

For Immediate Release

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Homeless Katrina Cats Board Private Plane to Find Loving Homes in the Pacific Northwest

The Cat Adoption Team, in collaboration with Angel Flight, has organized to bring up to 40 cats misplaced by Hurricane Katrina to Portland, Ore.

Portland, OR – **September 30, 2005** - The Cat Adoption Team (CAT), the Pacific Northwest's largest non-profit, no-kill cat shelter and hospital, has arranged for a private plane, a Cessna 421 B, to rescue up to 40 homeless cats from Hurricane Katrina on Monday, October 3rd. The cats come from four shelters and rescue groups in the New Orleans area that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and later moved to the Humane Society of North Texas.

At 7 a.m. CST, volunteers and staff from the Humane Society of North Texas will load the cats on the private plane at Meacham Airport, Texas for their 8-hour flight to Portland, Ore. This mission has received official certification as an Angel flight, which gives it priority handling and FBOs along the way provide discounted fuel prices.

"On a day-to-day basis, the Cat Adoption Team collaborates with county shelters, veterinary offices and other rescue groups in Oregon to help the cats that are in most need in our community," said Kris Otteman, DVM and CAT Board Member. *"This time, we have reached beyond our state borders to assist the cats misplaced by this horrible tragedy that affected both humans and their companion animals alike. We are lucky to be able to help save their lives."*

The flight path – Monday, October 3rd, 2005:

7:30 a.m. – CST – **Meacham, Texas** - The private plane will fly directly from Meacham Airport to Colorado Springs.

9:30 a.m. – MST – **Colorado Springs, Colo.** - While refueling, Dr. Serena Young of Banfield, The Pet Hospital of Colorado Springs will evaluate the cats to ensure all Pets on-flight are healthy. Banfield, The Pet Hospital is also making a massive donation of medical supplies to assist CAT with the large in-take of cats when they reach Portland.

12:45 p.m. – MST – **Odgen, Utah** – The plane will re-fuel and then depart for Portland, Ore.

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. – PST – **Portland, Ore.** – The cats will arrive in Portland, Ore. at PDX airport.

Once in Portland, the cats will be transported to The Cat Adoption Team in Sherwood for in-take. CAT has a full service in-house veterinary hospital and its medical and shelter staffs are standing by to receive the cats. A separate isolation area has been set up for the Katrina cats where they

will receive a full physical exam while the medical staff will evaluate their health status. Free lab services have been offered by Antech lab specifically for these 40 cats.

On top of a thorough health exam, the cats will go through CAT's regular intake process, which includes vaccinations, testing for FIV/FeLV, treatment for any parasites, implantation of a microchip and spay/neuter surgery. Once the cats settle into their temporary home at the shelter, the hope is to release them for adoption by mid-week.

"All of us feel a need to help in any way we can during this natural disaster. We're glad that we were able to organize this transport and assist cats in need. However, there is still a crisis in our own backyard that we cannot turn our back on. In the Portland Metro area alone, 5,000 to 10,000 cats and kittens are still being euthanized due to a lack of available homes and the continued need for pets to be altered," said Britta Bavaresco, CAT Board Member. ***"If you want to help and make a difference right here in your own community, please support your local animal shelters by adopting, volunteering or donating money or supplies."***

The Cat Adoption Team is in need of donations from the community to support not only this specific rescue effort, but to continue its work to save and place over 2,500 cats and kittens this year alone. If you are not able to adopt a shelter cat at this time, please consider making any contribution to defray the cost of this rescue mission and to help the Portland community's homeless cats and kittens find a lifelong home. To donate today, please go to CAT's website at www.catadoptionteam.org, visit the shelter or call 503-925-8903 for further information.

The Cat Adoption Team (CAT) is the Pacific Northwest's largest and fastest growing non-profit, no-kill cat shelter and hospital. CAT rescues, rehabilitates and places the community's abandoned, neglected and injured cats and kittens into loving, lifetime homes. CAT not only partners with the community but with local county shelters, other rescue groups and veterinary offices to take in cats that might otherwise be euthanized due to medical problems or space constraints. CAT, a 501(c)(3) publicly-supported charity, will save more than 2,500 lives this year and relies heavily on the support of the public and generous volunteers.

CAT is located at 14175 SW Galbreath Drive in Sherwood, just off Tualatin-Sherwood Highway Road. For directions and more information, call 503-925-8903 or visit CAT's website at www.catadoptionteam.org.

Banfield, The Pet Hospital is celebrating its golden anniversary in 2005. Founded in Portland, Oregon, in 1955, Banfield has become the largest privately owned veterinary practice in the world. Banfield will open its 500th U.S. hospital in Broomfield, Colo. On October 29, 2005 and has 2 additional hospitals in the U.K. and one in Mexico. More than 1000 quality veterinarians at Banfield are committed to giving Pets the same level care that their human family members receive. Banfield hospitals offer a full-range of comprehensive, medical services, computerized medical records, Pet preventive care plans, extended operating hours, and is the only veterinary practice in the world with an extensive quality assurance program. Banfield, The Pet Hospital helps extend the lives of more than 3.5 million Pets each year.

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