



BREAKING NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FLIGHT LOADS IN OLIVE BRANCH BETWEEN 7:00-7:30AM CDT
LANDS IN EVERETT APPROXIMATELY 2:30PM PDT**

Wings of Rescue, the Pet Compassion Centers and West Memphis Animal Shelter Will Airlift Over 100 At-Risk Cats and 7 Dogs from the Memphis Area to Washington State on Tuesday, April 5

The cat-rescue flight, which is being conducted by Wings of Rescue in partnership with a number of animal welfare groups, will help alleviate overcrowding and challenging adoption conditions at several Tennessee-area shelters.

In Washington State, the flight will be met by four regional rescue organizations which will evaluate, care for, and easily find homes for the adoptable cats, kittens and dogs throughout the Pacific Northwest, where demand for pets is high.

Several cats on this flight were rescued from a hoarding situation, and all pets being transported have been identified as abandoned, not simply lost. All cats and dogs flown by Wings of Rescue are medically cleared and fully vaccinated.

APRIL 5, 2022 • LOS ANGELES, CA • MEMPHIS, TN • OLIVE BRANCH, MS • EVERETT, WA

Thanks to an excess of cats in shelters throughout the Memphis region and a shortage of adoptable cats in the Pacific Northwest, the nonprofit pet transport service Wings of Rescue is partnering with Pet Compassion Centers of Tennessee and the West Memphis Animal Shelter in Arkansas to fly a rescue mission of over 100 adoptable cats and kittens (along with a handful of dogs), to new homes in Washington State on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. The flight will take off from the Olive Branch Airport in Olive Branch, MS at approximately 9AM CDT (loading begins between 7:00-7:30) and arrive at Paine Field near Everett, WA at approximately 2:30PM PDT. On arrival in Everett the cats and dogs will be met by representatives of Seattle Humane, the NOAH Center, the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) and Kitsap Humane Society.

“There is currently a great regional imbalance between demand for adoptable pets and availability,” said Ric Browde, President of Wings of Rescue. “Many animal shelters, like those in

some parts of the Southern United States, have more adoptable cats and dogs than capacity and demand, while other regions, like the Pacific Northwest, are experiencing a pet shortage. Our mission is to help equalize this imbalance and save pets' lives by transporting them from at-risk situations in overcrowded shelters to facilities where they can easily find new homes."

The rescue group Pet Compassion Centers, located in Memphis, Tennessee, is coordinating the flight which is bringing cats and dogs from its own operations, from the West Memphis Animal Shelter located in Arkansas, and from Tipton County Animal Shelter, Horn Lake Animal Shelter, DeSoto County Animal Shelter, Cares of Clarksdale and Jackson Animal Services. The 100+ cats and 7 dogs will fly to Everett, Washington on board a single-engine Pilatus PC12 aircraft operated by longtime Wings of Rescue pilot Kale Garcia.

"Saving cat's lives is challenging when only local options are considered," said Cindy Dewey, Founder of Pet Compassion Centers, a foster-based pet-rescue operation in Memphis. "Our best hope of finding homes for these great pets is to move them to an area where demand is high and local shelter space is available. Thanks to this Wings of Rescue flight, over 100 at-risk pets will get a second chance at life."

The Pet Compassion Centers (also known as Kitty City, Inc.), has recently expanded operations to include a new veterinary clinic that provides spay-and-neuter services throughout several Southern states, especially to smaller rural animal shelters that don't have surgery resources of their own. In 2021 the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization provided 2,766 spay-and-neuter surgeries and has facilitated the transport of over 2,000 pets to areas where they are in high demand and quickly adopted.

All cats, kittens and dogs being flown on the rescue mission have been identified as unclaimed, abandoned, or surrendered, and all are considered adoptable by the sending shelters. Transported animals meet current vaccination requirements and are cleared for inter-state transportation. Wings of Rescue flies only pressurized, temperature-controlled aircraft, assuring animal safety, and transported pets fly in the main aircraft cabin, not in cargo holds. On landing, pets are transported directly to local shelter facilities where they will be placed for adoption.

Since its inception in 2012, Wings of Rescue has flown over 61,000 pets to safety from overcrowded shelters and disaster areas. The group, headquartered in Los Angeles, works with local shelters and animal-rescue groups throughout North America to transport pets to safety, and to deliver pet food and relief supplies to disaster zones.

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MEDIA NOTE: This is a good visual story at either airport as cats are loaded and unloaded. All times are estimated and subject to last-minute changes due to weather and other flying conditions, so please phone ahead to verify times: Gene Gable 707-235-0869 PST. The flight can be tracked online at www.flightaware.com by entering the tail number N684AK.

DEPARTURE DETAILS FROM OLIVE BRANCH AIRPORT, MISSISSIPPI:

DEPARTURE TIME: Estimated that loading of pets on the plane will begin at the Olive Branch Airport in Olive Branch, Mississippi at 7:00AM CDT. The flight can be tracked online at flightaware.com by using the tail number N684AK.

AIRPORT LOCATION: Memphis Executive Jet Center, 11200 High Point Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654, 901-692-1555. Enter through the main doors and you will be guided to the appropriate tarmac location. If you have any trouble finding the location, please call Gene Gable at 707-235-0869.

