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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pawsitive Ohio Presents Doggone NorthCanton: A Week Long Promotion Dedicated to Dogs and the People Who Love Them

NORTH CANTON, Ohio, June 15, 2014 – The North Canton community will come together to celebrate, and advocate for, man’s best friend during Doggone North Canton, August 3-9, 2014.

The weeklong promotion organized by Pawsitive Ohio is made possible through partnerships with several community organizations including the North Canton Public Library, the North Canton Chamber of Commerce, the North Canton Community Growth Association and the North Canton YMCA. Pawsitive Ohio, an organization formed by North Canton resident, Jennifer Harrington, has a goal of being a catalyst for change for animal welfare groups in Northeast Ohio. The organization advocates for the amazing shelters, rescue groups and volunteers in this area in an effort to move forward and work together to end the deaths of homeless dogs in Northeast Ohio due simply to a lack of space.

Doggone North Canton culminates Saturday, August 9 with a multi-organization adoption and wellness fair in North Canton’s Witwer Park. The fair, which will run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., was inspired by “super adoption” events that have proven very successful throughout the country. These events bring together a large variety of adoptable dogs from multiple organizations, providing a one-stop-shop for anyone looking to add a new canine friend to their family. Pawsitive Ohio provides all of the event logistics and marketing, making it easier for shelter and rescues to simply show up with dogs needing homes. “We recognize how overwhelmed shelters and rescue groups are, and we realize they don’t have the manpower to put together large scale events like this. That’s where we come in. We can plan, market and organize. We can do this work so they can continue to do the truly remarkable work of caring for these homeless dogs,” explained executive director, Jennifer Harrington.

Organizations in attendance will include the Stark County Humane Society, Paws & Prayers, The Stark County Dog Pound, One of a Kind Pets, Mercy’s Door Pet Rescue, Save a Mom Pregnant Dog Rescue, Lake Erie Labrador Retriever Rescue, ESRA-English Springer Rescue America, the Tuscarawas County Humane Society, Spay/Neuter Ohio and the North Canton Public Library. The fair will feature a live remote and prizes from Mix 94.1, face painting, food trucks, vendors, spay/neuter and pet wellness resources and programs for the entire family. For Paws Blue Cross Animal Hospital is the premier sponsor of the adoption and wellness fair. Additional sponsors include The Hartville Group, FASTSIGNS, Healing Waters Canine Experience, Booney & Pooch Dog Grooming, Downtown Ford, Pet People and Park Subaru.

In the week leading up to the adoption and wellness fair, community organizations will host a series of programs related to dogs. It will be a week that’s pawsitively gone to the dogs.

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It’s the mission of Pawsitive Ohio to create a community in which **no dog has to die in a shelter simply for being unwanted.**

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Sunday, August 3, at 1 p.m.

Downtown North Canton

Downtown Dog Walk (a program of the North Canton YMCA)

Dogs are the best exercise companions, and the North Canton YMCA encourages you to complete a one-mile group dog walk today! The group will meet in Bitzer Park and walk south toward Ro's Custard Creations. Human and dog watering stations will be provided. Please keep your dog leashed and keep in mind that not all dogs are social with other dogs.

Monday, August 4 from 6-7 p.m.

North Canton Public Library

Adult Program: Paws & Prayers will explain how to get involved in fostering a rescue dog, including supplies, contacts and expectations. You might be surprised how easy it is! Register beginning July 21 at ncantonlibrary.org.

Tuesday, August 5 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. North Canton Public Library

Children's Program: Read to Sarge, the Tail-Wagging Tutor. Call 330.499.4712 x318 to sign-up for a ten-minute reading session with Sarge the Golden Retriever (adopted from GRIN).

Wednesday, August 6 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

North Canton Public Library

Adult Program: Crafter's Corner invites you to come make an adorable no-sew dog bed. All supplies provided! Registration opens July 23 at ncantonlibrary.org.

Wednesday, August 6 from 5-8 p.m.

Chipotle (1462 N. Main Street near Applegrove)

Dine at the Chipotle and tell the cashier you are there to support Pawsitive Ohio, and 50 percent of your purchase price will be donated to Pawsitive Ohio!

Thursday, August 7 at 10 a.m.

North Canton Public Library

Adult and Teen Program: Paws to Learn –The Stark County Dog Pound has made major improvements in the past year! Our new, progressive dog warden, and shelter veterinarian will tell us about the great work they are doing and how you can get involved! Registration opens July 24 at ncantonlibrary.org.

Thursday, August 7 All Day

North Canton Public Library

Children's Department: Visit the children's department on the second floor for dog related activities and crafts all day long including a coloring contest!

Date and Time TBD

North Canton Chamber of Commerce

How much is that doggie in the window? View adoptable dogs in the window of the North Canton Chamber on Main Street. Visitors are welcome to go inside and meet the dogs.

Friday, August 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. North Canton Public Library

All Ages Program: Warm Paws Project – building dog houses for neglected dogs with Project REBUILD. Houses will be built at the library Friday and then painted and decorated at Saturday's Adoption and Wellness Fair in Witwer Park. Completed dog houses will be donated to the Stark County Humane Society. Registration opens July 25 at ncantonlibrary.org.

Friday, August 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Witwer Park (a program of North Canton Public Library)

Family Film Friday, sponsored by Premier Bank & Trust: Babe the Gallant Pig shown in Witwer Park, North Canton. Attendees can bring a donation for homeless dogs (food, treats, toys, collars, leashes). Pre-film activities begin at 7:30; film begins at dusk.

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Additionally, North Canton individuals, organizations and businesses are encouraged to spend the week advocating for homeless dogs and celebrating canine companionship in one of the following ways:

Businesses/Organizations

1. Host a shelter wish list drive at your business. Pawsitive Ohio can provide a poster and wishlist.
2. Organize a jeans day, allowing staff to wear jeans if they donate \$1 to Pawsitive Ohio.
3. Hold a "bring your (friendly, social) dog to work" day.
4. Schedule a therapy dog to visit your workplace.
5. Create a homeless dogs photo display to help dogs find homes.
6. Arrange for a team to volunteer at a shelter (not necessarily hands on with dogs, but maybe landscaping, painting, doing laundry or washing dog dishes).
7. Send human and dog cookies to a shelter (trust us, it's not an easy job for humans and they deserve our gratitude).
8. Ask employees to donate a bright, new collar to help shelter dogs look their best.
9. Encourage employees to attend Doggone North Canton's Adoption & Wellness Fair.
10. Better yet, encourage employees to volunteer at the event. Email keri@pawsitiveohio.org for more information.

Individuals

1. Give your dog an extra walk, special belly rubs and extra cookies this week.
2. If your dog is not spayed/neutered, make an appointment to have this done. If you need financial assistance, contact One of a Kind Spay/Neuter Clinic at 330.865.6890.
3. Consider volunteering with an animal shelter or rescue group. If you can't physically be with the dogs, you can do many other things to help.
4. Host a bake sale or lemonade stand and donate the funds you raise to Pawsitive Ohio.
5. Share information about Doggone North Canton week on your social media sites.
6. Offer to take your neighbor's dog for a walk.
7. Look at shelter/rescue wish lists and go shopping. Short on funds, they always need your extra towels and blankets.
8. Organize a dog wash event to raise funds for Pawsitive Ohio.
9. Make sure your family pet has an identification tag and consider a microchip too. Lost dogs take up much needed space in shelters.
10. Attend (or better yet volunteer at) the Adoption & Wellness Fair. Contact keri@pawsitiveohio.org for more information.

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