



100 North King Street • Hendersonville, NC 28792
Phone (828) 697-4809 • Fax (828) 698-6014 • www.hendersoncountync.org

Steve Wyatt
County Manager

Selena Coffey
Assistant County Manager

Pam Brice
Communications Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Selena Coffey, Henderson County Assistant County Manager, 828-697-4809

County Welcomes New Animal Services Director with Adoption Event

November 6, 2007 – Henderson County, NC: Brad Rayfield has been appointed Henderson County's new Animal Services Director. Rayfield comes to Henderson County from the Raleigh area and has an educational background in Agricultural Business from North Carolina State University. Rayfield has worked for the past 8 years in Agricultural Research for N.C. State University and in kennel management prior to that. He succeeds Interim Director Rocky Hyder.

Henderson County's Assistant County Manager Selena Coffey said, "Brad has the management skills, interpersonal abilities, collaborative philosophy and enthusiasm necessary to enhance our Animal Services operations. I expect that he will hit the ground running, working to strengthen our adoptions and volunteer programs, administer a new spay-neuter program, and improve our educational outreach to the community."

"I'm really excited about this opportunity," Rayfield said. With the goal of improving adoption rates, Rayfield said educating the public will be his top priority. "The key here is public awareness — every interaction we have with the public gives us the opportunity to educate them on the importance of being responsible pet owners," Rayfield said.

Henderson County Manager Steve Wyatt said, "Animal Services continues to be a priority for Henderson County government. We look forward to the infusion of energy and ideas that Mr. Rayfield brings as we work to establish ourselves as the model program in Western North Carolina".

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The County will hold an adoption event to welcome Rayfield. "Meet the Director and Adopt a Pet" will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2007 from 11:00am – 1:00pm at the Animal Services Center, 828 Stoney Mountain Road. This event will provide the public the opportunity to meet the new Director and find a pet to take home with them! Among the activities folks may enjoy will be face painting, law enforcement canine demonstrations, and a raffle. Hotdogs and drinks will also be provided. Attendees are also invited to bring a toy for donation to our shelter animals.

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