

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 29, 2006

**“PRESENTS FOR PETS” TO PROVIDE A BRIGHTER HOLIDAY
FOR HOMELESS PETS**

Baltimore – The Maryland SPCA is collecting toys for its shelter animals from December 1 to December 30 to ensure that homeless pets all have enough play toys to last year-round. The goal is to fill an entire dog run in the SPCA’s shelter with toys by the end of the drive.

Providing toys for the pets is more than a nice touch. Having toys and treats in the shelter environment reduces stress and keeps pets healthier.

The public is encouraged to bring in new dog or cat toys and place them in the specially designated dog run during the month-long drive. Santa Claws will be on hand on December 15 and 22 to greet visitors who bring a toy and, if they wish, help deliver that toy to a needy dog or cat in the SPCA’s shelter.

Some of the toys that the pets especially appreciate include Kongs, Buster Cubes, toy mice and catnip treats, new paint rollers, plush squeaky toys, balls designed for dogs and large knuckle bones.

The SPCA will regularly update the progress of the drive on its website, www.mdspca.org. The Maryland SPCA is a private, nonprofit adoption center in Baltimore. We place more than 3,000 pets into new homes each year and also provide pet owner education to keep pets in homes. The Maryland SPCA is open Monday from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday from noon to 7 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.