MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 8, 2020

Mayor Jacobs to Film Young-Williams Animal Center PSA

Knoxville, Tennessee—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will visit Young-Williams Animal Center at 11:30 a.m. today, Wednesday, April 8, to raise awareness for the shelter's community support programs.

At that time, the Mayor also will film a short public service announcement highlighting the shelter's needs and efforts to serve the community as an essential business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The move comes as the shelter seeks donations for its Pet Resource Center and pet food pantry to support the high level of requests during the pandemic from pet owners who are struggling financially.

"We're seeing an increasing number of local pet owners who have encountered economic hardship and are asking us for help," said Janet Testerman, CEO of Young-Williams Animal Center. "No person should have to surrender a beloved pet due to cost concerns. We appreciate Mayor Jacobs' support of our programs and are grateful for anyone who is able to follow his lead and donate supplies."

The Pet Resource Center is available to the community and provides free pet supplies, food and other helpful resources, such as behavioral assistance, to help pet owners avoid surrendering their animal companions.

Here's a snapshot of the shelter's needs:

- Wet and dry dog food
- Canned cat food (not salmon flavored)
- Unflavored Pedialyte
- Kong toys for dogs
- Baby gates, pack and plays or pop-up playpens
- Dog houses
- Donations for emergency vet care

If you would like to donate food, River Dog Bakery is donating one bag of dog food for every bag purchased from the store and will deliver those to the shelter on your behalf. For more information, visit https://riverdogbakery.com/.

"There are so many ripple effects caused by COVID-19," Mayor Jacobs said. "It has to be terrible to feel like there are no other options than pet surrender, and Young-Williams Animal Center is doing everything it can to ensure that pet owners get the help and supplies they need."

Young-Williams Animal Center is the municipal shelter of Knox County. The staff works tirelessly toward finding a home for every pet through adoptions, foster care and rescue. The main shelter, located at 3200 Division Street off Sutherland Avenue, is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed from 1-2 p.m. for animal quiet time.

The shelter encourages anyone who is able to apply online for curbside foster or adoption appointments at www.young-williams.org.

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