ARRIVAL DETAILS FOR PAINE FIELD IN EVERETT, WASHINGTON

ARRIVAL TIME: Estimated landing time is 2:30PM PDT. Pets will be unloaded from the plane and transferred by vehicle to facilities run by the receiving rescue groups. Media are welcome at the airport to cover the unloading of the cats and dogs, and both Wings of Rescue and arriving shelter representatives will be available for interviews. The flight can be tracked online at flightaware.com using the tail number N684AK.

AIRPORT LOCATION: Propeller Aero Services, 9724 32nd Place West, Everett, WA 98204, 425-341-1474. Enter through the main doors and you will be guided to the appropriate tarmac location. If you have any trouble finding the location, please call Gene Gable at 707-235-0869.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ABOUT PET COMPASSION CENTERS IN MEMPHIS, TN:

The Pet Compassion Centers is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to strengthen the human/pet bond. Our vision is to create a community where all pets have a healthy, happy life. We provide spay/neuters and other additional procedures as needed for shelter pets. In the last seven years, we have provided almost 10,000 spay and neuter surgeries plus hundreds of specialty surgical procedures and essential veterinary care. In 2021, we provided over 2,766 spay and neuter surgeries, 2,497 of those surgeries were performed in our facility along with 57 specialty surgical procedures. Our team has moved over 3,000 shelter pets since the Covid epidemic began, in order to give them better lives. We strive to create opportunities for education and compassion to eliminate animal abuse, execute effective programs to help our small shelters provide better care for animals and serve the community, reduce pets taken to animal shelters and associated taxpayer spending, and help the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged residents keep their companion pets. Learn more at:

www.thepetcompassioncenters.org

MEDIA CONTACT: Mia Harvey, mtharvey0530@gmail.com

ABOUT WEST MEMPHIS ANIMAL SHELTER

500 South Loop Road, West Memphis, AR 72301

Our mission at WMAS is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of citizens and animals in the city of West Memphis. We do this by responsibly and humanely enforcing state and local animal related laws. We aim to provide a safe, temporary shelter for lost, abandoned, abused, and injured animals. We run a vigorous adoption program to help animals find a forever home. We also aim to educate the public about responsible pet ownership as well as city and state laws concerning animal welfare. For more information, visit www.westmemphisanimalshelter.com.

ABOUT SEATTLE HUMANE

13212 SE Eastgate Way, Bellevue, WA 98005

Seattle Humane (SH) is one of the Pacific Northwest's leaders in animal adoption, education and welfare whose top priorities are to connect animals in need of rescue with loving families and keep pets with the people who love them. Through outreach, advocacy, and services Seattle Humane strive to ensure that animal companionship is accessible to all. For more information visit: www.seattlehumane.org

ABOUT THE NOAH CENTER

31300 Brandstrom Rd, Stanwood, WA 98292

Northwest Organization for Animal Help (The NOAH Center) located in Stanwood, WA, is dedicated to stopping the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable and treatable homeless dogs and cats. NOAH provides high quality spay and neuter programs for low-income residents, family friendly pet adoptions, humane education and volunteer programs through its state-of-the-art facilities and Spay/Neuter Center. Partnering with 65 partner shelters across Washington state and beyond, more than 40,000 dogs and cats have been given the second chance they deserve by being transferred to NOAH's facilities for adoption. For more information visit: www.thenoahcenter.org

ABOUT KITSAP HUMANE SOCIETY

9167 Dickey Road NW, Silverdale, WA 98383

Kitsap Humane Society (KHS) is an independent nonprofit and 501(c)3 organization committed to providing positive life changing solutions to people and animals in need. This is done by: accepting, sheltering and rehabilitating companion animals in need; providing humane rescue, protection, prevention, adoption and education services; implementing progressive life-saving and life-affirming programs, and collaborating and partnering with communities and supporters throughout the region to build a model humane community. For more information visit: www.kitsap-humane.org

ABOUT PAWS

PAWS, located in Lynwood WA, helps cats, dogs and wild animals go home and thrive – whether home is the family room or the forest. We do this by rehabilitating orphaned and injured wildlife, sheltering and adopting homeless cats and dogs, and educating the community to inspire compassionate action for animals. Since 1967, PAWS has united more than 130,000

cats and dogs with loving families, cared for more than 140,000 sick, injured and orphaned wild animals, and made the world a better place for countless others through outreach, education and advocacy. www.paws.org

ABOUT WINGS OF RESCUE

Wings of Rescue is a donation-supported charity that transports abandoned, homeless and otherwise at-risk pets from overcrowded shelters and disaster areas to the safety of rescue facilities and animal-welfare organizations where each pet is given proper care and a new home. Additionally, every year Wings of Rescue planes deliver thousands of pounds of humanitarian and veterinary aid to communities and pets in need, and the group serves as sponsors for spay/neuter programs and other life-saving practices. Since its founding in 2012, Wings of Rescue pilots have safely and efficiently flown over 61,000 pets out of harm's way and on to new lives. The nonprofit group operates hundreds of missions per year carrying thousands of dogs, cats, and other small companion animals to and from locations throughout the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. Advocating that all pets deserve a healthy and loving home, Wings of Rescue believes that responsible pet ownership enriches lives and builds stronger and more compassionate communities. For additional information please visit www.wingsofrescue.org.

MEDIA CONTACT: Gene Gable, gene@wingsofrescue.org 707-235-0869