



News Release

Russell M. Pry – Summit County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pry's Animal Control Receives Hide, Perch & Go Boxes from Petfinder.com

On Wednesday, January 21, 2009, Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry began implementing the use of Hide, Perch & Go Boxes at the Division of Animal Control, located at 460 East North Street in downtown Akron.

In early January 2008, the Petfinder.com Foundation, in collaboration with the PETCO Foundation and The Animal Rescue Site, selected the County of Summit to receive the cardboard structures, free of charge.



“Summit County was chosen because it is looked upon as an outstanding member organization of Petfinder.com,” said Elizabeth Neuschatz of the Petfinder.com Foundation. “Plus, Summit County has always showed a great interest in reducing the amount of stress cats experience during their stay at the facility.”

“We were one of 17 animal organizations across the country to be granted this generous gift,” said Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry. “We are extremely excited to be chosen and look forward to experiencing advantages that come along with these cardboard structures.”

According to the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Hide, Perch & Go Boxes are known to provide the following benefits to adoptable felines:

- ❑ Separates feeding, elimination and sleeping areas; spaces that are crucial in helping cats feel a sense of control over their environment in very limited space.

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- ❑ Provides areas for hiding, perching and face rubbing; all natural behaviors cats engage in to manage stress
- ❑ Offers choices of different areas and textures to lie on; all ways to regulate body temperature and light exposure
- ❑ Allows the cat to have more control over the amount of exposure to the shelter activity they choose to experience
- ❑ Enables cats to saturate the cage with its own scent by face-rubbing on the box, as well as scratch and claw the cardboard surface to leave scent markings

According to Summit County Division of Animal Control Manager Christine Fatheree, employees are already witnessing the calming affects that come along with the boxes. "They seem to provide cats with a sense of security during their stay. All of the felines seem to enjoy the many opportunities these boxes provide."

In addition to the health and wellness advantages, research also suggests that the County of Summit Division of Animal Control will experience an increase in adoptions (with shorter pre-adoption time), a reduction in the rates of illness and euthanasia and improvements in the emotional health of felines being adopted back out into the community.

Once adopted back out into the community, the Hide, Perch & Go Boxes fold into a temporary pet transportation carrier for citizens.

"By taking the box home, the cats have something familiar to retreat to as they begin to adjust to life in a new habitat," added Fatheree.

In perch form the boxes are 18" high, 16 7/16" deep and 11 1/2" wide; while, in the go fold the height of box is reduced to a 12".

The County of Summit Division of Animal Control received 5,500 of the 80,000 Hide, Perch & Go Boxes the animal foundations distributed.

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