

Troy PD to Collaborate with RensCo Animal Protection Coalition

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jeff Pirro 279-7131

(Troy – July 28, 2010) Mayor Harry Tutunjian, joined by Chief John Tedesco and Valerie Lang, spokeswoman for the Rensselaer County Animal Protection Coalition (RCAPC) announced the city will partner with the RCAPC and take an aggressive stance in combating animal cruelty in the Troy.

“Working across boundaries, we can do more to protect animals from and more readily identify cases where animal abuse and cruelty is happening by partnering with the Coalition,” said Mayor Tutunjian. “The police and Coalition have my full support for tackling this horrific crime against animals and pursuing every avenue to bring these criminals to justice.”

“We recognize the need for us to take an aggressive stance on animal cruelty and aggressively pursue the investigation of these cases,” said Chief Tedesco. “We expect our partnership with the Rensselaer County Animal Protection Coalition will serve as a model for other municipalities throughout the region, state, and country.”

"Dog fighting is not a sport; it is a cruel, dangerous escalating practice, which usually goes hand in hand with other criminal activity. Collaboration between the Troy Police Department and Rensselaer County Animal Protection Coalition will serve as a model for other cities in terms of education and prevention," said Ms. Lang with the RCAPC. "I commend the city administration and police department for partnering with us to combat animal cruelty, and dog fighting in particular. We need total attention from citizens, police and prosecutors to get on the same page and turn this epidemic around."

The Rensselaer County Animal Protection Coalition is comprised of law enforcement members, animal law and veterinary professionals and provides police a list of individuals who can be called upon to assist with animal cruelty investigations.

Recently, Troy police have made arrests in connection with dogs – usually pitbulls- walked thru city streets with heavy chains and weights wrapped around their necks, which is one way of preparing a dog for fighting. Another dog was recently found floating in the Poestenkill gorge with a punctured lung and a twelve pound weight around her neck.

In order to aggressively combat illegal dog fighting, the Coalition will assist police in identifying cases of deliberate animal injuries (which are indicative of dog fighting or the torturing of animals), before police find them in the conditions described above. The Coalition will also help assure that animal victims of neglect or deliberate cruelty are examined by a veterinarian; provide testimony in court if required; and perform educational seminars on interpreting state animal cruelty laws, search warrant procedure, and locating suitable placement for animals that are victims of cruelty.

For more information, please visit www.hvcc.edu/deptweb-animaloutreach/adoption.html or call (518) 429-0275. To report possible animal cruelty or dog fighting, call the Troy Police Department at 270-4411.

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