

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 4, 2008

Photos available upon request.

Contact: Gail Crowell, Program Coordinator, 985-3244 x117,  
[gail@animalwelfaresociety.org](mailto:gail@animalwelfaresociety.org)

## **Animal Welfare Society Counts on Annual “Strut Your Mutt” Benefit Walk to Boost Sadie Fund**

KENNEBUNK, ME - The Animal Welfare Society (AWS), a companion animal shelter, spends approximately \$150,000 each year on medical treatments for the many aged, injured, and sick animals that arrive at the shelter facility. According to the ASPCA, many good intentioned pet owners underestimate the cost of veterinary care and upkeep of animals and are forced to surrender their family pets to shelters. Many times, however, this means that the animal has had months if not years of deferred care for medical issues – issues that will cost a shelter significant funds to correct.

Sadie, an eight year old Shih Tzu, was surrendered to AWS by her owner who could no longer afford to care for her many health problems, which included a severe skin allergy, Lyme disease and kidney failure. In spite of her many medical maladies, Sadie quickly charmed the entire AWS staff with her huge heart, tons of charisma and keen zest for life. After extensive testing, treatments and veterinary visits, Sadie continues to recover and is happy in her forever home.

The Sadie Fund is named in honor of her, and donations to the fund are used to pay for needed medical treatments for homeless cats, dogs and other small animals – and give them a second chance. The Animal Welfare Society relies on private donations to its Sadie Fund to cover the expenses of treatments.

Sweet Lady is a recent recipient of care through the Sadie Fund at AWS. An eight year old Golden Retriever, Lady was the most affectionate girl – but was surrendered to AWS because of the extreme expenses in caring for her kidney failure. Lady spent weeks at AWS undergoing treatments in order to

find the right mix of medicine and therapies. Thanks to the Sadie Fund, her condition has improved and she now serves as the official greeter at the Autumn Green Funeral Home in Alfred. Her new family reports that she offers immediate comfort to grieving clients.

In order to continue the great work of the Sadie Fund, the Animal Welfare Society holds an annual walk, Strut Your Mutt, on Mother's Beach in Kennebunk. This year's event will be held on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Each year, Kennebunk Savings underwrites the cost of the event so that all proceeds from corporate sponsors and walkers goes directly into the Sadie Fund. This year's event marks the 14th annual walk and will also include a "Buxton Reunion" for those special pups rescued from a puppy mill in Buxton, Maine, nearly one year ago. Contests, prizes, obedience information, and many more activities will ensure a fun day for the hundreds of walkers!

The Animal Welfare Society invites those that cannot make the event this year to become a "Paws in the Sand" friend and walk in spirit. Along with your registration donation, send in a favorite memory or photo of your best friend, or simply send in your name and sponsor one of the many AWS dogs that will be in attendance hoping to find their forever homes.

Registration and activities begin at 10:00AM with contests and prize drawings hosted by our Honorary Strut Emcee, WMTW Channel 8's Anchor/Reporter, Shannon Moss. The walk begins at 11:00AM and covers a 2-mile round trip route. For more information and registration forms, please visit the AWS website at [www.animalwelfaresociety.org](http://www.animalwelfaresociety.org) or call 985-3244.