

## Finding A Purr-fect Lifelong Pet Companion

(NAPSA)—Looking for love in all the wrong places? With more than 7.5 million animals available for adoption this year, the perfect furry Mr. or Ms. Right might be just around the corner at your local animal shelter.

“Searching for the perfect animal companion is similar to searching for the perfect human mate,” said Joel Silverman, expert Hollywood pet trainer and “Lifelong Friends” pet matchmaker. “When one is considering the pitter-patter of paws in the future, it’s important to do some personal evaluation to consider seriously how a pet will affect one’s life and family.”

To help prospective pet parents find their ideal match, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), The Iams Company, and leading shelters across the country have launched the “Lifelong Friends” program to help increase the number of successful lifelong pet adoptions nationwide. The “Lifelong Friends” program encourages potential pet owners to thoroughly consider their potential pet’s needs, as well as their own before pet adoption.

“While many people have already adopted dogs and cats, there is a strong need for the ‘Lifelong Friends’ program year-round. Of the 7.5 million animals ready for adoption this year in the nation’s shelters, 68 percent are there because they were not a good match for their original family’s household,” said Dr. Larry Hawk, ASPCA president and CEO.



Before considering pet adoption, the “Lifelong Friends” program encourages potential pet parents to answer a handful of questions, including:

1. What kind of pet will suit you or your family’s lifestyle? Are you a bit of a loner or do you live in a busy household?

2. How much time do you have? How often are you or your family members home?

3. Do you have other pets? While considering the best match for you and your family, also consider the other animals in the household.

4. Are your children ready for a pet?

Prospective pet parents can ensure they find their Mr. or Ms. Right by following the “Lifelong Friends” pet matchmaking guidelines developed by pet matchmakers nationwide.

For more information on the “Lifelong Friends” program visit [www.iamsc.com](http://www.iamsc.com) and to request a free brochure, call (800) 863-4267.