
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 2012

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**ANIMALS RESCUED FROM UNSANITARY
CONDITIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION**

GRAND RAPIDS – Last month, the Kent County Animal Shelter rescued ten dogs, three cats and a chinchilla from a suspected hoarding situation on Grand Rapids NE side. Shelter staff spent weeks treating and rehabilitating the animals, and recently, the previous owner signed over rights to the pets, so most of them may now be adopted by the general public.

Animal Control Officers went to the home in early July, after receiving a call about dogs living in their own waste. Officers found unsanitary conditions at the home, and removed the animals while the suspect was detained by police. The suspect is charged with misdemeanor animal cruelty and neglect in Grand Rapids 61st District Court.

Several of the animals are in need of continued medical treatment. "We always recommend that adopters take their new pet to the veterinarian within a week or two after adopting. People who are interested in these dogs should be aware that many of them will require a little extra patience and care with socialization, training and medical issues, such as complete dental cleaning after adoption," said Carly Luttmann, Kent County Animal Shelter Supervisor. "All of the animals are much healthier now that we have cleared up their flea and parasite issues. Their coats are clean, their fur is growing back and you can tell they feel much happier. Two of the dogs are geriatric and will need to undergo some additional medical examination before we make them available."

Like the dozens of other pets at the shelter right now, these pets can be adopted right now during our www.icpawz.com promotion, thanks to a grant from the Bissell Pet Foundation. The special rates are part of the \$100K ASPCA/Rachel Ray Challenge, as we work to save more pets through October 31, 2012 than we did during the same three month period last year. All dogs can be adopted for \$50 (plus \$12 for licensing fees) and cats for just \$5. The cost includes getting the pet spayed or neutered and vaccinations up-to-date. The shelter is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Adoptions end one hour before closing. Call (616) 632-7300 or check out www.icpawz.com for more information or featured pets.

Photos of pets available on attached PDF

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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