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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 26, 2015

**For additional information contact:**

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## **Declaring Independence Day for Dogs and Freedom for Felines Or Life, Liberty and the PURRsuit of Happiness**

Beginning immediately and continuing until Thursday July, 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Kent County Animal Shelter (KCAS) is lowering adoption prices in order to grant more of its residents the opportunity to pursue the American dream of having a home to call their own. People adopting dogs will automatically save \$50 and rescuing an adult cat (over four months old) will cost nothing.

“This is a hectic time of the year for us,” says Carly Luttmann, program supervisor at KCAS. “We have many adoptable dogs who have been dropped off and we have been forced to take in additional strays. When you combine that with the fact that people do not normally adopt much this close to the Fourth of July Holiday the shelter fills up pretty fast.”

Shelters across the country face similar issues in the summer but particularly around the Fourth of July as many dogs will run away to escape the noise of fireworks. Often those dogs will be taken in as strays potentially displacing other adoptable dogs.

“This is especially true if those dogs are not properly licensed or do not have a microchip.” said Luttmann. “We cannot stress enough the importance of having your dog licensed and chipped. If your pet does get away from you this is the quickest way to get them back. That means they spend less time here and that opens the doors for the other animals we have to serve.”

Cats are also breeding more actively in the spring and early summer months. “It is not uncommon for people to drop off litter after litter day in and day out this time of year.” said Luttmann.

The Kent County Animal Shelter is located at 740 Fuller Ave. NE in Grand Rapids. Adoption hours are 9:30AM - 12:00PM and 2:00PM - 5:30PM. The shelter is closed on weekends. You can see some of the pets available for adoption online at <http://awos.petfinder.com/shelters/kcanimalshelter.html>

We would, of course, welcome members of the media who are interested in touring the facility. We would also be happy to provide interviews about this topic. Please contact Steve Kelso to make arrangements. Thank you.

**KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 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 three satellite clinics located in 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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