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## For Immediate Release – February 1, 2010

### FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL PREVENT A LITTER MONTH

Tragically, as many as 4 million cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized each year in the United States because there simply aren't enough homes to go around.

Pet overpopulation is a killer for these innocent victims, and the best way to combat the problem is to prevent a litter in the first place through sterilization. Fortunately, the number of animals being euthanized has declined over the past twenty or thirty years, but we still have a long way to go.

Since February is National Prevent a Litter Month, Second Chance Animal Center in Shaftsbury, VT would like to take this opportunity to encourage all pet owners to have their pet spayed or neutered and to encourage their friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to do likewise.

One of the most important health decisions you'll ever make is to spay or neuter your cat or dog. The reasons for doing so are many. According to the ASPCA, here are but a few reasons:

- 1) Your female pet will live a longer, happier, healthier life and is less likely to develop breast cancer
- 2) Neutering provides major health benefits for your male pet as well and also helps to prevent testicular cancer if done before six month of age
- 3) Your male dog is far less likely to roam away from home looking for a mate at the risk of being injured in traffic or fights with other dogs
- 4) Your female won't go into heat and yowl all day long during breeding season, and your male won't be intent on marking his territory by spraying urine all over the house
- 5) Spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation and the needless euthanasia of animals whose only crime is that they have no one to love and care for them

Second Chance is fighting the problem of pet overpopulation by making sure that every animal in its care is spayed or neutered prior to adoption. And Second Chance also provides income-eligible families with low cost surgery through its Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP). The program provides help on an income- based sliding scale. If you think you may be eligible for these services and would like to learn more about the program, please call the SNAP information line at Second Chance at 375-2898 Ext 112.

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