



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Center Fest Open to Kids of All Ages

The Knoxville Convention Center is going to the dogs...the cats...and the whole community with **Center Fest**.

Center Fest, the Center's official open house and family festival, Saturday Oct. 19, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. will be a day of fun with the animals, and free non-stop entertainment with games and activities for the young and young at heart. Event highlights include tours of the Center, a community and vendor show, animal rescue exhibits and free ice cream (while supplies last) donated by **Nestle**.

The **Knoxville-Knox County Animal Center**, which opened in 2001 and has already taken care of more than 12,000 homeless animals, will also be on hand with critters of all shapes and sizes to find loving homes and raise community awareness. Also invited are rescue partners, East Tennessee Border Collie Rescue, Tennessee Valley Golden Retriever Rescue, Peaceful Kingdom, Guinea Pig Rescue, and exotic bird and Great Dane rescue organizations, who will bring animals and adoption information.

Animal lovers of all ages can also enjoy showings of the Disney classic, "**Lady and the**

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Tramp” and “Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey.”

“We are thrilled to participate. The Convention Center is a new and important part of the community and so are we,” said Taylor Slemmer, Director of Education for the **Knoxville-Knox County Animal Center**.

Also part of the festivities are tours of the building’s impressive art collection by the **Knoxville Museum of Art** and live performances by: The National Swing Dance Association, Knoxville Bluegrass Band, Bearden Middle School Girl’s Choir, Knoxville Zoo Bird Show, Bijou Theater, who will be doing scenes from the award winning musical “Dream Girls,” and famed children’s magician and balloon artist “Vorjohan”

Knoxville Police Department will provide free children’s fingerprinting and identification throughout the day and demonstrations by the K-9 Unit, Motorcycle Unit, Swat Team and other Special Forces units. Fire and rescue will also be on hand with interactive displays.

“It’s a big event,” said Convention Center General Manager, William Overfelt. “We wanted to create a community festival that would showcase the building and give the citizens of Knoxville an opportunity to visit and tour their beautiful new facility.”

There will be plenty of food and drinks available, and even a cookie decorating booth for kids to get wild and create their own original animal cookies. Parking and all activities are FREE. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Knoxville-Knox County Animal Center.

For more information contact the Knoxville Convention Center at 522.5669.

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