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EIGHTH ANNUAL WALK AND WAG TO BENEFIT SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL CENTER

Shaftsbury, VT (October 1, 2009) –On Sunday, October 25th, Second Chance Animal Center will hold its eighth annual Walk and Wag in Dorset to raise money for the shelter. Every dollar raised can help save the life of another furry friend in need.

Participants are asked to come in costume and to dress up their dogs too. “It will be a dress rehearsal for Halloween,” said Nancy Boardman, Vice President of the Board of SCAC.

The fun will start at noon with registration at the Dorset Playhouse on Cheney Road. Following a blessing of the animals by Father Scott Neal, rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Arlington, dogs and their companions will head off for a brisk but non-strenuous walk around the Dorset Green, down to Dorset West Road and then back to the Playhouse for awards, canine and human refreshments and a chance to mingle with fellow dog lovers and their best friends.

Participants are asked not to use flexi-leashes. Fabric leashes will be available to borrow if needed.

Free Halloween bandanas will be given to all entered dogs and a SCAC t-shirt will be given to those raising or donating \$50 or more. There will be prizes for the top two pledge-earners (adult and under 12), as well as for the best costumes, “unique dog characteristics”--such as curliest tail, most freckles, and owner-dog-look-a-likes.

Registration is \$25 per dog, unless exceeded by the pledge amount raised. Pledge forms can be picked up at Green Mountain Veterinary Hospital and Pet Etc. in Manchester, and at Second Chance Animal Center on Rte. 7A in Shaftsbury. Forms may also be downloaded from the shelter’s website, www.2ndchanceanimalcenter.org.

The Walk and Wag is SCAC’s biggest fundraiser of the year and will be held rain or shine. So put on your costume and your walking shoes, leash up your canine friend, bring your pledge form and all funds with you and join the fun on Sunday, October 25th.

All money raised in registration fees, pledges, and donations goes directly to support Second Chance’s one-on-one training for shelter dogs. Such training makes a huge difference in the lives of some of the 175-200 dogs that are surrendered to Second Chance every year.

“With proper training, dogs who come to the shelter with “issues” leave with a better attitude, keener social skills and a greater chance of putting their best paw forward in their new homes,” said Ms. Boardman, referring to the training program as “Good Dog U.”

For more information or to have pledge sheets mailed to you, call the shelter at 802-375-2898. Please note that, because of the Walk and Wag, the shelter will not be open on October 25th, but will resume its Sunday hours (noon to 3 p.m.) on November 1st.

Second Chance Animal Center serves 37 towns in Vermont, New York and Massachusetts. It is the place called when pets are lost or found, the place people bring animals they can no longer care for, the place where concerns about animal abuse or neglect are reported for investigation.

The staff and 75 volunteers provide compassionate shelter and treatment for animals and extensive outreach programs to the public. These programs include comprehensive education on the humane and ethical treatment of all animals, spay and neuter assistance, investigations regarding animal cruelty, and innovative adoption and foster care services.

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