

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 21, 2007

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## **HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AT THE MARYLAND SPCA**

**Baltimore**—During the month of December, The Maryland SPCA will collect toys and treats for the homeless cats and dogs that enter the adoption center in 2008. The goal of the **Presents for Pets** toy drive is to fill an entire dog run with enough toys and treats to entertain the animals throughout the year. Providing toys and treats helps socialize the animals, reduces their stress and keeps them healthier.

Members of the public are encouraged to bring new toys or treats to the SPCA. The pets especially like Kongs, Buster Cubes, toy mice, plush squeaky toys and balls designed for dogs. Images of the gifts in the Presents for Pets dog run will appear on the SPCA's website ([www.mdspca.org](http://www.mdspca.org)) PetCam so the public can view the drive's progress.

On Saturday and Sunday, December 22 & 23, **Santa Claws** will be at the SPCA to greet visitors from noon to 3:30 p.m. People donating a present to the SPCA can choose to have Santa Claws deliver their present to the pet of their choice in the adoption center or to add their gift to the collection in the Presents for Pets dog run.

**Don't shop. ADOPT!** This November and December, The Maryland SPCA is participating in Home 4 the Holidays™, a program designed to increase adoptions during the holiday season. The goal of pet stores and breeders is to make a profit while the goal of animal shelters is to save lives. According to the Humane Society of the United States, the holiday season is the most popular time for families to bring a new pet into their home. Instead of shopping for a pet, The Maryland SPCA and the Home 4 The Holidays program encourages people to adopt. Pets adopted during the promotion go home with their "holiday meal" and information on how to care for them, courtesy of Iams while supplies last.

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 a government agency nor affiliated with any other SPCA or Humane Society. For more information about The Maryland SPCA, visit [www.mdspca.org](http://www.mdspca.org) or call 410-235-8826.

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