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PRESS RELEASE

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Birth Control for Bully Breeds **Placer SPCA Offers Free Spay and Neuter Assistance for Pit Bull & Pit Bull Mix**

Roseville, CA – The Placer SPCA is offering vouchers for free spay and neuter surgery to Placer County residents for pit bull and pit bull-type dogs for the month of **November 2009**. The vouchers can be redeemed at participating veterinary clinics and Placer SPCA will pick up the tab for the procedures.

The free alterations are part of Placer SPCA's Spay and Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP), aimed at reducing pet overpopulation. Currently Placer County residents can also receive vouchers for reduced-cost spays and neuters for cats and rabbits. To receive a voucher, call the Placer SPCA at (916) 782-7722, extension 201, (530) 885-7387, extension 201, or apply online at www.placerspca.org.

Dogs commonly referred to as "pit bulls" are actually comprised of three different breeds: the American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, in addition to mixed breed dogs with the physical characteristics of those breeds.

"We are focusing on the pit bull type dog because the reality is, they make up a substantial percentage of homeless dogs in shelters," said Placer SPCA CEO Leilani Vierra. "If funding allowed it, we would offer free spays and neuters for all companion animals; it's that important."

Spaying and neutering is key to responsible pet ownership, not only to reduce the homeless pet population. It also is linked to reduced behavior issues and health benefits for the animals. The Placer SPCA also recommends on-going socialization, exercise, obedience training, microchipping, and not allowing dogs or cats to roam free, as well as regular veterinary care and vaccinations.

The voluntary pit bull spay/neuter program is made possible in part by a grant from Animal Farm Foundation and the generosity of local veterinarians who are offering their services at a reduced cost to the Placer SPCA.

Local companion animal welfare experts, the Placer SPCA offers many programs for the pets and people of Placer County. More information can be found on their website, www.placerspca.org.

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