

## For Immediate Release

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### **Hugging Pups contract ParvoVirus during incubation period**

ATLANTA – Kala and Keira, the now famous hugging pups depicted in a shelter photo, have ParvoVirus according to Angels Among Us Pet Rescue’s veterinarian partner that tested them on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. “Contagious viruses, like Parvo or Kennel Cough can incubate in pets weeks after they leave a shelter,” explained Andi Fahmy-Rhys, Vetting Director with Angels Rescue. Angels Rescue typically has a 2-week incubation hold on dogs rescued from shelters, especially young dogs like Kala and Keira, who are more susceptible to a virus in captivity. The ParvoVirus is only contagious once a dog shows symptoms and sheds the virus in their feces.

It was Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> when Kala and Keira were rescued from the shelter just hours before imminent death. The photo and story of Kala, an 8-month old hound mix hugging Keira a 1-year-old boxer mix posted on Angels Rescue Facebook page, struck the hearts of the world instantly. “We had no choice but to rescue both dogs together,” said Marla Olcott, a founding member with Angels Rescue. These hugging pups continued to bond in their Angels Rescue foster home and are close to each other even at the animal hospital while under quarantine.

We understand the blood tests were ‘good’ meaning Kala and Keira may have a short stay at the animal hospital. “I would expect 2 to 4 days of hospitalization,” said Mrs. Fahmy-Rhys. Angels Rescue has a high, 95% success rate for treating the ParvoVirus and the organization self quarantine’s in foster homes. “We will just have to see how they do over the next day,” continued Mrs. Fahmy-Rhys.

Once released from the animal hospital, Kala and Keira, will be under a 2-week hold in their foster home. They will also need to be spayed and micro-chipped as is typical protocol for a pet rescue group. Safe in Angels Rescue foster program, these two pups are ultimately in search of a permanent adoptive home. “Kala especially has bonded with Keira,” said Angels Rescue foster Cris Folchitto. “So, they may want to find a permanent home together.”

Since 2009, Angels Among Us Pet Rescue, Inc. a 501(c)(3) organization has rescued over 9000 dogs and cats from high-kill shelters in the state of Georgia. Because the organization is foster-based they rely on social media to gain both a Foster and Funding as they rescue a pet from a Georgia shelter. Individual donations are also spawned by social media, which started with a few hundred fans just 5 years ago and has grown to 700,000 fans today. There are over 452 active fosters who parent the 800 or more dogs and cats currently with the organization awaiting a permanent adoptive home.

‘Rescue One Until There Are None’ is the organization’s motto. To learn more about how you can help donate, foster or adopt an angel like Kala or Keira, go to [www.AngelsRescue.org](http://www.AngelsRescue.org).

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