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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mizell Center to Host Low-Cost Pet Vaccinations

Thousand Palms, CA – January 5, 2008: The Mizell Senior Center and Animal Samaritans SPCA have joined forces to offer local animal lovers low-cost pet vaccinations and microchipping. Pet owners can bring their cats and dogs to the Mizell Center in Palm Springs on Saturday, January 24, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. An Animal Samaritans veterinarian and vet technician will be on site to administer first-time, annual, and booster shots to pets.

Events such as this are designed to accommodate pet owners who have been unable to vaccinate their animals because of time, finances, or both. The goal of both organizations is to ensure that our community's four-legged family members are protected against such killers as parvo, feline leukemia and rabies. "We want to make pet vaccinations both convenient and affordable," explains Animal Samaritans Executive Director, Fred Saunders. "Vaccinations are critical for the prevention of disease among animals. Part of our mission is to provide quality animal care that meets everyone's budget."

Cats need to be transported in a carrier and dogs must be on a leash. When possible, pet owners should bring a copy of their pet's medical history. Pet microchipping will be offered for \$15, while vaccinations from Animal Samaritans range between \$12 and \$17 dollars each. A complete list of vaccinations and prices can be found online at www.animalsamaritans.org.

The Mizell Senior Center is located at 480 South Sunrise Way in Palm Springs, with parking available off Ramon Rd, at the corner of Ramon and Sunrise Way. With their mission to "support independence and self-sufficiency through an inclusive network of education, information, and assistance with problem solving," it's clear the organization is sensitive to the challenges now facing many people with pets. "The Mizell Center is very excited to partner with Animal Samaritans to bring low-cost vaccinations to the community," said Mark Maxwell, Program Director at The Mizell Center. "In this time of economic stress, this is a particularly important program for those on fixed incomes such as seniors."

Appointments are not needed and all are welcome. Pet owners interested in having their pets vaccinated are encouraged to contact Animal Samaritans at 343-0837 or The Mizell Center at 323-5689.

Animal Samaritans SPCA, a 501 (c) non-profit organization founded in 1978, is committed to improving the lives of animals and people. As the Coachella Valley's most comprehensive animal welfare organization, they strive to one day eliminate the needless suffering and abuse of homeless and unwanted animals. Programs and services in place to save the lives of healthy and treatable animals include prevention through humane education, low-cost and no-cost spay and neuter, low-cost vaccinations, low-cost dental care and pet wellness exams, microchipping, animal sheltering and pet adoptions. In addition, more than one hundred volunteers from their Animal Assisted Therapy programs visit disabled children in special needs classrooms, nursing homes, and hospitals, while their Animal Assisted Activities teams see residents at Juvenile Hall. More information is available by calling 760-343-4908 and by visiting www.animalsamaritans.org

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