



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 2012

Contact: Christie Keith
248.922.7747
415.205.4461
christiekeith@gmail.com

Second Annual Michigan No Kill Conference

Shelters, rescue groups, veterinarians, pet lovers, and lawmakers unite to save all state's homeless pets

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Mich., - The Michigan Pet Fund Alliance will hold its annual No Kill Conference on "Getting to the Goal" in Lansing on Thursday, September 20 and Friday, September 21. Last year's conference galvanized communities across the state and put Michigan in the forefront of the national no-kill movement. This year's event aims to bring together advocates from shelters, rescue groups, the veterinary field, and local and statewide government to share strategies, experiences, and inspiration. Michigan leads the way nationally in the number of communities that save the lives of more than 90 percent of their homeless pets.

The 2012 conference will focus on an innovative rescue group certification program and also features a veterinary-focused track as well as sessions on all aspects of the No Kill Equation, a group of programs implemented in more than 50 communities nationwide to end the killing of healthy and treatable homeless pets.

- September 20: noon – 5 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 111 N. Grand Avenue
- September 21: 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue

The Michigan Pet Fund Alliance 2012 Awards Banquet will be held Thursday night at the Radisson, where the Pet Fund will recognize the top-performing shelters in the state and award those communities that have saved more than 90 percent of their homeless pets with the humane, progressive policies of the No Kill Equation.

The 2012 award-winners are:

- Outstanding small shelter – Copper Country Humane Society, **Houghton**
- Outstanding medium shelter – Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter, **Negaunee**
- Outstanding large shelter – Humane Society of Huron Valley, **Ann Arbor**

- Outstanding limited admission shelter – Adopt-A-Pet, **Flint**
- Most improved from 2010 – Humane Society of Midland County, **Midland**
- Honorable mention – Huron Humane Society Inc, **Alpena**; Help Orphaned Pets Everywhere, **Ironwood**; Chippewa County Animal Control, **Sault Ste. Marie**; Southgate Animal Shelter, **Southgate**; AC Paws, Inc., **Mancelona**
- No-Kill community awards – Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Crawford, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw, Marquette, Otsego and Roscommon

“With the success we had last year in reaching animal welfare organizations statewide, our goal was to expand the No Kill Conference and help save more lives,” said Deborah Schutt, Michigan Pet Fund Alliance Chair. “New speakers and sessions offer additional opportunity for pet lovers to learn how they can be a part of the solution and find loving families for homeless animals.”

Winograd to speak

No Kill Advocacy Center Executive Director and award-winning author Nathan J. Winograd will deliver the keynote Friday morning, entitled “Imagine Greatness.” Winograd is a graduate of Stanford Law School, a former criminal prosecutor and has spoken nationally and internationally on animal shelter issues, created successful No Kill programs in urban and rural communities, and consulted with numerous animal protection groups.

“Nathan brings years of valuable insight, knowledge and passion for saving animals’ lives, and is the ideal speaker to kick-off day two of our conference,” added Schutt.

Additional speakers include National Canine Research Council Director of Communications Don Cleary and Animal Farm Executive Director Stacey Coleman, who will each conduct breakout sessions. Conference tracks include “No Kill 101,” “Innovation in Animal Welfare,” and “Removing ‘Hard to Place’ from Pit Bull Adoptions.”

Those interested in attending can register online at www.michiganpetfund.org.

Michigan Pet Fund Alliance

Michigan Pet Fund Alliance is a not for profit organization whose mission is to end the killing of healthy and treatable homeless cats and dogs in Michigan by collaborating with animal shelters and rescue organizations to achieve No Kill through training, technical assistance, education, and advocacy.

###