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# Press Release

## **COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK WRAPS UP WITH DEDICATION OF NEW ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER**

**April 28, 2006 - (Hendersonville, NC)** - As Henderson County wraps up this year's "Protecting Our Communities" theme for County Government Week, a long-awaited event closes out the week. After months of construction, the new Henderson County Animal Services Center will open its doors. Saturday, April 29th marks the opening of the new facility at 828 Stoney Mountain Road in Hendersonville. The Open House will run from 10 am until 2 pm.

Morgan Woodward, Animal Services Director, will welcome visitors to the center at 10 am, with a thank you to the many volunteers who helped bring this project to fruition. Of particular mention are three local Boy Scouts who took on the landscaping of the site as Eagle Scout Projects. Shortly after the welcome and volunteer thank you, silent bids will be opened for a number of items, including a Ping golf club and gift certificates to local stores and restaurants. All of the proceeds from the auction will go directly to the Center. At 11 am, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners will hold an official ribbon cutting and dedication.

After the ribbon cutting, Paul Howey, a local children's book author, will be on hand to tell his personal shelter pet story with Freckles. After Howey and his wife adopted Freckles, she became a therapy dog, helping children through devastating sickness. Her life story inspired Howey to write about her experiences... both before and after being adopted... called *Freckles, The Mystery of the Little White Dog in the Desert*. The book won the ASPCA Henry Berg Gold Medal Award and was chosen as one of the "Top Five Children's Books of the Year" by Copley News Service. Howey will be on hand to sign books from 11 until 12:30 pm, and he is donating 50% of the sale of each of his books to the Center.

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Tours of the facility will be held until 2 pm, and refreshments will be served. Beginning Monday, and for the immediate future, the hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 8 am until 4:30 pm and Saturday from 9:30 until 11:30 am. Access to the facility is now directly off Stoney Mountain Road.

Brick pavers are available for purchase at the Center, and donations of food and volunteer time are needed and much appreciated. A new Education Room will be also be available to the public for pet care classes. Questions and requests for more information should be directed to Morgan Woodward, Animal Services Director, at 697-4723.

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