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CONTACT:

Fivecat Studio / McCarthy LePage Architects, P.C. 48 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570 (914) 747-1177 or info@fivecat.com

Fivecat Studio Delivers Warmth and Comfort to Local Animal Shelters

PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK – February 11, 2009 – Fivecat Studio, a Westchester County based residential architecture firm, delivered warmth and comfort to the homeless cats and dogs of Westchester and Rockland Counties this month. SPCA of Westchester, HI-TOR Animal Care Center and Elmsford Animal Shelter received several truckloads of goodies collected during the firm's sixth annual Pillows for Puppies donation drive.

"The Pillows for Puppies donation drive was a huge success this year. Our Pleasantville studio was transformed into a pillow and blanket warehouse throughout the month of January," said Annmarie McCarthy, a partner with the architecture firm. "The support of local businesses and generosity of Westchester County residents was overwhelming." McCarthy has been active in animal rescue for more than two decades.

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The Pillows for Puppies donation drive is organized by Fivecat Studio each year during the

months of December and January. This year approximately 1,000 items, including pillows, comforters, towels, blankets, pet beds, toys and food were collected by the architecture firm and distributed to local animal shelters.

The SPCA of Westchester was founded in 1883 by Ossining resident Mary Dusenberry after she observed horses being mercilessly whipped and beaten as they trudged up nearby hills to deliver heavy loads of coal. Together with caring friends, she obtained land on which to build the Society's first home and established a fund to be used to prevent cruelty to animals. The SPCA is still located on the same spot, making it one of the oldest landholders in Briarcliff Manor. It is the only humane society in Westchester County empowered to enforce laws relating to animal cruelty but receives no federal, state, or county funds. They rely solely on the financial support of people who care about the welfare of animals.

Founded in 1973, **Hi-Tor Animal Care Center** is the only animal care and control shelter in Rockland County and takes in approximately 2,500 animals each year. Hi-Tor is a privately incorporated, non-profit organization and is dedicated to preserving and improving animal life, promoting education through animal care and control, and providing a safe environment for all living creatures. They have a small paid staff, with a volunteer Board of Directors and a team of dedicated volunteers.

Operating first out of private homes of volunteers, then to a quarter acre of property in tiny cottages, the **Elmsford Animal Shelter** is now the largest no-kill shelter in the tri-state area, located on 5 acres in a 46,000 square foot modern facility. They are a non-profit organization operating solely on donations, receiving no funding from city or state. Accepting animals from every locale, Elmsford Animal Shelter provides immediate medical care with a veterinarian on staff.

For more information on **Fivecat Studio**, please visit the firm's website at <u>www.fivecat.com</u>.