



Orange County Animal Services
2769 Conroy Rd., Orlando, FL 32839
Contact: Kathleen Kennedy, (407) 254-9249

For Immediate Release

Orange County Animal Services Celebrates Florida Week for the Animals *Agency Promotes Pet Adoptions and Community Outreach to Benefit Animals*

ORLANDO, Fla.—Feb. 3, 2009—Orange County Animal Services is joining organizations from around the state in a new annual event, Florida Week for the Animals, which raises awareness about animal issues and promotes animal welfare. During the event, which runs Feb. 7-15, 2009, Animal Services will celebrate the role animals play in our lives by:

- Displaying artwork submitted by Orange County elementary school students
- Participating in PetSmart's "Second Chance at Love" adoption event
- Encouraging the adoption of animals that came from the same home in their "Pick A Pair!" Valentine's Day promotion
- Holding its Amnesty Day outreach and education event at John Bridges Community Center in Apopka

In an effort to honor the animals in our community, Animal Services invited students from Lakeville Elementary to draw their pet, a shelter pet, or an animal they would like to have in their family. These works of art will be available for the public to view in the lobby of Animal Services during the week of the event.

Animal Services also will participate in PetSmart's annual "Second Chance at Love" adoption event at its East Colonial location, 6134 E. Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32807. The event will take place on Friday, Feb. 13 and Sunday, Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We are excited to once again work with Orange County Animal Services to help pets in need in our community. The last event we held together was a huge success, and we hope to find loving homes for even more animals this time," said Steve Starry, Manager of PetSmart's East Colonial store.

Additionally, the agency's "Pick A Pair!" Valentine's Day promotion is aimed at helping animals with siblings or friends in our shelter with the goal of adopting them together instead of separating them.

"Many times the animals that arrive here come from multi-pet households and will do well in a similar environment. With the 'Pick A Pair!' promotion we hope to educate Orange County residents about the benefits of companionship for pets and encourage adoptions of pets that came in together, making the transition into a new home easier and more comfortable," says Orange County Animal Services Manager, Katherine Lockett.

Finally, its Amnesty Day outreach and education event will be held at the John Bridges Community Center, 445 W. 13th St., Apopka, FL 32703 on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. During this event, Orange County residents with dogs and cats more than four months old can receive FREE rabies vaccines. **Limit five animals per household.** Animal Services officers and staff will be available to discuss pet-related issues in our community. Residents who are suffering economic hardship or have unwanted animals they can no longer care for may surrender them at no cost.

(more)

About Orange County Animal Services

Orange County Animal Services is one of Central Florida's largest pet rescue and adoption centers. Last year, Animal Services received more than 24,000 animals at its shelter. For 40 years, the agency's mission is to give abandoned and neglected pets a second chance to live long, healthy lives in safe, loving homes.

About PetSmart

PetSmart, Inc. is the largest specialty pet retailer of services and solutions for the lifetime needs of pets. The company operates more than 1,075 pet stores in the United States and Canada, a growing number of in-store PetSmart PetsHotel® cat and dog boarding facilities, and is a leading online provider of pet supplies and pet care information (www.petsmart.com). PetSmart provides a broad range of competitively priced pet food and pet products; and offers complete pet training, pet grooming, pet boarding, doggie day camp and pet adoption services. Since 1994, PetSmart Charities®, Inc., an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit animal welfare organization, has funded more than \$70 million in grants and programs benefiting animal welfare organizations and, through its in-store pet adoption programs, has helped save the lives of more than 3 million pets.

###