



Southeast Area Animal Control Authority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chihuahua Movie Prompts Appeal from Animal Shelter

Downey, CA... Beverly Hills Chihuahua opens this Friday, October 3 in theaters. That's great news for Disney, but animal shelters are concerned that a Chihuahua buying frenzy will follow. "Much like what happened after the 101 Dalmatians movie, we tremble at the thought of impulsive puppy purchases which may end up in our animal shelter in just a few short weeks," say Dan Morrison, Executive Director of SEAACA.

SEAACA appreciates the entertainment value of movies featuring animals, especially when the message includes responsible behavior. However, SEAACA is keenly aware of the appeal of puppies, and cautions the public to allow a two-week period after viewing the movie before making a decision about bringing a new Chihuahua into the home.

SEAACA had a total of fifty-one Chihuahuas and Chihuahua mixes as of 9/29/08. "If you're serious about bringing a Chihuahua into your home, please adopt from an animal shelter," proclaims Morrison. "They await good, lifelong homes have all the bells and whistles (vaccinations, microchip, de-worming and spay/neuter), at one affordable price."

Chihuahuas make great pets! They are typically smart, loyal and social. However, they can be high strung. "Always do your research before adopting, and spend some time with any potential adoption," says Morrison. "It's important to know if the dog is a good fit, and if he or she even wants to go home with you," Morrison jokes.

SEAACA, a founding member of the Border Puppy Task Force (BPTF), is also issuing a Buyer Beware notice against puppy purchases from newspapers and internet sites. "Our investigative work into sales of sick and underage puppies in Southern California revealed Mexico as the prime source," says Captain Aaron Reyes, Director of Operations of SEAACA and BPTF Manager. "Many puppies advertised for sale are indiscriminately bred, pulled from their mothers at 5-6 weeks of age and smuggled into the United States," Reyes said.

SEAACA officials remind potential puppy buyers to always see the puppy's parents, get a sales contract, positively identify the seller, avoid paying cash and have a veterinarian examine your pup immediately. "Make sure the veterinarian confirms the age of your puppy, as many of their ages are misrepresented", Reyes cautions. "As always, the best and safest thing to do is adopt from a shelter."