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# press Release

# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thursday, December 22, 2011

## **COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER OFFERS “FREE PETS FOR VETS” PROGRAM**

### **Freeholder O’Brien: Pet Adoption Fees Waived For All County Veterans**

Military men and women in Burlington County now may have another “friend” waiting for them at the Burlington County Animal Shelter.

Freeholder Mary Ann O’Brien today unveiled the shelter’s “Free Pets for Vets” program, through which all county veterans may adopt a dog or cat free of charge.

“It is well know that companion animals can help to reduce stress, depression and anxiety,” said O’Brien. “What we’re doing is reducing the barriers for adopting animals for those who, we believe, will truly appreciate the companionship.”

The typical cost of adopting from the shelter runs anywhere from \$45 to \$100, depending on whether it is a cat or dog, and the age of the animal. All animals are neutered or spayed before being adopted out.

Veterans interested in adopting will need to fill out an application form and show a copy of their DD-214 or County Veteran ID Card. The typical waiting period runs anywhere from one to seven days, depending upon the animal.

“All County residents in the market for a pet should consider the shelter,” said O’Brien. “Visitors are welcomed to walk through the kennels, and acquaint themselves with our ‘occupants’ who are looking for new homes.”

The Animal Shelter is located on Pioneer Boulevard in the County’s Westampton Complex, off Woodlane Road. It has hours every day but Sundays and holidays. The phone number is (609) 265-5073.

Information about the shelter and photos and data on pets available for adoption can be found on the County’s website at [www.co.burlington.nj.us](http://www.co.burlington.nj.us), by clicking on the Health Department and then Animal Shelter. ###