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For Immediate Release



Supply Does Not Equal Demand at the PAWS Food Pantry

To eat (or be fed) is one of life's basic needs whether human or animal. As the PAWS' foster moms know only too well, the number of hungry mouths to be fed do not always equal the food supplies on hand.

Traditionally, the foster homes provide shelter, food, litter and lots of love for their charges, while PAWS covers the medical needs and any prescription food or special requirements such as formula for the orphaned kittens.

Grateful for the occasional food donations from members and friends, PAWS volunteers have struggled to find a better way to increase the food coffers and organize and distribute the donations to those who need it most. From what seemed like an endless dilemma came the birth of a wonderful offer by Caroline Moretti, former President and

current foster mom for PAWS. Ms. Moretti generously volunteered to establish the PAWS Food Pantry in her home.

Last summer, PAWS volunteers Christina Tomasic, Cally Bixby and Carol Frost, to name a few, designed food donation bins and arranged to place them in local grocery stores. These donations seeded the new PAWS Food Pantry which was established in October, 2007. Additional donations of food came from PAWS members, local pet stores, and the monetary donations of friends who believed in the idea.

The pantry has grown from giving out 25 bags of dry cat food and 50 cans of wet cat food to giving out 600 pounds and 150 cans of cat food per month. This food not only helps the PAWS foster moms, but in addition supplies elderly pet guardians on fixed incomes or individuals struggling with the possibility of surrendering pets who they can no longer afford to feed. The Pantry has even rescued the rescuer, helping volunteers who feed the feral colonies and other rescue groups when they are overwhelmed with homeless animals.

Economic issues have taken a toll on the once well-stocked food pantry. The rising costs of fuel, food and housing—and the rising tide of foreclosures—have resulted in more animals coming into our foster care system, which in turn has produced more animals who need to be fed. Unfortunately supply does not equal demand in these harsh economic times. The spike in food demand far outweighs our monetary resources and our pantry supplies.

We need your help more than ever and welcome your participation in many ways. Donations of canned the Atlantic Food Market in Reading, and at Lucci's Market in Wilmington. Preferred brands include Nutro Max, Science Diet, Fancy Feast, and Iams cat and kitten food and Yesterday's News litter. Alternatively you can call our Response Line at 781.246.6111 to arrange for drop off or pick up of donations. Of course, in lieu of supplies, we will always accept cash donations. You can either be make donations via our secure link to Paypal on our website at www.pawswakefield.petfinder.org, or mail a check, payable to PAWS, to:

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The need to be fed is basic but it can be a matter of life and death to many of these animals. Please help.