and participation in ground-breaking research projects.

“As the largest pet adoption agency in the state, the Kentucky Humane Society is pleased to join Louisville Metro Animal Services and Alley Cats Advocates in the ASPCA Partnership today,” said Lori Redmon, president and CEO of the Kentucky Humane Society. “Working together, we will improve the lives of cats and dogs in our community, ensuring every healthy, adoptable pet is offered a second chance at finding happiness.”

“Louisville Metro Animal Services is honored that our city is the newest ASPCA Partner Community,” said Justin L. Scally, director of Metro Animal Services. “This partnership demonstrates our city’s commitment to working together to ensure a better quality, more humane life for all in the community. With the resources the ASPCA is bringing to our community, we will move closer to our goal of ending the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals.”

“Alley Cat Advocates is thrilled that Louisville is now an ASPCA Partner Community,” said Karen Little, founder of Alley Cat Advocates. “We are certain that this collaboration will help us raise awareness about the need to spay and neuter our community cats, and we’re confident our community will be healthier and happier as a result.”

Last year, nearly 20,000 homeless animals entered the Louisville partner agencies. Aside from overcrowding in its shelters, some of the other challenges facing Louisville are the need for more lost animals to be reunited with their owners, an increase in targeted spay/neuter, and more pet adoptions.

Since 2007, the ASPCA has been lending its support, financially and through training and other human resources, to communities around the country with the goal of helping them save more animals. The ASPCA's work focuses a collective effort on sustainable, data-driven plans and programs that engage the community in providing positive outcomes for these animals. Since the ASPCA began its Partner Community program in 2007, more than a quarter of a million animals have been adopted, returned to owners, or spay/neutered as a result of the exceptional collaboration among partner agencies in each community.

In addition to Louisville, Ky., the ASPCA's current Partner Communities are Buncombe County, N.C.; Charleston, S.C.; Cleveland, Ohio; Miami-Dade County, Fla.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Sacramento, Calif.; Shelby County, Ala.; Spokane, Wash.; and Tallahassee, Fla. The ASPCA's investment in these partnerships—in the form of direct grants, capacity-building, training, ASPCA staff expertise, and strategic planning—varies from a one- to five-year period to address homeless animal issues in each community.

About the ASPCA®

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) is the first animal welfare organization in North America and serves as the nation's leading voice for animals. More than two million supporters strong, the ASPCA's mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, the ASPCA is a national leader in the areas of anti-cruelty, community outreach and animal health services. For more information, please visit www.ASPCA.org, and be sure to follow the ASPCA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Pinterest](#).

About Kentucky Humane Society

The Kentucky Humane Society (KHS), founded in 1884, advocates the humane treatment of companion animals through leadership and proactive solutions to pet overpopulation, including adoptions, education and spay/neuter efforts. KHS is the largest pet adoption agency in the state, finding loving homes for 6,000 cats and dogs a year, and the oldest animal welfare agency in Kentucky. The KHS S.N.I.P. Clinic provides high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter surgeries to 10,000 owned pets a year. In addition, KHS provides fun and informative educational programs to more than 7,000 children annually, teaching them to be animal advocates and humane pet owners. A private non-profit organization, in 2011 KHS was named one of the top 10 most fiscally responsible charities in the nation by Charity Navigator and Worth Magazine. For more information about Kentucky Humane Society, please visit www.kyhumane.org.

About Louisville Metro Animal Services

Louisville Metro Animal Services has a fundamental mission to protect public health and safety, ensure the humane treatment of animals and provide quality, professional customer service to the public. The open admissions facility houses and cares for over 11,000 animals each year. LMAS offers a number of programs and services including: Animal House Adoption Center, volunteer opportunities, outreach and much more. LMAS is the largest animal control agency in the state of Kentucky. For more information, please visit www.LouisvilleKy.gov/animalservices.

About Alley Cat Advocates, Inc.

Alley Cat Advocates, Inc. was founded in 1999 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide for the humane treatment of stray, free-roaming cats in the metropolitan Louisville, Kentucky area. The volunteer organization has spayed/neutered over 23,000 cats through their Trap-Neuter-Return program. For more information on Alley Cat Advocates and its programs, call 502-634-8777 or visit www.alleycatadvocates.org.

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