



## ***Marion County*** OREGON

**For immediate release:** February 10, 2009

**Contact:** Jolene Bray, dog shelter volunteer coordinator, (503) 365-3177 or Nelsa Brodie, public information coordinator, (503) 566-3916

### **Volunteers Sought for New Dog Shelter Foster Care Program**

Marion County Dog Shelter now has a volunteer foster care program. Volunteers care for sick and immature dogs in their homes. Dogs in need of foster care include puppies who are too young to be adopted, an abused dog that needs socialization and tender loving care for an injured dog that is recovering from surgery. The first foster care program orientation will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 28.

According to Allison Barrows, dog shelter operations manager, foster care volunteers feed, groom, socialize, train, and medicate the animal during its stay in the foster home. Marion County Dog Shelter's Medical Fund pays for all veterinary care and medicine the animal needs during its stay in foster care. "Foster parents are responsible for providing food, time, and tender loving care," she said.

When the animal is healthy and ready to be adopted, the shelter will post the dog's story and photographs on its website and actively seek to find a loving home for it.

Foster parents must be able to provide a safe, loving and stable environment for the foster animal. Experience with animal behavioral or medical issues is a plus, but is not necessary. Foster parents must have common sense and patience, as well as be willing to nurse any injury and/or illness — with the understanding that some issues may result in the death of an animal. Foster parents must be able to transport their foster animal to and from the Marion County Dog Shelter during business hours, and to and from veterinarian providers, should the need arise.

Participation in a foster care program orientation is required for prospective foster care volunteers. Orientations are free and attending an orientation session does not obligate you to foster an animal. Foster care volunteer orientations are held at the Marion County Dog Shelter. The shelter is located at 3550 Aumsville Hwy. SE, Salem, Oregon.

To learn more about the Marion County Dog Shelter foster care program, call 503-566-6966. To register for orientation or to request an application, contact Jolene Bray at 503-365-3177.

# # # #