



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Editorial Contact:**

L. Gaye Torrance  
TorranceCo  
(212) 691-5810  
cell: (862) 215-7631  
[lgtorrance@torranceco.com](mailto:lgtorrance@torranceco.com)

**BIDEAWEE ANNOUNCES CLOSING OF  
WANTAGH ADOPTION CENTER**

*Unprecedented Economic Climate Spurs Action to Ensure Long Term Viability*

**Wantagh, New York, February 20, 2009** - Bideawee, Inc., a leading pet adoption and humane animal welfare organization serving the New York metropolitan area, today announced the closing of its Wantagh Adoption Center. The Wantagh Adoption Center's last date of operation will be Sunday, March 8, 2009.

Bideawee has been serving the pet adoption and animal welfare needs of Wantagh and its surrounding communities since 1915. In announcing the closure of the Adoption Center only, Bideawee assures that the continuum of programs and services offered in its Wantagh Center now serving area residents will continue in earnest and without interruption. Existing programs offered at the Bideawee Wantagh Center that include animal behavior and training classes, pet therapy, Reading to Dogs, bereavement counseling groups and the public education programs will not be impacted by the closing of the site's Adoption Center. Notably, the Pet Memorial Park in Wantagh, as well as the Pet Memorial Park in Westhampton, will continue to provide its full range of burial and cremation services.

"The announcement reflects a decision by the Board to act now in the face of unprecedented economic challenges," said Nancy Taylor, president and CEO, Bideawee, Inc. "Difficult times demand difficult decisions; and this realignment of Bideawee resources will help the organization survive this financial downturn, and position us to grow and thrive when the economy recovers and we move into the future."

The Wantagh Adoption Center currently shelters eighty (80) pets, but it is anticipated that number will decrease to fifty (50) when the closure takes effect.

All of the pets in Bideawee’s care will be safely relocated to Bideawee’s two other Adoption Centers located in Westhampton and Manhattan, that will continue to operate unchanged.

Once the Wantagh pets are settled in their new homes, Bideawee will host monthly pet adoption days on selected Saturdays at the Wantagh Center to support pet adoption by area residents in and around the surrounding community in an effort to continue its mission of offering quality pet adoption services and support.

Ms. Taylor noted, “Bideawee, like other organizations today, must make changes to align its expenses with new-reality revenues, while at the same time ensuring that we are operating with the upmost efficiencies for meeting the needs of adoptive pet owners and pet lovers going forward.”

“Everyone at Bideawee – including our Board, the management team, our dedicated staff and wonderful volunteers – remains fully committed to upholding the highest standards for animal care,” she added.

#### About Bideawee

Bideawee, which means “stay awhile,” in Scottish, is one of the country’s oldest and most respected animal welfare organizations. Founded in 1903 by Mrs. Flora Kibbe, Bideawee has been providing shelter, care and compassion to homeless animals for over 100 years. Bideawee operates three locations in the New York metropolitan area: Manhattan, Westhampton and Wantagh, providing a range of services, animal welfare and educational support programs that result in more than 1,700 pet adoptions annually.

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