

Community Animal Welfare Consortium Honors National Homeless Animals' Day

Ten animal welfare agencies attended Market at the Square in Urbana in recognition of National Homeless Animals' Day on August 18. The goal of the event was to raise awareness of the plight of homeless animals and to spotlight the work that animal welfare agencies do to find those animals new homes.

Agency representatives were on hand to provide information detailing the services they provide and the type of animals that they help. Several dogs, cats and even birds were in attendance, as well.

Visitors to the market were grateful to learn of organizations they did not know existed, such as a rescue group just for birds or Keeshond dogs. Two local television stations aired coverage of the event in their evening newscasts.

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, an estimated 8-12 million companion animals enter animal shelters each year. East-Central Illinois is no stranger to the problem of homeless animals. Last year alone, the Champaign County Humane Society took in over 1,000 dogs, 1,200 cats, and 300 pets of other species. These numbers do not reflect the many homeless animals assisted by other animal control agencies and rescue organizations in our area.

This was the first collaborative event planned by the community animal welfare consortium (see *CARE Package* newsletter, February 2007) comprised of about 20 agencies in Champaign and Douglas counties. Through collaboration and the pooling of resources, the consortium members are working together to collectively address the needs of the area's pet population.

In addition to the CARE Center, the participating agencies included:

Birds on a Budget Bird Club www.birdsonabudget.com

Champaign Area Trap Spay/Neuter and Assistance Program (CATsNAP)
www.catsnap.org

Champaign County Animal Control www.co.champaign.il.us/animal

Champaign County Humane Society www.cuhumane.org

Douglas County Animal Control
www.douglascountyil.com/animalcontrol/contactanimalcontrol.html

Feathered Friends Avian Rescue & Rehab.
www.featheredfriendsavianrescueandrehab.com

Hands 4 Paws www.freewebs.com/hands4paws

Keeshond Rescue of the Central States <http://west.petfinder.com/shelters/IL119.html>

Northern Illinois Samoyed Assistance (see contact for Douglas County Animal Control)