

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Julie Levy

No More Homeless Pets

PO Box 141023

Gainesville FL 32614

Phone: 352-258-6658

www.nmhp.net

levyj@vetmed.ufl.edu

Hoarding Case Strains Already Full Shelter, Adoptive Homes Urgently Needed

"New Hope" Program Expanded to Save the Lives of Cats & Kittens

Gainesville, Florida – June 4, 2009 – When more than 90 animals were seized on Wednesday from a Gainesville home and brought to Alachua County Animal Services, the added strain came at an already critical time of year. The shelter and other local adoption organizations are full to brimming, and **we at No More Homeless Pets are asking for the community's help to save the lives of Alachua's homeless dogs and cats.**

In the hopes of finding homes for as many as possible, all cats and kittens have been designated "New Hope" adoptions during the month of June, with adoption fees reduced by more than half, to only \$33.

"There has never been a more critical time to adopt a pet through ACAS," said Dr. Julie Levy, president of No More Homeless Pets (NMHP), a community organization dedicated to ending the euthanasia of healthy pets. "Dozens of animals, especially cats and kittens, are brought in each day, and the shelter doesn't have unlimited resources. It's crucial for potential pet parents to know that the animals need them now."

While the victims of the neglect case will have to await the results of the County's investigation before finding new homes, many more animals anxiously sit in kennels and cages hoping for a chance at life outside the shelter walls.

And each day the seized animals wait increases the burden on the ACAS and its animals.

The shelter doesn't have time limits on animals awaiting adoption, but there are the ever-present limitations of space. According to Dr. Levy, who is also a professor of shelter medicine at UF's College of Veterinary Medicine, "This kind of influx puts a real strain on a shelter that's already virtually full, with more animals coming in each day.

"The shelter staff is working hard, but what they really need now are adopters to step up and save the lives of the adoptable pets." ACAS is hoping that reduced adoption fees for cats and kittens, which had been planned even before the seizure case, will make it easier for individuals and families to bring home a needy feline. The promotion will run through June, which is national Adopt A Shelter Cat Month.



Alachua County Animal Services is already teeming with animals needing adoption, like "Milo & Otis" and their siblings.



"Sydney" is just one of the adoptable dogs available for viewing on ACAS' website.



"Blossom" huddles in her cage, anxious to be shown that her life has value.

The animals of Alachua County need your help. While the future of the seized animals has yet to be determined, dozens of other animals face an urgent situation. Cat and kitten adoptions are only \$33, and many dogs and puppies are also looking for homes. Take the first step to saving a life by visiting the shelter at 3400 NE 53rd Avenue in Gainesville. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 9:30am to 5:30pm.

For information, go to www.MaddiesPetRescueOfAlachua.org and click on "Alachua County Animal Services" or call 352-264-6870.

About No More Homeless Pets

No More Homeless Pets, Inc., is a Gainesville-based organization dedicated to the elimination of unnecessary euthanasia of healthy pets throughout North Central Florida. NMHP is a non-profit organization supported by spay/neuter fees, grants, Alachua County, and the direct support of caring community members. For more information, go to www.NMHP.net.