



# News Release

Russell M. Pry – Summit County Executive

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry's Division of Animal Control Boards 100th Dog on to PetSmart Charities® Rescue Waggin'® Vehicle**

On Tuesday, November 17, 2009, Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry's Division of Animal Control boarded its 100th dog onto a PetSmart Charities® Rescue Waggin'® vehicle. Proudly sponsored by PEDIGREE, the PetSmart Charities® Rescue Waggin'® program transports dogs and puppies from areas of high pet population to shelters in the regions where adoptable dogs are more in demand.



The 15 dogs boarded on to the PetSmart Charities® Rescue Waggin'® vehicle Tuesday are in route to an animal shelter located in Washington, D.C. The previous eighty-five canines were transported to animal shelters throughout the state of New York.

According to PetSmart Charities, pet populations differ across the country for a variety of reasons. For example, pet overpopulation tends to be higher in areas that have warmer climates, are rural and/or have little to no access to low-cost spay and neuter clinics for animals.

"Before being boarded onto the Rescue Waggin' vehicle, each dog is given a health exam and a thorough behavior evaluation," stated Christine Fatheree, animal control manager at the Summit County Division of Animal Control. "Only healthy, well-tempered canines are selected for this program."

All of the dogs boarded on to the Rescue Waggin' vehicle ride in temperature-controlled comfort; while, lullabies resonate from the sound system to ease travel. A video monitor allows drivers, trained in pet first aid, to observe the animals along the way.

Upon arriving at their destination facility, the dogs are given 12-24 hours of down time to de-stress before receiving an additional medical exam and a spay or neuter operation. On average, dogs are commonly adopted within three days.

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"Operating as a PetSmart Charities® Rescue Waggin'® source facility is a win-win," stated Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry. "This program provides our agency with an additional resource for abandoned animals in need, and also may provide our Division of Animal Control with opportunities to obtain grant funding to enhance spay and neuter services throughout the community."

Since 2004, PetSmart Charities, Inc. has awarded more than \$527,000 to Rescue Waggin'® program source facilities and has saved the lives of more than 31,000 canines by transporting them from areas where they faced possible euthanasia to communities where shelters have open kennel space and strong adoption programs.

In an effort to boost animal adoptions, Executive Pry's Division of Animal Control has participated in numerous community outreach endeavors. Most recently, the agency served as a prime sponsor of *Barkitecture*, a special exhibit of whimsical doghouses on the grounds of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens in Akron. The event ran from May 9th through October 31, 2009, and attracted over 94,000 citizens to the country estate.

"We have also increased our participation in local animal adopt-a-thons, hosted low cost, spay and neuter clinics and numerous other events that promote responsible pet ownership," added Pry.

The cost to adopt a dog at the Summit County Division of Animal Control is \$90; while, the cost to adopt a cat is \$60. Adoption fees include spay or neutering, all shots and a license.

For more information about PetSmart Charities'® Rescue Waggin'® program, visit <http://www.petsmartcharities.org/rescue-waggin>.

To learn more about the services being offered through Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry's Division of Animal Control, call 330-643-2845, or click on [www.co.summit.oh.us](http://www.co.summit.oh.us).

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