

For immediate release

Contact: Sarah Dickinson 0208 968 2443 sarah@mayhewanimalhome.org

Landlords strict 'no pets allowed' policy is putting strain on rescue centres

Animal Home asks for help during National Pet Month to combat the numbers of abandoned animals

London –The Mayhew Animal Home is sending out a request to landlords to reconsider their strict 'no pet policy' on rented properties. High numbers of cats and dogs arrive annually at the rescue home after owners have to move and are unable to find a landlord to accept their existing pets.

Animal Care Manager, Gillian Scott, said: *"Having worked with animals for many years, I know it can be simple for any responsible pet owner to ensure that their cat or dog behaves well inside the home, meaning landlords will have nothing to worry about. The Mayhew animal staff are always happy to offer information to any pet owners who are looking for behavioural advice."*

Mayhew Vet, Ursula Goetz had an extremely hard time recently finding a property as a cat owner, she said: *"I looked at hundreds of properties online and visited many of them only to be continually told that the landlord's policy meant I could move in but would have to leave my cat behind. In the end I paid hundreds in extra rent to secure a property even though I wasn't going to be living there for another two months. I knew there was too high a risk of not finding another landlord who would allow my cat to live with me. It was a time of real strain and simply because landlords may have heard horror stories which are not applicable to the majority of responsible pet owners."*

The Mayhew CEO, Caroline Yates, said: *"We hope that by raising the awareness about this issue over National Pet Month, private landlords will take into consideration how a well-trained pet can present them no problems whatsoever. They will also be directly helping rescue centres like The Mayhew by reducing the numbers of animals arriving to be handed over."*

The Mayhew proposes that Landlords ask pet owners for references from previous landlords and their vet in order to establish they are a responsible owner. They should also ask for all pets living in the property to be neutered, therefore eradicating any territorial marking of the property and unwanted litters of puppies or kittens. They could also ask for an increased deposit to be placed as reassurance for while the animal is living at the address. All these measures would offer a huge amount of security for concerned landlords and would reduce the high numbers of dogs and cats needing to be rehomed unnecessarily through rescue centres.

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. The Mayhew offers a wide variety of community services providing advice, care and assistance to animals and their carers whatever their circumstances.