

For Immediate Release
March 10, 2010

Melanie Sobel, 414-649-8640

“NO PET LEFT BEHIND” CLINIC

MADACC Gives Lost Pets a Voice with Low-Cost Rabies Vaccinations, Microchips and Licenses

In an effort to spare lost pets and their owners the heartbreak of never being reunited, Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) is hosting a clinic offering:

- ✓ **\$5.00 Rabies Shot with Pet License Purchase**
- ✓ **FREE Rabies Shot for all Pit Bull and Pit Bull mixes with Pet License Purchase (Approximately 32% of dogs that enter MADACC each year are Pit Bull and Pit Bull mixes)**
- ✓ **\$10.00 microchips (includes registration)**
- ✓ **Chance to Comply with Pet License State Statute before late fee deadline of April 1st**

The clinic will be held Saturday, March 27, 2010 at MADACC's facility, 3839 W. Burnham St. in West Milwaukee from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The clinic is an effort to help the public understand how important a license, ID tag or other form of identification is for ensuring lost animals have a voice. “Without any form of ID, a lost pet can sit in the shelter for days while we try to locate its owner,” says Melanie Sobel, executive director of MADACC. “Last year only 13% of stray animals returned to their owners. Making sure your animal can be identified – with a license and/or microchip – is an immediate ticket home for your pet.” An average of 8 to 12 million companion animals end up in shelters across the country each year, and without an ID tag, reuniting them with their owners is difficult, at best. Each year, in fact, 5 to 9 million lost companion animals will need to be euthanized.

Licenses are also a ticket home for lost pets! When stray animals enter MADACC with identification, staff can immediately contact the owner to notify them of their lost pet. Licensed pets entering MADACC also receive emergency care if needed and reduced fees when they come to claim their pet. Microchipping pets is a simple, inexpensive way to permanently identify one's pet and provides less chance that someone will steal someone's pet and get away with it.

In addition, licensing ensures that pets are vaccinated against rabies, provides owner identification for each pet, and provides funds to MADACC for the rescue, shelter and care of stray, mistreated, unwanted, abandoned and injured animals.

Finally, State law requires that all dogs and cats over five months of age be vaccinated against rabies and licensed in their municipality. Cost of pet license is \$12 if the pet is spayed or neutered, and \$24 for unaltered pets. If pet owners' pets have a current rabies vaccination, a rabies certificate must be brought in to purchase a license. A late fee is charged if a license is purchased after March 31, 2010. Licenses can also be purchased online at www.madacc.com. For more information, please call 414-649-8640.

About Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC)

Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) provides animal regulation and care services which protect the health, public safety and welfare of people and animals in Milwaukee County.

MADACC currently rescues and assures safe, temporary shelter, veterinary and humane care for nearly 13,000 stray, unwanted, abandoned, mistreated and injured animals each year — more than any other animal shelter in Wisconsin. MADACC provides a central location for owners to find and recover their lost pets at 3839 W. Burnham St. in West Milwaukee and is open seven days a week, including evening hours on weekdays. MADACC removes dangerous and stray animals from public areas providing effective animal control services by active enforcement of Wisconsin State Statutes pertaining to animal welfare.

MADACC is an organization charged with the responsibility of rescuing thousands of lost and homeless animals and animals suffering from cruelty, neglect and indifference.

Animal Care and Control facilities are often referred to derogatorily as “the pound”. They are often one of the most misunderstood organizations in any community. Although their mission is to save lives, their community’s irresponsible pet ownership requires them to euthanize animals, and then they are faulted for doing so. These organizations don’t have the luxury of shrinking from the life and death issues of animal welfare. They are the only animal welfare agency in any community that has to address the issue of pet euthanasia head on every minute of every day.

For more information, please call 414-649-8640.