

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Sarah Dickinson sarah@mayhewanimalhome.org 0208 969 7110 ext 1

Celebrities Gather in Church to Celebrate Christmas for the Animals

Famous actors and actresses host evening at St John Wood's church in support of The Mayhew Animal Home

St John's Wood – Once again celebrity supporters of the Mayhew Animal Home will come together for a Christmas event to raise funds for the rescue centre in Kensal Green. Harry Potter actress **Imelda Staunton**, Shakespeare in Love actor **Jim Carter**, 'Manuel' from Fawlty Towers, **Andrew Sachs**, New Tricks actress **Sue Jameson** and Britain's favourite grandma from The Royle Family, **Liz Smith**.

The famous faces will be entertaining guests at the event with special selected Christmas readings and the Guardian newspaper's own tuneful troupe – **The Guardian Angels choir** – will be performing some seasonal renditions.

When: 11th December 2008 6.30 -9.30

Where: St John's Wood Church, St John's Wood, London, NW8

The second annual event was a great success last year and this year's additional attractions include traditional Russian folk singers, a delicious seasonal buffet, mulled wine, minced pies and carols.

In support of the event actress **Imelda Staunton** said: "*Jim and I are thrilled to be able to help out by giving readings at this year's Celebrity Christmas Evening for The Mayhew. We adopted our little terrier Molly in February and would love to get her to join in with a reading too, if she could, as we are all very happy together as a family.*"

Tickets are now on sale for £30 and can be bought by contacting Fran at events@mayhewanimalhome.org, or 0208 969 7110 ext 3

ENDS

For the Editor

The Mayhew Animal Home was established in 1886 for the benefit of "the lost and starving dogs and cats of London so that they should have sanctuary from the cold inhumanity they are being dealt outside". Today, The Mayhew is one of the busiest animal sanctuaries in London, rescuing thousands of animals from cruelty and neglect each year. We provide shelter and care for cats, dogs, rabbits and when the need arises, for a wide variety of other animals.

The Mayhew Animal Home strives to tackle the companion animal welfare crisis from every possible angle. The organisation is pro-active, innovative and continually works to assist animals and their carers. We aim to set the standards in animal welfare. The Mayhew offers a wide variety of community services providing advice, care and assistance to animals and their carers whatever their circumstances.

Other issues The Mayhew is qualified to comment upon: Pet therapies, pet refuge programmes, early neutering initiatives, dangerous dog issues, feral cat trapping and community-based animal care