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**MCAR OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY – 110 ANIMALS AND COUNTING
Kitten and Puppy Season in Full Swing – Community Help Needed**



Spruce Pine, NC (June 12, 2019) –Mitchell County Animal Rescue is packed to capacity and beyond with over 110 animals in their care, with a waiting list for people to bring in more. And the puppies and kittens keep coming, seemingly without end.

Each spring, puppy and kitten season overwhelms shelters across the region, and Mitchell County is no exception. As an open admission shelter, MCAR takes in every animal, every time, without exception, sometimes getting creative to make sure they have space for them all.

“We often rely on foster homes to help us care for litters of young kittens or puppies. But our foster family list is painfully short and we are in desperate need of new foster homes to help with the crush of new litters arriving daily”, says MCAR foster family coordinator Heather Young. “Playing with puppies and kittens – what could be better?”

Spaying and neutering pets is critical to controlling the unwanted pet population. Just one unaltered female cat and her offspring can produce 400,000 cats in their lifetimes and an unaltered female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000! Those are pretty staggering statistics for a county with so many unaltered pets. To better serve the community that needs them, MCAR holds low cost spay and neuter clinics twice each week, making the service affordable for everyone. The cost is \$60 for dogs and female

cats and \$43 for male cats. Rabies shots and vaccinations are just \$10 each. MCAR invites everyone to participate in these low cost programs, and will even waive their \$5 carrier fees to encourage people to sign up. "When we have donations in our Community Cares Spay and Neuter Fund, we will also fix pets from low income households for free," says manager Amber Lowery. "Just call us to find out if funds are available and if you qualify."

By spaying or neutering your pet, you will help them live a longer, healthier life. Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast tumors, which are malignant or cancerous in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer and some prostate problems. It may also help them to be better behaved by helping to stop some aggression problems, roaming problems and territory marking issues.

June is "Adopt a Shelter Cat" month. In honor of this, MCAR is running a special on all cats and kittens with a low \$6 adoption fee. Plus, two kittens are twice as nice and grow up more well-adjusted with a friend. Adopt two cats or kittens for just \$10. All cats are spayed/neutered, microchipped, fully vaccinated, flea treated and dewormed. This small adoption fee does little to offset our actual costs of getting every kitten or cat ready for adoption which we estimate costs us approximately \$155 each! This is why we rely on donations to help us offset this cost.

MCAR is asking their community for help to get through this tough season of overcrowding. "We need adopters, foster families and of course, donations to help us through this difficult time," says MCAR Director Pam Cote. "Top needs include Dawn dish soap, non-clumping cat litter, bleach, Pine Sol, Ingles or Walmart gift cards, laundry soap and donations of money to purchase vaccinations and other critical needs. On average we spend approximately \$205 to ready each dog for adoption, even though our adoption fee only covers a small portion of this cost." Visit www.mitchellcountyanimalrescue.org for more information or to make a donation.

Mitchell County Animal Rescue is a nonprofit organization devoted to the rescue and care of abandoned, neglected and otherwise unwanted animals in Mitchell County, NC. This year they celebrate their 35th anniversary of serving animals in the community and the people who love them. For more information about Mitchell County Animal Rescue visit www.mitchellcountyanimalrescue.org.