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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Animal Samaritans Launches Pet Transport Program: Provides free pick up and drop off for pets**

**Thousand Palms, CA – June 7, 2010:** On Friday, June 11, Animal Samaritans launches a new service to make spaying and neutering our pets not only safe and affordable, but also convenient. With the recent acquisition of a fully air-conditioned transportation vehicle, Animal Samaritans can carry up to sixteen dogs and cats from any location in the Coachella Valley and deliver them to their new, state-of-the-art Veterinary Clinic in Thousand Palms—for no additional fee to pet owners.

“We’re in the business of saving lives,” says Animal Samaritans’ Executive Director Fred Saunders. “We do that through prevention. Nothing has proven more effective at slowing the euthanasia of unwanted dogs and cats than spaying and neutering our pets.”

According to the Humane Society of the United States, more than 3 million cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters every year. Animal Samaritans is committed to reducing pet overpopulation by promoting the spaying and neutering of pets. Animals that have been spayed and neutered lead longer, healthier lives. A spayed female dog, for example, is less likely to develop urinary infections and mammary cancer, while neutered males are no longer at risk for testicular cancer and prostate problems. In addition, statistics show that neutered pets fight less, are less likely to bite, and are less likely to stray from home, which reduces their chances of contracting infectious diseases, succumbing to predators, or being injured and killed by traffic.

Animal Samaritans will be at Veteran’s Park in Coachella, this Friday, June 11, to pick up pets scheduled for spaying and neutering. Additional services such as pet microchipping and pet vaccinations may be included, but only for animals being altered. Animal Samaritans’ spay and neuter fees remain competitively low: just \$72 for cats, and just \$95 for dogs. To schedule an appointment for Friday’s free pet pick up and drop off in Coachella, interested pet owners must call Animal Samaritans at 760.343.4271. Animal Samaritans’

Animal Samaritans SPCA, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization founded in 1978, is committed to improving the lives of animals and people. As the Coachella Valley’s most comprehensive animal welfare organization, they strive to one day eliminate the needless suffering and abuse of homeless and unwanted animals. Programs and services in place to save the lives of healthy and treatable animals include prevention through humane education, low-cost and no-cost spay and neuter, low-cost vaccinations, animal sheltering and pet adoptions. In addition, more than one hundred volunteers from their Animal Assisted Therapy programs visit disabled children in special needs classrooms, nursing homes, and hospitals, while their Animal Assisted Activities teams see residents at Juvenile Hall. More information is available by calling 760-343-4908 and by visiting [www.animalsamaritans.org](http://www.animalsamaritans.org)

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