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Calvary Episcopal Church Sponsors

5th Annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 6, 2007 From 1 -3 p.m. at Endicott Park, Danvers

DANVERS, MA – Many of us simply can't live without them. Two-legged or four-legged -- even eight-legged -- most are the creatures that enrich human lives and show us by example what it is to love unconditionally, trust wholeheartedly, be patient and good humored with one another ... and with us, and live authentically and joyfully in the moment.

According to the APPMA (American Pet Products Manufacturing Association), 93 percent of dog and cat owners credit "companionship, love, company, affection," as the key attributes that animals add to the human dynamic.

To celebrate the animals in our lives, and to emphasize their importance to us as spiritual beings, Calvary Episcopal Church will sponsor the **fifth annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 6, 2007, at Endicott Park, Danvers, from 1 to 3 p.m., rain or shine.** The Blessing coincides with the annual Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals.

The **Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas**, Calvary's new rector, will preside over this beloved community event that welcomes all, regardless of species and/or religion or spiritual belief. Rev. Thea will offer hands-on blessings for all critters who attend and she will also bless photographs and paper prayers for those animals who are unable to attend or who have passed on.

A growing number of local and regional animal organizations will be taking part in the Blessing this year. Among them, **Cape Ann Animal Aid, Northeast Animal Shelter, Strays in Need, Westie Rescue, American Lab Rescue, and Cavy (Guinea Pig) Rescue**, along with feline rescue representatives. The dog fostering network, **Almost Home**, will also be represented.

Dr. George Myers, principal of **Danvers Animal Hospital**, will again staff an "Ask the Vet" table, and the **Essex County Sheriff's Office K-9s** will offer a demo with their courageous and agile four-footed companions. Deb Helfrich, from **Therapy Dogs of Vermont**, will provide free screenings to determine whether dogs have the tolerant temperament to serve as therapy dogs in health care facilities.

Additionally, Julie Kennedy, from **Everything's Included Groom'in Waggin** will offer free nail clippings and grooming tips for dogs.

Everyone is invited to attend the 5th Blessing of the Animals. The event is free and open to the public, though parking fees (\$1 for Danvers residents) will be required.

For more information, please contact Fran Weil at 978-787-7260.

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