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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Animal Samaritans Holds Camp for Aspiring Young Vet Techs

Thousand Palms, CA – December 5, 2008: This winter Animal Samaritans and the YMCA of Palm Springs are inviting children between the ages of 5 and 11 to attend their Vet Tech Critter Camp program. The day camp teaches youngsters the primary skills needed to become future veterinarian technicians. During the four-day camp kids will learn how to check an animal's vital signs, triage animal patients, provide basic animal first aid and dog CPR.

There will also be a tour of a local veterinary facility, computer games on vet and animal care, animal-themed arts and crafts and a field trip to The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens.

Vet Tech Critter Camp will be held over the holiday school break on Dec 29, 30, 31, & Jan 2, from 8:30am to 12:30pm at the YMCA in Palm Springs. Camp costs \$95 per child. Members of the YMCA of Palm Springs pay \$85. Additional YMCA day care begins at 7:30am, while afternoon day care extends to 6:00pm. Interested parents should contact the Palm Springs YMCA at 760-320-6430 to sign up.

Critter Camp is run by the Humane Educators from Animal Samaritans SPCA, and involves several Animal Assisted Therapy volunteers and their dogs, as well as staff from the Palm Springs YMCA.

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, we 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 our Animal Assisted Therapy programs visit disabled children from special needs classrooms, nursing home residents, and hospital patients, while our Animal Assisted Activities teams see residents of Juvenile Hall. More information is available by calling 760-343-4908 and by visiting www.animalsamaritans.org

The Family YMCA of the Desert was established in the Coachella Valley in 1982 and is the largest provider of licensed childcare in the valley, with facilities ranging from Palm Springs to Thermal. Nearly 1000 kids and families each day are served at fifteen childcare and activity sites, with many opportunities in youth and family programming, including the Palm Springs YMCA to serve kids in the west valley. The primary focus of the Family YMCA of the Desert is to reinforce the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility throughout all of its programs, while allowing kids to develop social skills, confidence, leadership, and fitness. 760-320-6430

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