Green Acres Announces June Fundraising Effort for BARKK To End The Silence

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For Immediate Release

Monday, June 02, 2014

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[***Bangor***]— Green Acres Kennel Shop will be holding a fundraiser for the BARKK To End The Silence initiative from June 1st through July 5th. Customers will be asked for a donation when making purchases and will also be able to donate online through our website: http://www.greenacreskennel.com/cashforyourcause OR http://bit.ly/1nmW8Y9. This project is a result of our *Cash For Your Cause* promotion where our clients and the community voted for the charity they wanted us to support in June.

Once we have raised $500 Green Acres Kennel Shop will donate an additional $500. All funds raised will be donated directly to BARKK To End The Silence at the conclusion of the fundraiser.

BARKK To End The Silence is an initiative of the Paw It Forward Foundation created by Jenny Dwyer of Mutt Nose Best. Their mission is to raise awareness of domestic violence and to raise funds that will provide funding to equip local domestic violence shelters with designated "pet friendly" rooms that have separate ventilation and outside fenced areas. Funds will also pay for veterinary care and emergency "get out" kits for families in violent relationships. Currently in the state of Maine there are NO Domestic Violence shelters equipped to house family pets.

When asked why she started the Mutt Nose Best Foundation, Jenny Dwyer stated:

> *"One in four women in their lifetime will be directly affected by violence. It affects our friends, our neighbors, our teachers and our tellers. Domestic violence does not discriminate, however it does isolate. The BARKK To End The Silence mission is extremely personal for me because 10 years ago I left an abusive relationship and a little over a year ago my abuser killed his wife and then himself. When news of this tragedy hit me my thoughts spiraled…why did I stay for so long, so many times that could have been me. More importantly, why did she go back that day? In that moment, I knew the answers were one in the same. Our pets. "*
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> *"Domestic Violence is a silent burden that many suffer alone; in that isolation many turn to their pets as a source of love, loyalty and companionship. Animals are abused in a staggering 88% of families where violence is an issue. Seventy-one percent of pet owners entering domestic violence shelters have*

reported that their batterers had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control their victims. Sadly, 65% of pet owners in these situations stay in danger longer because of fear for their animal's safety or no place to flee with them."

Green Acres Kennel Shop co-owner Don Hanson states: "*We are very excited to be working with Jenny and BARKK To End The Silence. Our clients have picked a very important and worthy cause for our June fundraiser and we are very confident that they will step forward to donate. We hope several clients will join several members of the Green Acres staff at the 2nd annual BARKK To End The Silence 5K on the Bangor waterfront on September 27th.*"

People may follow the activities of the fundraising drive on the Green Acres Kennel Shop FaceBook page (https://www.facebook.com/GreenAcresKennelShop).

In business since 1965, Green Acres Kennel Shop at 1653 Union Street is a Pet Care Services Association (PCSA) accredited facility offering boarding, daycare and grooming for dogs and cats, as well as pet behavior consultations and training classes. Voted Best Kennel every year since 2002, Best Pet Store every year since 2007, Best Dog Trainer every year since 2011, and Best Pet Groomer in 2013, the Green Acres retail store offers a wide variety of wholesome pet foods, treats and quality supplies. For more information, please call 945-6841 or visit www.greenacreskennel.com.