

Contact:
Francoise Bunnell
Community Outreach Coordinator
Nevada County Land Trust
530-272-5994 (office) 530-518-5595 (cell)
francoise@nevadacountylandtrust.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEVADA COUNTY LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES GRANTEES OF
*AL SALTER FUND FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANIMALS***

Grass Valley, CA – March 7, 2008 The Nevada County Land Trust has announced the names of the organizations chosen this year to receive grant funding from the *Al Salter Fund for the Benefit of Animals*. This announcement comes on the fifth anniversary of the gift of his land to the Land Trust on March 5, 2003. After extensive efforts to turn the property into a dog park with a trail system failed, the property was ultimately sold, with the net proceeds deposited into a special fund to be administered by the Land Trust. Distributions from the fund will be made to local organizations for the benefit of animals. The initial requests for support from the fund were evaluated during November and December 2007. The announcement requesting applications for funding from this first round identified a limited list of eligible programs with potential awards of from \$500.00 to \$10,000.00. The goal of the Land Trust is to provide as much funding to local animal support organizations as possible while extending the program over a number of years.

Following the sale of the Salter property a grant fund was established to benefit organizations engaged in promoting the welfare of animals. A committee, made up of Land Trust Board members and community representatives, solicited Requests for Funding from local animal welfare organizations and other interested parties during November and December of 2007. The committee's job was to evaluate the requests, and to recommend to the NCLT Board of Directors specific grant distributions to requesters.

After reviewing many worthy applications the Salter Fund Committee made its final selections. Grant awards include:

Sammie's Friends: \$10,000 for medical care of animals

Animal Save: \$ 5,000 for pet food distribution

City of Grass Valley: \$ 5,000 for costs associated with dog use of Condon Park

New Dawn Dog Rescue: \$ 2,500 for dog rescue and home placement

The Land Trust expects to invite applications for additional grants from the fund late in the year.

Requests for Funding through the Al Salter Fund were to be for new programs or program expansion. Requests could include support for spay and neuter programs, supplies for staff and volunteers of animal welfare organizations, supplies for animals housed in care facilities, compensation for veterinary services, etc. Grant awards between \$500.00 and \$10,000.00 were projected.

In 1995, longtime local resident and dog lover, W. Alfred Salter established a living trust providing for the disposition of his estate as follows:

“I give all of my real property, comprising approximately 36 acres...to the Nevada County Land Trust to be used primarily as a recreational park for the benefit of dogs and other pets, and their owners, providing, for example, hiking and jogging trails for the exercise of dogs and their owners, open spaces for dog obedience classes, dog shows, and similar dog related activities, and also providing related facilities, such as relief stations and an area for vehicular parking...If it becomes impracticable to continue such uses, the Land Trust is authorized...to sell the property in which case the net proceeds from the sale shall be donated to some organization or organizations engaged in promoting the welfare of animals.”

After the transfer of Salter’s property in 2003 a number of efforts were made to turn it into a dog park with a trail system. The property, approximately three miles beyond the city limits of Grass Valley consists of rolling hills and small meadows. Many volunteer work parties were organized at the property to clear brush and dead trees, haul trash to the County transfer station, disassemble the old mobile home on the property piece by piece and haul the recyclable metal to the station. As these activities proceeded, it became apparent that the Land Trust was not capable of developing and managing a dog park at this site for the long term. Efforts got underway to find an organization to take the property and fulfill the wishes of Al Salter’s bequest.

The Land Trust published a Request for Proposals to local nonprofits or other agencies for the development and management of a dog park at the property. Although the proposals received in response to this request all had merit, the evaluation committee concluded the level of improvements needed for development and long-term operations of a park at Bitney Springs eliminated participation by most organizations. The ultimate conclusion was to sell the property and use the net proceeds to benefit organizations engaged in promoting the welfare of animals.

The Nevada County Land Trust is focused on conserving foothill agricultural land and natural habitats in western Nevada County and the Yuba County foothills. Currently more than 6,000 acres of land within Nevada, Yuba, and Sierra counties have been placed into conservation easements with help from NCLT. In addition easements have been secured on more than 10 miles of trails through the area.

The Nevada County Land Trust is a 501c3, for the public benefit organization. The Nevada County Land Trust exists to create a balance between nature and the needs of the people who make a life and a livelihood here. Our mission is to enrich the deep community connection with our land - today, tomorrow and forever. For more information, see our website, <http://www.nevadacountylandtrust.org> or contact Marty Coleman-Hunt, Executive Director at marty@nevadacountylandtrust.org or 530-272-5994.

Sammie's Friends

Sammie's Friends provides medical care for animals at the Nevada County Animal Shelter with the goal of making them adoptable. They also support other disadvantaged animals in Nevada County that, without help, would go to the Shelter or be euthanized. Animals often come to the shelter as strays. Many of these animals have medical problems. Many times the animals have conditions which keep them from being adopted. Gone untreated these conditions result in euthanizing. In 2007, Sammie's Friends spent over \$104,000 to provide medical care and support for 238 dogs, 120 cats, 1 bunny and 2 horses.

AnimalSave

AnimalSave has dramatically reduced the number of animals entering local shelters by controlling overpopulation and preventing abandonment. AnimalSave is the recognized leader in humane education and spay/neuter services, empowering pet guardians with the information and tools they need to act responsibly on their animals' behalf.

In fulfilling its mission and vision, AnimalSave undertakes activities that have the following:

Focus on preventing overpopulation, suffering and abandonment through proactive services such as spay/neuter.

Work to change the overall cultural climate of its community through education and advocacy services that promote animal welfare.

Provide pet guardians with the information and physical resources they need to have healthy, loving relationships with one another.

Foster cultural values of kindness and compassion by opening people's hearts to the healing presence of companion animals.

City of Grass Valley

Following a staff recommendation that the City Council adopt the proposed Ordinance to allow dogs in designated areas of Condon Park, Parks and Recreation Commissioners voted 4-1 in favor of the Ordinance on November 5, 2007. City residents that license their dogs will have the right to walk their dogs in Condon Park, no additional permit will be required, and each licensed dog owner will receive an informational brochure outlining the rules for Dogs in Condon Park and a map of where dogs are allowed and prohibited.

New Dawn Dog Rescue

Dawn Allmandinger is NEWDAWN DOG RESCUE. Located in Grass Valley, all of her rescue work is voluntary and strictly non-profit. All fees and medical charges for the fostered animals are paid for out of pocket or are partially offset by donations to the Grass Valley Veterinary Hospital. She goes to the Nevada County Animal Shelter located at 14647 Mc Courtney Road, in Grass Valley Ca., 95949 2 or 3 times a week, to sit in the pens with the dogs and cats, photographs them, talks to them and evaluates their personality. Then, she posts info about each one on her website www.Petfinder.org, Web descriptions, including photos and stories, allow people to become familiar with the animals in the comfort of their own homes.

This year, the Nevada County Animal Shelter has had a significant increase in the number of pet adoptions and a corresponding decrease in the number of euthanizations. People come from the Grass Valley area, Sacramento, Placerville, the Bay area, Chico, Lake Almanor, Reno, Gilroy, Redding, Marin County, Lake Tahoe, Shasta, Bakersfield, Santa Rosa and even Los Angeles and San Diego and have flown or driven dogs and a few cats as far away as Illinois, Virginia, Washington, Montana, Arizona, Idaho, Minnesota, Oregon and even British Columbia after reading about an animal on the website.

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