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For Immediate Release

Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership claims \$1,000 First Prize in Inaugural Dog Rescue Rally

Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership (ARPO) was awarded first prize in the city's inaugural Dog Rescue Rally on January 28. ARPO rescued and found homes for 55 dogs during the three-month competition. Sponsored by local animal welfare organization Move to ACT, the Rally encouraged volunteer animal rescue groups to compete for prize money by pulling dogs from Indianapolis Animal Care & Control and finding them homes.

Heart for Dog Rescue received \$500 for second place, with 28 dogs adopted. Third prize of \$300 went to Lucky Dog Retreat, which pulled and adopted out 17 dogs. The fourth place winner, Flying K9s Herd Dog Rescue, received \$200 for finding homes for 10 dogs from IACC.

Winners also received gift cards from Pet Supplies "Plus", as well as engraved keychains and framed certificates identifying them as heroes.

"These rescue groups do amazing work on a shoestring," said Warren Patitz of Move to ACT, "and they get so little recognition. We wanted to inspire and encourage them with the opportunity for some much-needed recognition and cash, and the results have been positive for all involved — especially the dogs!"

The Rescue Rally is the first such event in Indiana, and possibly in the nation.

Shelter animals at IACC are at the greatest risk of sickness and death. Using volunteers, donations and foster homes, these four organizations saved 110 dogs between October 15 and January 15. Rules of the competition required that all dogs adopted be pulled from IACC and be spayed or neutered before adoption. Move to ACT plans to future Rescue Rallies.

The awards were presented at a ceremony held in the Conference Center at Circle City Veterinary and Emergency Hospital, 96th and Michigan Road.

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