



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 1, 2012

**For additional information contact:**

Lisa LaPlante at (616) 632-7182 or [Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov)

## **Animal Shelter Meets Goal of 300 Adoptions!**

GRAND RAPIDS – The Kent County Health Department is thrilled to announce the Kent County Animal Shelter (KCAS) met its goal of 300 adoptions in the ASPCA/Rachel Ray \$100K Challenge, which was held August 1-October 31, 2012. That's 174 adoptions more than last year. In all, 674 pets were saved in the three month challenge – 137 more than last year.

The winning shelter will receive \$100,000 in prize money. KCAS did not save the most pets in the competition, but the contest helped build awareness about the KCAS and the thousands of animals that come through the doors every year. "This competition brought in dozens of families who had never come to the Kent County Animal Shelter in the past," said Cathy Raevsky, the Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. "Our dedicated staff worked incredibly hard to promote adoptions and return lost pets to their owners over the past three months."

KCAS was one of 50 shelters voted by supporters to compete in the second leg of the ASPCA/Rachel Ray \$100K Challenge. Winners in other competitions during the Challenge (i.e. divisional awards, community engagement) will be announced at the end of November. Throughout the three month event, special pricing on pets was available, thanks to a grant from the Bissell Pet Foundation's Blocktail Party. "We are so grateful to the Bissell Pet Foundation for the support they gave us these past few months," Raevsky added. "The real winners are all of the pets who found homes through this event, as well as the families who found a new friend."

While this competition is done, there are still many pets in need of homes. The Kent County Animal Shelter is open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday from 8 a.m. – noon. Adoptions and visitations end one hour before closing. For more information, call the shelter at (616) 632.7300, or check them out online at [www.accesskent.com/kcas](http://www.accesskent.com/kcas).

###

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](http://www.accesskent.com/health).