



For Immediate Release

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**American Humane Association Conducts Training
Preparing People to Help Animals When Disaster Strikes**

Course Teaches Essentials of Rescuing, Caring for Animals in Times of Crisis

The Taney County Health Department will host a two-day Basic Animal Emergency Services Training course Friday, May 8th and Saturday, May 9th. Anyone interested the rescue and care of animals during a disaster is encouraged to attend.

Each year, thousands of animals are affected when disasters strike. Tornadoes, flooding, fires and ice storms all dramatically impact people's lives here in the Ozarks and the lives of the animals that rely on them. This training teaches volunteers and animal welfare professionals how to manage large and small animals in a disaster. Topics covered in the training include emergency response, animal first-aid techniques, coordinating emergency animal shelters, and personal safety when handling a variety of animals. The class will provide practice with live animals and setting up a mock emergency shelter. This training is the first step toward becoming a volunteer in American Humane's Red Star Animal Emergency Services™, who with additional training can be part of a national network of responders.

"It is a privilege to partner with the American Humane Association in bringing this training to our area," says Charles Avery, Taney County Health Department Animal Control Officer. "Lessons have been learned from major disasters when people were reluctant to leave their homes if they were unable to bring their pets with them." Avery added, "This training will add an important level of emergency preparedness to the existing response plans currently in place for our community."

The American Humane Association is a nonprofit organization, headquartered in Denver, Colorado. It is the only national organization dedicated to protecting both children and animals. Through a network of child and animal protection agencies and individuals like ourselves. American Humane develops policies, legislation, curricula and training programs to protect children and animals from abuse, neglect and exploitation. For more information about their organization, visit www.americanhumane.org.

The Basic Animal Emergency Services Training will be held at the Taney County Health Department Branson location at 320 Rinehart Road from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9. Tuition for the training is \$106 for American Humane members and \$125 for nonmembers. Training materials will be provided, and attendees will receive a certificate upon completion of the class. To register for the training visit www.americanhumane.org/aestraining. For more information contact the Taney County Health Department at (417) 334-4544 ext 234 or visit www.taneycohealth.org.
