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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESCUE SANTA AND ELVES VISIT LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER WITH FREEDOM SLEIGH RIDE AND COOKIES

Angels Among Us Pet Rescue highlights surge of homeless pets during holidays

Atlanta, GA (Dec. 12, 2016) For many homeless Georgia animals, Christmas is just another lonely day, but the holidays pose a special risk to them because at this time of year, overcrowding has life-ending results. One local pet rescue, Alpharetta-based Angels Among Us Pet Rescue, Inc is trying to call attention to the desperate need for foster homes and new adopters, by visiting newly renovated, Clayton County Animal Control on Thursday December 15th, 2016 with treats and a few precious minutes outside. "Rescue Santa" also plans to pull one or more lucky pets into his sleigh for a freedom ride to find their forever family through Angels network of foster homes.

Angels Among Us Board member, Lisa Zambacca, conceived the idea of visiting a shelter with other staff and board members dressed as Santa and Mrs Claus and their elves, because "pets are forgotten at holiday time. So often people abandon their pets so that they can take a vacation or they are an inconvenience. Even sadder, many give their old ones away so that they can get a new puppy. After Christmas the amount of pets brought to shelters is staggering. The newness wore off. The poor puppy peed. The new dog growled at their dog. One ate a sock, or got into the trash. These are the harsh realities of what really happens and why animals end up in shelters. The results are devastating. More than 100,000 healthy, loving, funny pets are euthanized each year in Georgia's high-kill shelters"

Shelter staff struggles at this time of year as well. The emotional toll of facing the life and death decisions that have to be made when a shelter reaches capacity is incredibly difficult. City and County budgets just never seem to provide enough funding to properly care for the number of unwanted pets, or to offer low cost spay/neuter plans that could have long-term impact on the spiraling cost of pet overpopulation.

"There are lots of ways to fix this problem." Zambacca adds, "Visit the shelter first and 'Adopt don't Shop'. Donating to Angels helps directly with our veterinary expense of taking heartworm positive or urgently sick dogs. Volunteering as a temporary foster family is essential, because pulling one dog, means that there is space for one more, literally saving two lives. Angels foster families only need to provide love, food and transportation to any of our area-wide adoption events. Purchasing a state license plate for your vehicle through GeorgiaPetFoundation.org also provides grant money for spay/neuter organizations including Angels, throughout the state."

Rescue Santa can't take every pet at the local animal control this season, but for one moment those pets in Clayton will have joy; a yummy homemade treat provided by Petco and ThePickyPetStore.com and a walk to smell the fresh air.

Established in 2009, Angels Among Us Pet Rescue is a 501c3 non-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to the rescue of dogs and cats from high-kill shelters in Georgia. Operating through a network of foster homes in the vast Atlanta Metro area, Angels has rescued over 12,000 lives from these high-kill shelters across Georgia.



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