



For immediate release

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AARF Outreach Programs

Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends Inc. (AARF) operates several innovative programs aimed at educating the community, combating pet overpopulation and putting caring people together with homeless pets.

Casper's Fund

Casper's Fund focuses on fighting the pet overpopulation crisis plaguing Atlanta and reducing the number of animals euthanized at shelters by providing free and subsidized spays or neuters to metro Atlanta residents in exchange for volunteer hours. The program also assists participants in obtaining vaccinations, rabies shots, heartworm tests and FIV/FelV tests at a reduced cost. There is no income requirement for participating.

Participants in Casper's Fund work with a program administrator to establish specific volunteer activities, with possibilities such as organizing a neighborhood association meeting focused on humane and healthy pet ownership, volunteering at animal adoption events or organizing a supplies donation drive.

For each hour of volunteer service, participants receive a \$15 subsidy (maximum \$75) toward the cost of a spay/neuter procedure. The cost of the surgery is covered after only five hours of volunteer activity. Upon completion of the volunteer hours, participants will receive a certificate that can be used at the No More Homeless Pets Atlanta Clinic. Participants also may choose to use another veterinarian, and AARF will reimburse the generated subsidy amount.

Casper's Fund is named after a much-loved American Eskimo dog whose family, wanting to make a difference in his memory, donated money to start this exciting new program.

For more information, please visit www.caspersfund.org.

Silver Paws

The Silver Paws Program connects mature pet lovers with homeless mature pets. Participants take part in foster orientation and training sessions, and the program covers the cost of veterinary care, food and supplies, alleviating

financial concerns for seniors.

Many retired and elderly pet lovers are hesitant to own pets because of the costs of veterinary services, food and supplies. They also worry about the fate of a dog or cat if they become unable to care for the pet, so they forego the joy and companionship of a pet. Meanwhile, homeless mature pets are almost always overlooked at shelters. Potential adopters often fear the increased medical care that an older pet might require, and many are hesitant to bring home a pet that may only be with the family for a short time. As a result, most mature pets that enter a shelter spend their final days in a kennel or cage instead of a loving home. Even worse, many shelters euthanize older pets as soon as they enter the shelters—denying them the chance to find a loving home in which to spend their final years.

The program allows Silver Paws foster parents to become permanent caretakers for their pets, with continued financial support. The pet will remain in the care of the foster for the remainder of the pet's life, or until the foster can no longer care for the pet. This provides a caring, permanent home for a mature pet and a loving companion for a mature adult.

For more information on the Silver Paws Program, visit www.SilverPawsProgram.org.

Kids N Kritters

Kids N Kritters focuses on teaching the next generation of pet owners responsibility as the key to ending the problems of pet overpopulation and cruelty toward animals. Through fun, educational, hands-on activities, the program encourages kids to start thinking about the impact they can have on animal welfare.

Volunteers visit schools and other class settings to educate children about animals through fun, exciting hands-on activities. The Kids N Kritters website features news about kids helping animals, fun activities, and even a special informative section for parents and teachers.

For more information, visit www.kids-n-kritters.org.

Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends Inc. (AARF), founded in 2002, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit animal welfare organization licensed by the state of Georgia. AARF is run solely on adoption fees, private donations and charitable grants, without government support. All donations are tax-deductible. For more information, visit www.aarfatlanta.org or call (678) 318-1886.