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For Immediate Release

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Contact: Dr. Robert Gordon
Oakland Animal Hospital
Phone: 201-337-7090
E-mail: OaklndAH@aol.com

Global Rabies Prevention Initiative Starts Locally

Oakland, NJ– In Oakland a global grassroots campaign is taking shape. This year, Oakland Animal Hospital will be teaming up with international rabies experts to celebrate the first annual World Rabies Day on September 8, 2007.

Oakland Animal Hospital will be providing free rabies vaccinations on Saturday, September 8th beginning at 11:00 a.m. at their 86 Ramapo Valley Road location. To ensure that there are enough vaccinations to meet demand, the Hospital requires that interested parties preregister by calling 201-337-7090 by September 5th. All pets must be healthy and restrained on a leash or in a suitable secure carrier.

“We saw this as an opportunity to highlight the rabies prevention and control efforts in our community, while teaming up with people around the world towards a common goal,” says Dr. Robert Gordon, Director of Oakland Animal Hospital.

“World Rabies Day offers all of us a unique opportunity to increase global awareness of one of the most deadly diseases known to humans,” says Dr. Deborah Briggs, Executive Director for the Alliance of Rabies Control. “With the declaration of World Rabies Day on September 8, 2007, events are planned throughout the world to increase awareness about rabies, and to raise support and funding towards its prevention and control.”

In the United States, the greatest achievement in rabies control and prevention occurred half-a-century ago with effective implementation of dog vaccination, licensing and stray dog control. “We cannot let our guard down with rabies,” warns Dr. Gordon. “Rabies is ever-present in wildlife which can expose our pets and possibly our family members.”

It is estimated that every year 30,000-40,000 US residents are potentially exposed to rabies requiring human rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. “Rabies prevention starts with the animal owner,” advises Dr. Gordon. “We urge people to vaccinate dogs, cats, ferrets, and any other animal that has regular contact with humans, such as horses.”

Additional information is available online at www.worldrabiesday.org or by calling Dr. Robert Gordon at 201-337-7090.

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