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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 21, 2012

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**Ten Dogs Taken from Neglect Situation  
Now Available for Adoption**

GRAND RAPIDS – Hundi is a sweet, 13 year old lab mix. Taken from a neglect situation in Grand Rapids last month, she is ready for a home. Unlike many of the pets at the Kent County Animal Shelter, Hundi has a special trait that makes her stand out from the rest: one of her hind legs was amputated years ago, in an incident unrelated to the neglect situation where she was found. Today, she walks on three legs.

The Kent County Animal Shelter (KCAS) has been working to rehabilitate Hundi and nine other dogs that were taken from a home in Grand Rapids, several underweight, suffering from various injuries and signs of neglect. Now that the owner has pled guilty to a criminal charge for animal cruelty, a Kent County Judge has ordered the forfeiture of the dogs.

Animal Control Officers worked with the former owner over several months, asking her to improve the living conditions for these dogs. In November, it became apparent that KCAS needed to intervene. “Some of these dogs were emaciated, had open wounds and were caked in their own waste. Our staff stepped in and became the voice of these helpless animals,” said Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. “Now that the previous owner has pled guilty to the charge, we hope to find these pets loving homes.”

The former owner was charged in November with Animal Cruelty, punishable by up to a year in jail, and Failure to License Dog. The guilty plea to the cruelty charge dropped the second charge. The former owner is scheduled to be sentenced next month.

The Animal Shelter took control of the dogs in November, and started working right away to help the animals recover. Mackenzie’s Animal Sanctuary in Lake Odessa assisted KCAS by taking in five of the dogs for a week.

The Kent County Animal Shelter is located at 740 Fuller NE, in Grand Rapids, open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. – 12 noon. The shelter is closed on several upcoming holidays (Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day). Pet adoptions currently cost \$82.00 for dogs, \$50 for cats. This includes spay/neuter, all vaccinations up-to-date and a microchip, thanks to a grant from the Bissell Pet Foundation. Adoptions end one hour before the shelter closes. This special runs through the end of the year or until grant funding runs out.

*(Photo of Hundi below)*

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).

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