

For Immediate Release

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## **County Animal Control Seeks Volunteer Support** Non-profit group forming; next meeting May 22

Carlinville-A new animal shelter, more adoptions, educational programs, a foster pet parent program, and a host of other ideas were discussed on May 8 at an organizational meeting to form a non-profit group in support of Macoupin County Animal Control.

“There are so many things that we want to accomplish in the county, but to truly succeed, citizen support and input is needed,” said Macoupin County Animal Control Officer Buzie Bertagnolli. “A non-profit group to help with things such as adoptions, animal care and educational programs would take animal control in the county to a new level.”

More than 10 people attended the meeting where Bertagnolli shared plans for a new shelter, to be located on the southwest corner of the Macoupin County Fairgrounds. Included in the plans is kennel space, reception area, an office, adoption areas and outdoor runs. The current Macoupin County facility is more than 30 years old and is struggling to keep up with the current animal control demands.

The group discussed several objectives a citizen’s organization could achieve including: development of educational programs, creating a method of investigation for those wishing to adopt and a follow-up program on adopted pets, fund raising, volunteer recruitment, a foster pet parent program, developing a web presence, seeking grants, and a nursing home “touch” program.

The process to gain not-for-profit status was explained, and sample bylaws were distributed to the group for consideration. A meeting on May 22 at 7 p.m. in the Macoupin County Board room, second floor of the Macoupin County Jail in Carlinville, was set. The group will make recommendations for by laws and a name for the new organization.

Bertagnolli told the group that she already has some fundraisers in the works. A benefit golf outing for the shelter will be held on July 13 at the Timber Lakes Golf Course in Staunton.

Anyone interested in joining the volunteer group should contact Bertagnolli at 217-854-2833 or attend the May 22 meeting.

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