



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2014

For additional information contact:

Lisa LaPlante at (616) 632-7182 or Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov

Dog Left in Trash Receives Second Chance, Thanks to Kent County Animal Shelter, BluePearl

GRAND RAPIDS – Foxy has had a rough start to her life. The eight week old Chihuahua-mix was found, likely abandoned and tossed in a garbage can in Grand Rapids. Temperatures were in the teens that night, when a woman heard her crying from inside a trash can near her house on February 10th. The woman pulled an injured, cold, but loving puppy from the trash, and cared for her until contacting Kent County Animal Control the next day.

“We noticed right away that the dog had issues with her left eye,” said Dr. Laurie Wright, Kent County Animal Shelter Veterinarian. “It appears that she can see, but we could not tell how bad the damage to her eye was, and I knew it was something that needed a specialist’s attention.” Dr. Wright contacted Dr. Cassandra Bliss of BluePearl Veterinary Partners, a board certified ophthalmologist who has assisted the Kent County Animal Shelter with injured or impaired pets.

While Dr. Bliss hopes the eye can be repaired, it may be necessary to remove it entirely. At her age, Foxy should be able to adjust just fine. “Foxy has a lot of great personality and love to share,” Dr. Bliss said. “It appears she suffered from some type of trauma around her eye, though it could possibly be caused by a birth defect. My goal is to help her have as normal life as possible.” Dr. Bliss is planning to operate on Foxy on Wednesday, February 12. Dr. Amanda Conkling of BluePearl will spay Foxy at the time of the eye procedure, so she can be released back to the shelter and available for adoption as quickly as possible. “Foxy deserves a good home,” Dr. Bliss said. “I would love for her to have a home by Valentine’s Day!”

Information on adopting pets through the Kent County Animal Shelter is available at www.icpawz.com. Adoptions are \$50, plus \$12 for a one-year license for dogs, and just \$5 for cats.

Media note: Interviews are available with Drs. Wright and Bliss until 5 p.m. today, February 11, 2014. Call to arrange: (616) 632-7182. Thank you!

(Photos attached on page two)

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

