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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Electronic file of photos attached

### **Local Outpouring of Support for Shelter Dog Saves Animal's Life.**

Baltimore, Maryland (March 5, 2007) – Ellie, a seven year old American Staffordshire Terrier (Pit Bull) recently rescued from the Humane Society of Kent County, found herself with a very serious knee injury and in need of what would normally be an expensive tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO) surgery. Her new foster parent Rachel Frock, Assistant Director of Operations at the Humane Society of Baltimore County (HSBC), was well aware of Ellie's torn cruciate ligament and knew she was unable to afford the surgery Ellie needed. Along with HSBC, she chose to foster Ellie anyway, until she received the medical care she needed and a suitable home could be found, ultimately saving Ellie from being put to sleep.

With love in her heart and strength of mind, Rachel was determined to raise money to cover Ellie's surgery costs. She first consulted with the veterinary experts at Veterinary Orthopedic Sports Medicine (VOSM) group in Ellicott City, Maryland who agreed to perform Ellie's surgery at cost. She then set up a MySpace.com page linked to a paypal account and with the help of Yahoo began directing pit bull rescue groups and owners to the "Ellie Campaign." Soon after the fundraising efforts began, she was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the local community and from VOSM. Everyone, from the local post office, grocery store clerk and neighborhood dog owner to actual VOSM and HSBC staff members, were opening their hearts and their wallets to offer monetary support to help save Ellie's life. "We've worked with a lot of area shelters to help make sure injured animals can get adopted to good homes, but we've never seen the outpouring of support for an animal like we did with Ellie," commented Dr. Sherman Canapp, VOSM founder.

Ellie's future is bright, thanks to Rachel's efforts, the charitable donations of the local community, HSBC and the talented doctors at VOSM. Ellie is now recovering and will soon resume enjoying her previous quality of life. Ellie will stay with Ms. Frock until she is adopted. "I was glad to help Ellie and give her a new lease on life", commented Rachel Frock. "Ellie is an adorable animal with a great temperament and in need of a good home."

VOSM, a nationally recognized leader in veterinary orthopedic medicine, frequently works with area shelters to provide orthopedic care to animals that would not be adoptable without treatment. VOSM also provides significantly discounted services to search and rescue and law enforcement agency dogs so they can continue to perform their important roles. VOSM is one of the only veterinary practices in North America whose sole focus is on Orthopedic and Sports Medicine. To learn more about VOSM visit [www.vosm.org](http://www.vosm.org).

Since its founding in 1927, the Humane Society of Baltimore County has provided for the care of suffering and homeless animals. Situated on 365 acres of land held in trust for the Humane Society, it operates an animal shelter, a spay/neuter center, a pet cemetery, and a 343-acre wildlife sanctuary. The Humane Society is dependent on donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations, and income from fund raising events to support animal care operations. To learn more about the Humane Society of Baltimore County visit [www.hsbcanimals.org](http://www.hsbcanimals.org).

To learn more about adopting Ellie, please contact Rachel at 410.833.8848, x-201.  
To schedule an interview, please contact Lisa Fair at 410.418. 8446 or email [Jason@vosm.org](mailto:Jason@vosm.org).

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