

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIFE-LONG PUBLIC SERVANT, ANIMAL CARE DIRECTOR AND FORMER SHERIFF'S DEPUTY TO ASSUME ROLE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY'S DOG SHELTER & ADOPTION CENTER DIRECTOR

Today, Franklin County Commissioners were joined by the Capital Area Humane Society, Franklin County staff, central Ohio area animal rescue groups, volunteers, community partners and the animal welfare community as they introduced Kaye L. Dickson as the new Director for Franklin County's Dog Shelter & Adoption Center.

As Director, Dickson will oversee an agency which employs 60, including 20 deputy wardens and operates the state's only around-the-clock enforcement schedule.

"Finding the right leadership for this agency has been of high importance to me," said Commission President Marilyn Brown. "Under Director Dickson's watch, the Shelter's top priority will remain the safety of our residents and families while always striving to provide compassionate and humane care to the dogs that find themselves in our facility."

Dickson, an Ohio native, has spent her career working for Pinal County, Arizona. Ms. Dickson relocated from Marion, Ohio to Phoenix, AZ in 1983 where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Phoenix and a Master of Public Administration from Grand Canyon University.

Ms. Dickson's entire career has been spent in public service. She served 27 years with the Pinal County Sheriff's Department where she ascended through the ranks to become Commander of Patrol and Support Services.

In 2010, recognizing Kaye's ability to lead change and her strong management, fiscal and procedural experience, the Pinal County Commissioners asked Kaye to serve as Director for the Animal Care and Control Agency. Over the past four years, Ms. Dickson has served in that capacity bringing about positive change and progress for the agency.

During her tenure as Director, Ms. Dickson partnered with Animal Care and Control divisions throughout the state of Arizona, humane societies, schools, businesses and community members to effect positive change. She employed industry best practices and implemented

policy, protocol and directives that resulted in a change of culture within the division. Today, the Pinal County Animal Care and Control division is sought after to perform trainings for other divisions from around the state and has received national attention for its attempts to engage the community and spread awareness of the domestic animal overpopulation problem.

"I welcome our new director and look forward to team efforts in achieving goals as set out in the Animal Shelter Operational Review completed in 2009," Commissioner Brooks said. "I welcome the community's full engagement in assuring our shelter is meeting the goals set forth in that strategic plan".

"Director Dickson is up to the challenge of running an agency tasked with making decisions which impact the lives and well-being of animals at the Shelter and responding to calls for help from the community," said Commissioner John O'Grady. "She will provide excellent leadership and management as well as increased communication and collaboration with our partners and the community. I also know that she will be a strong advocate of the Commissioners' policies, for our staff and the dogs in our care."

"I appreciate the confidence the Franklin County Commissioners have placed in me and I am eager to return to Ohio and get to work in Franklin County," said Director Dickson. "I understand the challenges an open-admission shelter faces. The balance between animal activist concerns and the humane care and treatment of animals is delicate. As agency director I will strive to achieve this balance while never losing sight of keeping the Franklin County community safe."

Director Dickson is a member of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators and National Animal Control Association. She is also a certified Emergency Animal Medical Technician, a certified Public Administrator and holds a National Animal Control Certification Level 1-4.

Director Dickson's family including her dog "Archie" and cat "Salem" will be joining her in Ohio in the near future. She will begin work on Monday, March 2nd and will be paid \$97,000 annually.

Franklin County's Dog Shelter & Adoption Center is an open admission shelter, taking in more than 10,400 dogs last year and successfully adopted or sent to rescue 69-percent of the dogs impounded in 2014.

For more information and statistics about Franklin County's Dog Shelter and Adoption Center, log on to www.FranklinCountyDogs.com

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