



July 15, 2010
For Immediate Release
Contact: Kathy McGuire
President, NJ Aid for Animals
P O Box 4, Cedarbrook, NJ 08018
856.498.3978.
www.njafa.org
info@njafa.org

NJ Aid for Animals Establishing Humane Education County Divisions

Local Divisions to Focus on Public Education to End Animal Abuse

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP, NJ - What dog needs justice from a private nonprofit? Just ask “Chance”, a dog abused in a fighting ring. As a result of NJ Aid for Animals’ relentless advocacy, Chance’s abuser was sentenced to jail time and Kathy McGuire, President/CEO of NJAFA, had the opportunity to publicly rebuke his actions in court. NJFA is a 501c3 nonprofit conceived five years ago to help animals with broad initiatives, including spay-neuter services, humane education and pursuit of animal cruelty cases. “Vigorous enforcement of animal cruelty laws requires community involvement,” McGuire stressed, “People are often afraid of retaliation or lack information about the court system.” She wants every private citizen to learn how to recognize animal abuse and how to pursue justice for abused animals as a civic duty. To carry this out, NJAFA has announced the establishment of new divisions which will be dedicated to animal cruelty, including public awareness and education about the legal process for laypersons.

They are:

- New Jersey Society for the Protection of Animals;
- Salem County Society for the Protection of Animals;

- Camden County Society for the Protection of Animals;
- Gloucester County Society for the Protection of Animals;
- Burlington County Society for the Protection of Animals.

To volunteer for any of the county chapters or for information, please call Camden Co. Society for Protection of Animals at 856. 728.0911 or Gloucester Co. Society for Protection of Animals 856.467.0730. For the State and other counties, please call 856.498.3978.

Background: Over the past five years, Kathy McGuire has emerged as a fierce advocate leading a successful nonprofit effort, NJAFA. Known in Camden City as the “skinny dog lady”, she has a remarkable story. In 2005, with over fifteen years experience in marketing, serving on nonprofit boards, rescuing and finding homes for hundreds of animals, McGuire started NJ Aid for Animals (NJAFA), an all-volunteer animal charity with the mission to help abandoned and abused animals, to end overpopulation through aggressive spay-neuter services, and to enrich the lives of suffering animals through innovative programs, including free shot clinics and free dog houses. Driving into Camden City by herself to pick up people’s owned animals to bring them to be spayed and neutered and returning them the same day, she pounds the pavement, asking people on the street if they would like their animal fixed.

Over the years, as she witnessed the suffering of abandoned and owned animals, McGuire become increasingly passionate about preventing animal cruelty and seeing that it is prosecuted effectively. She obtained her certification as an animal cruelty investigator at the Ocean County Police Academy and started to educate the public about how every person can make a difference.

McGuire recognized gaps in humane law enforcement for abused animals. Among other factors, there are diminishing services and budget cuts at the municipal levels with animals being

last to be served. Because state humane enforcement has fewer resources, McGuire has taken the initiative to form public education divisions through NJAFA. These will fill the gaps by teaching private citizens to perform their civic duty in recognizing animal cruelty and learning how private citizens can build a case, present it to law enforcement with a tidy little bow and/or take their probable cause and do it themselves. As Societies for the Protection of Animals, the county divisions are part of NJAFA and include Camden, Gloucester, Burlington and Salem counties.

. Key to this is that the new county divisions will take anonymous calls. The state humane enforcement does NOT take anonymous calls and many times an animal will suffer due to a citizen not wanting to leave their names. The state and local SPA's will in turn relay information to the proper authorities.

Private citizens can gather the facts and assemble a cruelty case for local prosecutors to pursue," said Kathy, adding, as a private citizen she has had many successful convictions of animals abusers by implementing and following the protocol for justice.

Just ask Chance. He's in a new home, thanks to NJAFA's advocacy and the dog-fighting ring that caused him and his pack such agony has gone out of business. The abuser remains on probation paying back almost \$7,000 in restitution to NJAFA.

To volunteer for any of the county chapters or for information, please call Camden Co. Society for Protection of Animals at 856. 728.0911 or Gloucester Co. Society for Protection of Animals 856.467.0730. For the State and other counties, please call 856.498.3978.

###