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**CONTACT:**

**Aileen Gabbey**

410-235-8826, ext. 131

### **MARYLAND SPCA ANNOUNCES FACILITY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN**

**Baltimore**— At a reception on March 11, Maryland SPCA Board President Mary-Ann Pinkard announced that the Maryland SPCA is planning to expand its adoption center this summer to better serve the public and the animals in the community. “We are very excited to be taking this next step,” Mrs. Pinkard said. “In the last few years, we have made tremendous strides in improving the well-being of animals in the Baltimore community. We need facilities to reflect the changes that have enabled us to adopt out every healthy pet in our adoption program for the last two-and-a-half years.”

Construction is scheduled to begin **this summer**, and work is expected to be completed within six months. The planned expansion includes the following improvements:

- Creation of the Morton Gorn **Center for Animal Adoption**, a new area for adoption interviews, a waiting area, office space and two “animal showcases” for dog and cat housing of “long-timers” to promote their adoption.
- Construction of an **animal intake center**, separate from the adoption area, to provide improved areas for animals coming into the MD SPCA. It will include space to assess animal behavior and a dog exam room, allowing us to have **separate dog and cat exam rooms**.
- **Expanded cat room**. The addition will enable us to increase the size of the cat room and provide more generous cat housing.
- Fire safety. The project includes **installing sprinklers** throughout the entire facility.
- **Better accessibility**. The new building will be all on one level, removing the steps from the front of the current adoption center entrance and eliminating all steps within the interior of the building.

The new adoption center is named in memory of Morton Gorn, a real estate developer who cherished his dogs and his horses. The gift to name the center in his memory was made by his widow, Arlene Gorn, who was introduced to the Maryland SPCA by her daughter, Karen Colvin.

“Mrs. Gorn and the Colvins motivated and inspired us to move forward with this project at a time when many people were pulling back because of the economy,” said Aileen Gabbey, Executive Director. “Their generosity was an important cornerstone to making this project happen.”

The project is estimated to cost \$1.8 million and, to date, \$1.5 million in private contributions has been committed to the project.

*The Maryland SPCA is located at 3300 Falls Road in the Hampden area of Baltimore City. Our mission is to improve the lives of pets and people in the community by fostering healthy animal-human relationships. We are not affiliated with any national animal welfare organization, and we receive no government operating funds. Our programs directly benefit the people and pets in central Maryland. For more information about the Maryland SPCA, visit [www.mdspca.org](http://www.mdspca.org) or call 410-235-8826.*

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