



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 24, 2022

MEDIA CONTACT: Tracy Lewandowski

(513) 260-6777 | tlewandowski@greatplainsspca.org

Great Plains SPCA opens doors to 15 beagles from the Envigo facility in Cumberland, Virginia

Great Plains SPCA assists in the Humane Society of the United States' work to find placement for approximately 4,000 beagles

Merriam, KS (August 24, 2022)—This morning, Great Plains SPCA, a no-kill animal shelter in the Kansas City area serving 4,000 pets annually, picked up 15 beagles and is transporting them to its facility in Merriam, Kansas as part of the group of beagles to be removed from a mass-breeding facility riddled with animal welfare concerns. The Humane Society of the United States is coordinating the removal of approximately 4,000 beagles housed at an Envigo RMS LLC facility in Cumberland, VA which [bred dogs](#) to be sold to laboratories for animal experimentation.

The transfer plan was submitted by the Department of Justice and Envigo RMS LLC, with the agreement of the Humane Society of the United States to assume the responsibility of coordinating placement. The transfer will take place in stages over the next 60 days, and the dogs will be available for adoption from Great Plains SPCA and other shelters and rescues.

All of the 15 beagles will be sent to Great Plains SPCA Foster homes where they will be given time to decompress and the opportunity to live in a home for the first time in their lives. The dogs will be spayed and neutered by Great Plains SPCA and will be made available for adoption in the coming weeks. As they become available, the beagles will appear on Great Plains SPCA's website, www.greatplainsspca.org/adopt. Interested adopters should monitor the website and plan to come to the shelter once a dog becomes available during the adoption hours below.

- Mondays and Tuesdays by appointment only
- Wednesdays through Fridays 12:00PM to 7:00PM
- Saturdays and Sundays 11:00AM to 7:00PM

To make an appointment to meet a dog, call (913) 831-7722. Adoption holds may not be placed prior to meeting a dog.

Great Plains SPCA CEO, Tam Singer said, “We are proud to partner with the Humane Society of the United States on this unprecedented rescue operation. We hope that this rescue not only saves the lives of these pups but also highlights the plight of all animals in breeding facilities”

The transfer plan comes as a result of a [lawsuit](#) filed against Envigo by the Department of Justice in May, alleging Animal Welfare Act violations at the facility. Repeated federal inspections have resulted in dozens of violations, including findings that some dogs had been “euthanized” without first receiving anesthesia, that dogs had received inadequate veterinary care and insufficient food, and that they were living in unsanitary conditions.

“It takes a massive network of compassionate, expert shelters and rescues to make an operation of this scale possible,” said Lindsay Hamrick, shelter outreach and engagement director for the Humane Society of the United States. “We are deeply grateful to each organization that is stepping up to find these dogs the loving homes they so deserve.”

The Humane Society of the United States is maintaining a list of partners accepting animals into their adoption program will be [here](#).

Photos of the beagles will be sent to the media in a follow up communication later today. Members of the media are welcome to come to the shelter on Thursday, August 25, between 9:30 and 10:30 for video footage of the beagles being processed for admission. Please call Tracy Lewandowski, media contact, for interview appointments.

About Great Plains SPCA

Great Plains SPCA is a no-kill animal shelter in Merriam, Kansas serving 4,000 community pets annually. Great Plains SPCA works to save, protect and improve the lives of animals, while strengthening the relationship between pets and their human companions by providing humane sheltering, adoptions, community outreach and behavior and training. Great Plains SPCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, please visit greatplainssPCA.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

###