



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMUNITY COLLABORATES TO HOST SUCCESSFUL PET RESOURCE & AWARENESS DAY EVENT

BURLINGTON, NC— The rain on Saturday, September 26th didn't stop volunteers from six area animal services organizations from meeting at the Elmira Community Center in Burlington to host the first-ever, Pet Resource and Awareness Day. Over 45 individuals representing animal welfare organizations from across the County joined in partnership to transform the Elmira Community Center into a vaccine clinic and resource hub for this one-day resource event.

Event partners included: Burlington Animal Services, the Humane Society of Alamance County, AnimalKind, Friends of Mebane's Animals, Old North Canine Rescue and Sparkle Cat Rescue.

Free vaccinations, low/no cost spay/neuter vouchers, pet food, collars, leashes and valuable information about the services available to struggling pet owners were all made possible during Pet Resource Awareness Day because of donations provided by: PetSense Mebane, Iron Will Mobile Vet, Dr. Morgan Thomas, Lowes Foods Mebane, the Alamance County Health Department, the Humane Society of the United States and the City of Burlington. TNT Championship Wrestling wrestlers volunteered and signed autographs for fans waiting in line.

In just four hours, 362 free rabies vaccinations were administered. Additionally, 290 dogs received Distemper/Parvo (DA2PPv) vaccinations and 74 cats were given Feline Distemper combo (FVRCP) vaccinations, at no charge. These vaccinations were donated by the Humane Society of the United States and were administered by Dr. John Parks and Dr. Chelsey Miller of Iron Will Mobile Vets and Dr. Morgan Thomas of Piedmont Veterinary Clinic, who each donated their time and expertise along with Alamance County Health Department veterinarian Dr. Ralph

Houser and Burlington Animal Services and Creekside Animal Clinic veterinarian Dr. Jennifer Carne.

Pet owner, Shelby Obyrne brought her pet to the event and said “I was there and would like to thank everyone that made this event possible. Thanks for helping my pets and giving me the information to get more help if I need it. Thanks again to all you amazing people.”

James Kane of Sparkle Cat Rescue said, “we had a great day helping put on this community event! It was very rewarding and a true show of what local rescues and government agencies can do together.”

While attending the Pet Resource and Awareness Day, pet owners in Alamance County were able to qualify to receive low and no cost spay/neuter vouchers through AnimalKind. Dog owners currently tethering their pets were able to meet with Friends of Mebane’s Animals about assistance with fencing through their Freedom Fences Program. Many Burlington dog owners were especially interested in this program, which is available to all qualified county residents, in order to comply with Burlington’s anti-tethering ordinance. Friends of Mebane’s Animals also helped educate pet owners about how they can receive ongoing assistance with pet food.

Pet Resource and Awareness Day was an overwhelming success as it brought pet owners directly in contact with the organizations poised to offer necessary assistance. The ultimate goal is to introduce the community to resources that keep healthy pets at home with their families and out of the animal shelter or animal rescue organizations.

“This was a terrific opportunity for families with pets to connect with needed services and resources available in our community for their furry, four-legged family members. When animal welfare agencies and individuals come together and work supportively and cooperatively with each other we are able to help more pets and families. Burlington Animal Services is very proud of the work our partner agencies do and the work we are collectively doing for pets and people in our county. ” said Animal Services Director Jess Arias.

Pet Awareness and Resource Day may be over, but resources to help pet owners in need remain available year-round. A comprehensive Pet Resource Guide is available online here: <http://www.burlingtonnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7495>.

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“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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