



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DIVISION OF HUMANE SERVICES' FOOD PANTRY HELPS ST. CHARLES COUNTY PETS

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – One Saturday each month, qualifying St. Charles County pet owners can receive free food for their dog or cat through the Division of Humane Services' Pet Food Pantry. The program distributes dry pet food to registered families on an as-available basis at the Pet Adoption Center, located at 4850 Mid Rivers Mall Drive in St. Peters.

"Pets are an important part of our lives and can boost spirits when times are tough," said Division of Humane Services Veterinary Technician *Katie Willis*. "The Pet Food Pantry helps the dogs and cats in our community receive the responsible care they deserve. Thanks to contributions like a 10,000 pound donation of food from Purina Farms and routine gifts from members of our community, this program continues to enhance the lives of the animals we love."

The free program is open to participating St. Charles County residents. To qualify, pet owners must:

- Register with the Division of Humane Services at least one week prior to the giveaway, showing proof of residency in St. Charles County (government-issued identification or utility bill).
- Show proof of need.
- Show proof of current rabies vaccination for each animal covered or update the animal's shot record at the time of registration.
- Show proof that the animal is spayed or neutered or make arrangements to do so at the time of registration.
- Bring a container large enough to carry at least three pounds of food.

The next Pet Food Pantry will open from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 29. Additional 2016 programs will be offered on November 12 and December 3. To learn more about this program, or to donate goods, please call 636-949-7387.

Since opening in 1999, the St. Charles County's Pet Adoption Center has placed more than 35,000 animals in loving homes. Adopting a pet through the Division of Humane Services offers an outstanding value, as the \$60 adoption fee includes a thorough health examination, initial vaccinations, spay or neuter service, microchipping and owner education. To view pets now available for adoption, please visit www.sccmo.org/pets or stop by the Pet Adoption Center.

Through the efforts of its three divisions — Environmental Health and Protection, Health Services and Humane Services — the St. Charles County Department of Public Health provides a wide range of services that enhance the well-being of the community. To learn how the department assists this region or to find out about volunteer opportunities with any of the divisions, visit www.sccmo.org/PublicHealth or call 636-949-7400.

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