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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Animal Adoptions on the Rise

## Henderson County Animal Shelter Statistics Improving

**January 8, 2008 – Henderson County, NC:** This holiday season and beyond, more residents are choosing to adopt and give a homeless dog or cat from the Henderson County Animal Shelter a warm and loving place to live.

“From November 26, 2007 through January 5, 2008 there were 304 dogs and cats impounded. Of that, 168 were adopted out and 26 were reclaimed. That’s a 55.3 percent adoption rate for these six weeks,” said Brad Rayfield, Animal Services Director. “That percentage has had a positive impact on the county’s adoption rate for the entire year.”

In total, here’s how the past four years have looked:

- In 2004 18 percent of the impounded dogs and cats were adopted.
- In 2005 19.2 percent of the impounded dogs and cats were adopted.
- In 2006 25.6 percent of the impounded dogs and cats were adopted.
- In 2007 36.5 percent of the impounded dogs and cats were adopted.

The rest of the impounded animals were either reclaimed by owners or euthanized. Euthanasia rates are also declining at the county’s animal shelter. In 2007 55.2 percent of the animals impounded were euthanized, that’s down from 71.5 percent in 2006, 74.5 percent in 2005 and 76.3 percent in 2004.

“We hope that number will continue to decrease and that owners will come reclaim their impounded pets or people in our community will consider providing a loving home to a new pet,” Rayfield said. He is also working to establish a broader network of resources to increase adoption rates and place animals in loving homes.

The county opened the newly built shelter in 2006 and Brad Rayfield came to the county as the new director in November 2007.

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