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Agreement Reached Between County, State & "All Creatures"

County Takes Legal Custody of Animals Feb. 1 to March 14

January 29, 2008 – Henderson County, NC: The Henderson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved an agreement today with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services over the county taking legal custody of the dogs and cats at "All Creatures Great and Small" and plans for the closure of "All Creatures Great and Small" by March 14.

The state, officials with "All Creatures Great and Small," and humane organizations will jointly operate the shelter at its current site, on Seventh Avenue in Hendersonville, in an effort to adopt out as many of the animals as possible until March 14, 2008, the agreement states.

Henderson County has agreed to take legal custody, of the animals at the shelter from February 1 until March 14. The State Department of Agriculture will take physical custody and be responsible for the animals, and for "Operation MoveOut," the state's plans for adopting out the animals and closure of the facility. State Assistant Veterinarian Mary Ann McBride said the state will occupy the property and operate the facility from February 1 until March 14 and will keep all animals at the current facility while working to adopt them out.

"I believe this is as good of a solution as could exist, and it is in the best interest of the animals there," said Henderson County Board of Commission Chairman Bill Moyer.

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