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PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Official lease signing on Tuesday, September 15 at 1:30 p.m.

MSPCA Fosters Animal Welfare Beginning in Brockton *Non-Profit Provides Gratis Lease of Metro South Facility to the Animal Protection Center of Southeastern Massachusetts*

BROCKTON – The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) announced the gratis lease of the animal welfare group's Metro South adoption center to the Animal Protection Center of Southeastern Massachusetts (APCSM) effective October 1. The leasing of this facility ensures that animal welfare will continue in the Metro South region through the newly formed non-profit. MSPCA president Carter Luke and APCSM clerk Chuck Givonetti will officially sign the lease at the MSPCA-Metro South at 1300 West Elm St. Extension in Brockton on Tuesday, September 15 at 1:30 p.m.

"Animal welfare continues to thrive in Massachusetts," said MSPCA president Carter Luke. "Through an open and cooperative approach with the community we are ensuring that animals within the Metro South region will continue to receive the care that they need. The signing of this lease will be the culmination of six months of hard work between the MSPCA and the Animal Protection Center of Southeastern Massachusetts."

The MSPCA announced its "Brockton Beginnings" campaign in March 2009 to identify appropriate organizations and individuals interested in continuing animal welfare activities within the Metro South community after September 30, 2009. The APCSM formed from local community members who achieved non-profit status during the summer and created an independent and local board of directors. The backgrounds of the nine members of the APCSM board of directors include animal welfare, veterinary medicine, banking and financial services, database management and graphic design/Web development.

"We will continue to serve the animals and people of the Metro South community through an open admission animal care and adoption facility," said APCSM clerk Chuck Givonetti. "We will focus on preventing cruelty to animals while performing education and outreach throughout the towns and cities in this region. We will also provide low-cost pay/neuter options for pet owners struggling with financial restrictions."

The APCSM will officially open its doors on October 3, 2009 with four staff members and a group of volunteers. To donate to the APCSM or read more about upcoming events please visit www.apcsm.org.

The MSPCA announced the future handover of its operations at the Metro South Animal Care and Adoption Center following cutbacks and salary freezes throughout the non-profit's staff, including the senior management team. The MSPCA also sold its Springfield facility and provided a gratis lease of its Martha's Vineyard adoption center due to a declining economy and a loss of nearly \$11.5 million from its endowment.

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The Animal Protection Center of Southeastern Massachusetts (APCSM) is an open admission animal care and adoption facility, with focus on prevention of cruelty to animals, education and helping the community. Each year, over 4,000 animals in the area find themselves with nowhere to turn. The APCSM is committed to providing these homeless animals with humane and compassionate care in their time of need. For more information, visit www.apcsm.org.

The MSPCA is a national and international leader in animal protection and veterinary medicine. Founded in 1868, it is the second-oldest humane society in the United States. Services include animal protection and adoption, advocacy, humane education, law enforcement and the highest-quality veterinary care available anywhere in the world. The MSPCA provides direct hands-on care for thousands of animals each year through its animal care and adoption centers and world-class hospitals. For more information, visit www.mspca.org.