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MICHIGAN PET FUND ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES WINNERS AND LOSERS AMONG STATE'S ANIMAL SHELTERS

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Mich., - While five Michigan shelters have been honored as the best in the state, eight others are responsible for killing more than 50% of animals in Michigan. The Outstanding Shelter Awards honorees have been named by the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting a 'no kill' shelter philosophy. Winners were selected for having the best 2010 save rates.

"Each of this year's winners has shown an incredible commitment to animal welfare, adoption and saving lives," said Deborah Schutt, chair of the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance. "We commend these organizations for setting an example statewide of how we should all treat and care for our homeless animals."

The 2010 Outstanding Shelter Awards honorees are:

- Outstanding Michigan **Large** (5,000+) Open Admission Shelter
 - o **Humane Society of Huron Valley**, Ann Arbor; 80.59 percent save rate
- Outstanding Michigan **Medium** (1,000 – 5,000) Open Admission Shelter
 - o **Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter**, Negaunee; 87.65 percent save rate
- Outstanding Michigan **Small** (less than 1,000) Open Admission Shelter
 - o **Hope Animal Shelter**, Ironwood; 100.63 percent save rate
- Outstanding Michigan **Limited Admission** Shelter with greatest number of adoptions
 - o **Humane Society of Livingston County**, Howell; 91.87 percent save rate
- Open Admission Shelter most improved from 2009
 - o **Oceana County Animal Control**, Shelby; 79.45 percent save rate, a 44 percent increase over the shelter's 2009 save rate

Disturbingly, and on the other end of the spectrum, of the 197 shelters in Michigan, eight were responsible for killing more than 50 percent of homeless dogs and cats in 2010. The shelters killing the greatest number of animals are:

Shelter*	Kills	Save rate	Size	Location
Michigan Humane Society	17,113	29.85 percent	Large	Detroit
Genesee County Animal Control	6,062	23.45 percent	Large	Flint Twp
Kent County Animal Shelter	4,722	17.99 percent	Large	Grand Rapids
Saginaw County Animal Care Center	3,732	28.92 percent	Large	Saginaw
Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society	3,365	31.31 percent	Large	Detroit
Macomb County Animal Shelter**	2,909	26.67 percent	Large	Clinton Twp
Humane Society of West Michigan	2,759	35.81 percent	Medium	Grand Rapids
Bay County Animal Control	2,540	23.47 percent	Medium	Bay City

“While we celebrate those who are truly dedicated to doing what is right, there are still more than 100,000 animals put to death in our state each year,” said Schutt. “The Michigan Pet Fund Alliance remains dedicated to working with these shelters and helping them create new plans and approaches.”

The Pet Fund analyzed annual reports shelters file with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to determine the save rate for each shelter. Shelter rankings can be found at www.michiganpetfund.org

Save rates are calculated by comparing the number of animals taken in versus the number of animals adopted or returned to owner over the course of one year, also factoring in existing animal populations at the shelter and animals born at the shelter.

Note: Open admission shelters are defined as those that accept all stray animals when full and accepting or making arrangements for owner surrenders when full. Limited admission shelters only accept animals when space is available at the shelter or in foster homes.

*The City of Detroit has a 100% kill policy for bully breeds. Detroit has failed to submit the mandated shelter report to the Department of Agriculture since 2007. It is possible that Detroit should be included on this list.

**2010 Department of Agriculture shelter numbers have a 2,442 animal discrepancy.

About Michigan Pet Fund Alliance:

Michigan Pet Fund Alliance was formed to bring the No More Homeless Pets No-Kill philosophy and programs to Michigan. This 21st century approach includes new thinking about animal welfare, effective programs and best practices. When shelters and rescues follow the program, the need to euthanize either healthy and/or treatable animals due to lack of sheltering space and/or resources will be eliminated. For more information, call 877-FUR-PALS (387-7257) or visit www.michiganpetfund.org.

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