



For Immediate Release

Contact:
Hamilton Ink PR
(415) 381-8198
steph@hamiltoninkpr.com

**BERKELEY ALLIANCE FOR HOMELESS ANIMALS COALITION
WINS MADDIE'S® FUND LIFESAVING AWARD OF \$474,200**
*East Bay coalition is the third in the nation and the first in California to
receive Maddie's Fund Award*

Berkeley, CA (April 6, 2009) – The Berkeley Alliance for Homeless Animals Coalition (BAHAC) recently became the recipient of a prestigious Maddie's® Fund Lifesaving Award in the amount of \$474,200. The application was submitted by the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society (BEBHS) on behalf of the Coalition. This award is distinguished in that the Coalition is the *third in the nation* and *the first in California* to receive the Maddie's Fund Lifesaving Award. The reward will be divided among the three non-profit Coalition members. **A special celebration will be held at BEBHS' headquarters (2700 Ninth Street, Berkeley) on Thursday, April 23RD at 11 am when Maddie's Fund President, Richard Avanzino, will hand over the grant check to members of the Coalition including Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society's Interim Executive Director, Nancy Glaser; Animal Services Manager for Berkeley Animal Care Services, Kate O'Connor; and Traude Buckland,**

Representative from Home at Last Animal Rescue. Coalition clients who have adopted cats and dogs will be present to express their gratitude to Maddie's Fund and to the Coalition for helping give their adopted pet a second chance at life.

"This grant could not come at a better time with the current economic downturn," said Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society's Interim Executive Director, Nancy Glaser. "It will allow BAHAC to continue its lifesaving efforts to ensure that every healthy and treatable animal within our community is placed into a new and loving home. Even though this award will help us weather the economic downturn, each organization relies on continued public support for our collective efforts within the community."

"Maddie's Fund is proud to reward this incredible lifesaving achievement," said President, Richard Avanzino. "Although this Berkeley coalition first achieved superior status in 2002 and they have maintained it for the past six years, they've operated under the radar in the Bay Area shelter community. Now it's time for Berkeley to get the recognition it so richly deserves."

Maddie's Fund Lifesaving Awards acknowledge the outstanding contributions being made by communities that have implemented an adoption guarantee for all healthy and treatable shelter pets in their target communities and are likely to sustain it in the future. Awards range from \$200,000 to \$3 million, depending upon the size of the community. The Berkeley Alliance for Homeless Animals Coalition will each share in the grant according to their 2007 adoption performance. The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society will receive \$200,240. Berkeley Animal Care Services will receive \$176,320. And, Home at Last Animal Rescue will receive \$97,440. Since its inception, Maddie's Fund has awarded animal welfare organizations and universities \$71.6 million to save dog and cat lives.

Berkeley Alliance for Homeless Animals Coalition:

Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society (BEBHS): Founded in 1927, BEBHS (www.berkeleyhumane.org) has provided homes to over 40,000 homeless animals.

BEBHS is committed to continuing its efforts to guarantee homes for healthy and treatable homeless dogs and cats within the community.

To achieve this goal, BEBHS relies on its shelter-only veterinary hospital which is completely focused on providing excellent medical care for local shelter animals; its animal shelter devoted to the emotional well-being of the animals in its care; its adoption center which serves as a community resource for pet guardianship; programs that promote and preserve the human-animal bond; and the generous support of all animal lovers.

Berkeley Animal Care Services (BACS): (www.CityofBerkeley.info) provides a wide range of services to the residents and pets of Berkeley. In addition to daily field services that include enforcement of city laws related to animals, the removal of killed or injured wildlife, the impoundment of stray pets, and investigation of animal neglect, cruelty, and nuisances, our shelter houses domestic animals from the cities of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and Piedmont. In 2008 alone, we provided about 1,750 homeless pets a safe haven. We also provide adoption services, lost and found pet reports, animal advice, and for Berkeley residents, free or low-cost spay/neuter vouchers.

Home At Last Animal Rescue (HAL): (www.homeatlastrescue.org) Over the past several years, significant strides have been made in reducing the rate of dog and cat euthanasia all across the nation. Home At Last Rescue plays an active role by rescuing animals from city shelters, providing temporary foster care, and bringing these animals to the public for placement in high-quality, loving homes.

About Maddie's Fund: Maddie's Fund[®], The Pet Rescue Foundation, (www.maddiesfund.org) is a family foundation funded by Workday and PeopleSoft. Founder Dave Duffield and his wife, Cheryl. Maddie's Fund is helping to create a no-kill nation where all healthy and treatable shelter dogs and cats are guaranteed a loving home.

To achieve this goal, Maddie's Fund is investing its resources in building community collaborations where animal welfare organizations come together to develop successful models of lifesaving; in veterinary colleges to help shelter medicine become part of the veterinary curriculum; in private practice veterinarians to encourage greater participation in the animal welfare cause; and in the implementation of national strategies to collect and report shelter statistics. Maddie's Fund is named after the family's beloved Miniature Schnauzer who passed away in 1997.