

FOR RELEASE      #05-144  
May 30, 2005

**MINISTER HART PRESENTS CHEQUE TO MAE BACHUR ANIMAL SHELTER**

WHITEHORSE – Community Services Minister Glenn Hart presented the Mae Bachur Animal Shelter with a cheque for \$75,000 on Sunday at a barbeque hosted by the shelter in appreciation of its volunteers.

Beginning in 2004 the Yukon government committed to providing core funding to the Humane Society detailed in an agreement where the Yukon government would grant the Mae Bachur Animal Shelter \$75,000 a year for operational costs, through to April 2006.

“On behalf of the Yukon government I am pleased to provide this cheque to the Mae Bachur Animal Shelter, so they may continue to do their important work,” Hart said. “The Humane Society performs a community service that means so much for the health and well-being of the animals, but additionally, they make the connection between animals and Yukoners who will provide good homes and care for these animals.”

The Mae Bachur Animal Shelter places approximately 400 animals with new homes each year and over 2000 since opening in November 1998. These pets and their new owners create a large economic spin-off to local businesses. The Humane Society Yukon’s work goes beyond just an adoption service. For example, the society serves the community through reducing unwanted cat and dog litters with their neutering and spaying program, which is available to Yukoners. The program in turn reduces strays and problem animals in the city and communities.

“We are grateful for this funding which helps us to meet our \$300,000 plus yearly budget and continue to rescue the unwanted domestic animals under our care,” shelter administrator Stuart Young said. “Our mission is to foster a caring, compassionate atmosphere for the animals with us, to promote humane animal care and responsible pet ownership, and to prevent cruelty to domestic animals. This funding helps keep the doors open and allows us to focus on achieving these important goals.”

The Mae Bachur shelter has programs in place to help pet owners address numerous issues related to animal care, health and behaviour. They are located at 126 Tlingit Street in Whitehorse or on the web at [www.humanesocietyyukon.ca](http://www.humanesocietyyukon.ca).

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