



**Last year, 9,219 dogs took life-saving ride on
PetSmart Charities® Rescue Waggin'® Vehicle**

Innovative program saved the lives of 647 dogs in Indiana in 2010

PHOENIX, AZ, January 9, 2011 – Every day, animal shelters across the country look for new ways to save the lives of homeless pets, such as promoting adoptions and encouraging people to sterilize their pets.

In 2010, 9,219 dogs and puppies took to a life-saving ride on PetSmart Charities® Rescue Waggin'® Vehicle, proudly sponsored by PEDIGREE® – *and 647 of those dogs and puppies were from Indiana shelters: 393 from the **Parke Vermillion County Humane Society** in Hillsdale; 153 from the **Humane Society of Sullivan County** in Sullivan; and 101 from the **Bartholomew County Humane Society** in Columbus.*

PetSmart Charities' Rescue Waggin' program is a unique effort that transports adoptable dogs and puppies from animal shelters in communities with severe homeless-pet overpopulation problems and few adopters to animal shelters in other communities where adoptable dogs and puppies are more in demand. Since the Rescue Waggin' program began in 2004, 42,801 dogs and puppies have taken this life-saving ride.

Every month, the Rescue Waggin' vehicle visits these animal shelters to pick up homeless dogs and puppies and transport them in a custom vehicle (complete with piped-in lullabies for the day-long trip) to other shelters where these homeless pets are guaranteed to find new homes.

“Until more people spay and neuter their pets and we reduce the number of animals entering shelters, the Rescue Waggin' program will continue to be a resource for shelters working to change the fate of homeless dogs in their communities,” says Susanna

Della Maddalena, vice president and executive director of PetSmart Charities, Inc. “We are thankful to be able to help shelters find innovative ways to save more pets’ lives.”

The Rescue Waggin’ program is a three-part system designed to help shelters save pets’ lives, which includes the transport program as well as grants for spay and neuter expansion and professional consultations and funding support from PetSmart Charities for enhanced operations and shelter improvements for participating shelters. With more than 55 animal shelters in the program, Rescue Waggin’ vehicles operate on the East Coast, Midwest, Great Plains and South Central States regions.

For more information on PetSmart Charities Rescue Waggin’ program, visit www.petsmartcharities.org or call 1-800-423-PETS.

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About PetSmart Charities®

Established in 1994, PetSmart Charities, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that creates and supports programs that save the lives of homeless pets, raise awareness of companion animal welfare issues, and promote healthy relationships between people and pets. The largest funder of companion-animal welfare efforts in North America, PetSmart Charities has provided \$110 million in grants and programs benefiting animal welfare organizations and, through its in-store adoption program, helped save the lives of more than 4.4 million pets. To learn more about how PetSmart Charities is working toward its vision of a lifelong, loving home for every pet, visit www.petsmartcharities.org.