

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Heather Hayes

Marketing & Design Manager

publicrelations@ashevillehumane.org

[828.776.3588](tel:828.776.3588)

For Immediate Release

January 9, 2015

Asheville Humane Society's Animals are on the Move Relocation Program Saves Lives

Asheville, NC—Asheville Humane Society will hit the road Wednesday, January 14th on its first sponsored animal transport. The \$1,000 sponsorship from Regional Emergency Animal Care Hospital (R.E.A.C.H) and Asheville Veterinary Specialists (A.V.S) helps offset the costs of relocating a surplus of homeless animals to cities in need of adoptable pets. Relocation has become a lifesaving program for animal rescue organizations.

Angie Wilt, Director of Operations at Asheville Humane Society explained, “Northern states have aggressively combated pet over-population for many years through spay/neuter and progressive programming. Now, they are in a position where they are able to assist other regions of our country that are still working toward ending pet homelessness. R.E.A.C.H. and A.V.S.’s generous donation will ensure more homeless animals find loving families.”

In 2014, 951 animals were relocated by Asheville Humane Society to other shelters and rescue groups. The Relocation Program accounts for 20% of total animals saved by Asheville Humane Society.

Asheville Humane Society’s newly-wrapped relocation van, funded by Petco, ASPCA and Wilson/Jones Foundation, is equipped with 18 temperature-controlled enclosures that guarantee a safe, comfortable ride to the animals’ destination. Volunteer drivers transport animals from Asheville Humane Society to the out-of-state rescue in need of more adoptable animals. Often, the animals are adopted within days of arriving at their new location.

“We are always in need of volunteer drivers as we have increased our transports from twice a month to weekly,” said Trina Rhyne, Relocation Coordinator. “Asheville Humane Society covers all travel costs and also provides a stipend for food and lodging to our volunteer drivers.”

The organization hopes to not only find more volunteers but also additional sponsors to continue its relocation efforts.

Who: Asheville Humane Society

What: First Sponsored Transport of Homeless Animals thanks to R.E.A.C.H. and A.V.S.

Where: Adoption and Education Center, 14 Forever Friend Lane

(just off Brevard Road, south of the WNC Farmers Market)

When: January 14th at 7:30 a.m.

Why: To match more homeless animals with loving families!

About Asheville Humane Society

For over 30 years Asheville Humane Society has been saving homeless Buncombe County animals. Today, the organization operates both a state-of-the-art Adoption and Education Center and the County's only open door shelter where no local animal is ever turned away. Asheville Humane Society rescues, reunites, rehabilitates and re-homes abandoned, abused, injured and lost animals. Its programs provide education, training and support to keep pets in their homes. Asheville Humane Society has earned the highest rating of Four Stars from Charity Navigator, a designation achieved by only 25% of all charities nationwide. The organization's nationally recognized innovative programs and partnerships are steadily moving Buncombe County toward a no-kill community.

Asheville Humane Society is dedicated to promoting the compassionate treatment of animals in our community through education, sheltering and adoption.

www.ashevillehumane.org | [828.761.2001](tel:828.761.2001) | publicrelations@ashevillehumane.org