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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20th is Canine Good Citizen Day

HC-2014-56

Hendersonville, NC - Monday, September 15, 2014

The Henderson County Animal Services Center and the Obedience Club of Asheville will offer free good manners tests and training tips to dog owners as part of Canine Good Citizen Day on Saturday, September 20, 2014, the 25th anniversary of the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen® Day. The program takes place at the Henderson County Animal Services Center at 828 Stoney Mountain Road in Hendersonville from noon to 2 pm.

"We're shining the spotlight on our dog behavior clinic in September teaching good manners for dogs in a variety of social settings," says Andy Unguris, community outreach coordinator at Henderson County Animal Services Center. "Our shelter staff and experienced training volunteers will be on hand to work with dog owners who wish to participate in the Canine Good Citizen and Advanced Canine Good Citizen tests. The tests themselves will be administered by American Kennel Club approved evaluators."

All across the country, at more than 5,000 affiliated dog clubs and other pet-related organizations, the American Kennel Club® (AKC) hosts AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Days with community events. 2014 marks the 25th anniversary year of the Canine Good Citizen program launched in 1989 by the AKC to promote responsible dog ownership and training for good manners. The ten-part test provides a concrete way of recognizing and celebrating the success of dog and handler teams who are well behaved.

"This type of training can be a lot of fun for both the owners and their dogs. It also helps build a strong bond between a person and their dog. This is a great opportunity for owners to build on their training skills while gaining professional tips and advice for dog handling."

In addition to the monthly free behavioral consultations provided at the shelter on Saturdays, clinics are also available on Wednesday afternoons from 1 pm to 2 pm. Call 697-4723 for more details.

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