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## **PRESS RELEASE**

## HOMELESS CATS AND DOGS IN NEED OF FOREVER HOMES DURING NATIONAL ADOPT A SHELTER PET DAY!

(Toms River) - Every year thousands of cats and dogs end up in shelters all across the country as strays or relinquished by their owners. Most of these pets are sweet, loving animals hopeful for a second chance at a forever home. On April 30, 2019, the Ocean County Animal Facilities (OCAF) continues its mission to reduce the number of homeless pets by celebrating National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day with a special adoption event.

"Adopt a Shelter Pet Day is a great way to remind people that there are so many precious cats and dogs waiting for homes at our two county animal facilities," says, "Ocean County Freeholder Gerry P. Little, Liaison to the Ocean County Board of Health. "With the abundance and variety of cats and dogs to choose from there is never a reason for anyone to shop at a puppy mill."

The Ocean County Animal Facilities are turning National Adoption Day into a weeklong celebration. For the entire week of April 29, 2019, adoption fees are being reduced on all adoptable pets.

Daniel E. Regenye, Ocean County Health Department (OCHD) Public Health Coordinator, advises, "People interested in owning a pet should always be reminded to adopt responsibly. An animal's care is a lifelong commitment and should never be an impulse decision. Do your homework and make sure you find the pet that fits your lifestyle."

Mary Alano, Manager, OCAF, adds, "If you've been thinking about adopting for the first time, or even adding another pet to your family, this adoption event is a great time and place to start your search. Also, anyone taking home a four-legged friend will receive a goodie bag filled with treats and toys for their new best friend."

"Shelter dogs and cats make great family pets and nothing is more rewarding than giving these wonderful animals a permanent loving home," exclaims Trish McCallum, Manager, OCAF.

All the cats and dogs available for adoption are spayed/neutered, microchipped and receive ageappropriate vaccines. The Northern Ocean County Animal Facility is located at 615 Freemont Avenue in Jackson. The address for the Southern Ocean County Animal Facility is 360 Haywood Road in Manahawkin.

If you have any questions regarding the National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day special event please call 732-341-9700, ext. 7735 or visit the Ocean County Health Department website at <u>www.ochd.org</u> or follow or like us on Facebook. Also, please check out our new website at <u>www.phu2.org</u>, to access and learn more about our Public Health is You Too! campaign to help equip you to take simple steps to improve your health.