

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sarah Dickinson 0208 969 7100 ext 1 sarah@mayhewanimalhome.org

Free Canine Neutering: Yearly Statistics Double

Free Bull Breed Neutering Scheme Figures Soar

London – Annual totals from **The Mayhew Animal Home** reveal that more owners of bull breeds are taking the responsible step to get their animals neutered – taking advantage of the charity's free neutering scheme.

The rescue centre in North West London offers free bull breed neutering at their Community Veterinary Clinic and the initiative really took off in 2008 with 411 procedures being carried out, compared to 206 in 2007. That averages out at 7 new procedures a week in an area of London that has a high presence of bull breed owners.

With the current climate of discussion regarding the over-population of bull breeds and their reputation as 'status dogs' The Mayhew is always keen to advise owners to neuter their dogs in order to reduce the number of unwanted canines arriving at The Home.

The Mayhew CEO, Caroline Yates, said: "*Bull breeds are the most common type of dog we see at The Home, due to the present problem with over population of some breeds. The Staffordshire Bull Terriers have become a status dog but are often disposed of by irresponsible and uncaring owners. It is saddening to continually see the high numbers of bull breeds needing a new home, but we hope that the success of our free neutering scheme is a sign that education about responsible pet ownership is encouraging people to put the welfare of their dog first.*"

The Mayhew Animal Home also takes part in the BARK initiative (Brent Action for Responsible K9's) where their Animal Welfare Officer's attend community patrols, handing out free neutering vouchers, providing on the spot micro-chipping and informing pet owners about the Community Veterinary Clinic.

ENDS

For the Editor:

About BARK

London's first multi-agency partnership forum, BARK (Brent Action for Responsible K9s) was launched in January 2007 to tackle the irresponsible use of dogs in the borough.

- The initiative was set up to promote responsible dog ownership and to take action in relation to criminal activity and welfare issues concerning dogs. The BARK forum is made up of the RSPCA, Metropolitan Police Service, The Mayhew Animal Home, Brent Council and Brent Housing Partnership (BHP).
- BARK was formed following the increased collaboration between the partners on dog-related incidents in the local area.
- The joint partnership is already working together with the aims of educating the community on dog welfare and responsible pet ownership, reducing the incidents where dogs are misused and investigating anti-social behaviour linked with the misuse of dogs. This is being done through a combination of each party using reassurance, intelligence, prevention and enforcement.

•Awards include BARK being a finalist at the Public Protection Achievement of the Year award at the MJ Achievement Awards in June 2008. The Municipal Journal (MJ) is, a leading publication on local government issues

•BARK also won an RSPCA Innovator Award in September 2008 for its partnership working and Brent Council received the RSPCA Gold Footprint award for its stray dog service in September 2008.