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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Furry Kids' Refuge to Host "Flapjack Fundraiser - Breakfast with Santa Claws"**

Applebee's event to benefit local animal rescue organization

**LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI, November 1, 2007** – Furry Kids' Refuge, an animal rescue program sponsored by Applebee's® International, Inc., will host its holiday "Flapjack Fundraiser – Breakfast with Santa Claws" on Saturday, December 15, 2007 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar, 205 Melody Lane, Lee's Summit, Missouri. Furry Kids' Refuge is a non-profit, no-kill, animal rescue organization in Lee's Summit. The organization is part of Applebee's "Community Connections," a community outreach program.

Local heroes including Furry Kids' Refuge special needs dog, Boomer, will be there to meet the public. Guests will enjoy the spirit of the season, the camaraderie of other animal lovers, and a hearty breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice (or other soft drinks), and coffee.

"We are touched by the kind and generous support we continue to receive from Applebee's," said Kim Accurso, president of Furry Kids' Refuge. "Events like 'Breakfast with Santa Claws' allows us to celebrate our 2007 successes with our wonderful community of volunteers and donors, without whom we could not continue to save the lives of hundreds of animals each year."

"Furry Kid's Refuge is an all-volunteer organization," said Janet Barber, fundraising chairwoman. "At any one time we have about 80 dogs and cats under our care. They depend on the gifts and generosity of this community. This holiday event will help us raise funds needed to provide safe haven, feed, foster, and find permanent homes for the animals in our care. We hope that all our friends and neighbors will come out to celebrate the season with us!"

In recognition of the community's generous support of Furry Kids Refuge, tickets purchased in advance of the event will be offered at a special early bird rate of \$5 each and will be available for online purchase at [www.furrykidsrefuge.org](http://www.furrykidsrefuge.org), or at Furry Kids' Refuge adoption events, held each Saturday at Lee's Summit Petco (1860 N.W. Chipman Road, Lee's Summit, Missouri). Tickets may also be purchased at the door the morning of the event. General admission is \$10. Admission for children under eight and senior citizens is \$5.

Most Furry Kids' Refuge rescues come from area shelters. In 2006, 624 animals' lives were saved, 353 animals were spayed or neutered, 56 animals were provided dental cleanings, 11 animals that tested positive for heartworms received treatment, and more than \$44,000 went to pay veterinary bills. During the first three quarters of 2007, 407 animals have been rescued. In addition, there have been 226 spays or neuters, 83 dental cleanings, 10 heartworm treatments, and more than \$49,000 in veterinary bills.

Furry Kids Refuge is a Missouri, Not for Profit, §501(c)(3), no-kill rescue organization and network of foster homes dedicated to rescuing dogs and cats, providing care and refuge in unfortunate situations where pets are abandoned, surrendered, abused, or displaced. Furry Kids Refuge believes that all animals deserve respect and should be treated with dignity in all circumstances, creating a healthier and kinder community for humans and animals alike.