



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL OF NYC NAMES
RISA WEINSTOCK AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

AC&C Staff Increased By 68% Since January 2011; Agency Now Has 233 Employees To Care For Animals

June 6, 2013 – The Board of Directors of Animal Care and Control of New York City (AC&C) and the New York City Health Department today announced that effective immediately, Risa Weinstock will serve as AC&C’s Executive Director and General Counsel. Ms. Weinstock previously served as the Interim Executive Director until being named permanently to the position today. She was selected unanimously by AC&C’s Board of Directors.

AC&C is one of the largest animal shelter systems in the country, taking in more than 30,000 animals each year. As a non-profit organization since 1995, AC&C rescues, cares for and finds loving homes for homeless and abandoned animals in New York City. AC&C operates facilities in all five boroughs. AC&C is under contract with the Health Department to provide these services in New York City.

With the City Council’s help, last year the City committed to increasing AC&C’s budget by 77% by 2015, enabling AC&C to add more than 100 staff and enhance services at shelters, receiving centers and in the field. Since Ms. Weinstock assumed the role of Interim Executive Director in October 2012, AC&C has added more than 75 full-time employees and is in the midst of additional hiring. Under her leadership, AC&C has successfully expanded hours in the field, call center and receiving centers, and redesigned the organization’s call center. AC&C is also increasing the size of its vehicle fleet to further improve field service operations.

Ms. Weinstock began her tenure with AC&C in 2008 and has held several executive management positions, including General Counsel, Director of Administration and Interim Executive Director. Prior to joining AC&C, Ms. Weinstock practiced law for over 20 years. She holds a B.A. from Cornell University and a J.D. from American University.

“The Board was unanimous in its decision to appoint Risa as Executive Director and General Counsel of AC&C,” said Board Chair Patrick Nolan. “We are impressed with her leadership and dedication to the organization and to the welfare of New York’s homeless animals. She is the right person to lead AC&C at this exciting time of expanding services and growth.”

“AC&C has flourished under the leadership of Ms. Weinstock,” said Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley. “In just eight short months, AC&C increased its services and began expanding the in-house adoption department to help more animals find new homes.”

Under Ms. Weinstock’s direction, new staff specializing in animal behavior and pet adoption counseling have been added to improve the adoption experience for New Yorkers. Adopters will experience shorter wait times and a more personalized process, including one-on-one counseling and guidance about responsible pet ownership. Post-adoption counseling will be available to ensure a smooth transition to pet ownership. By matching people with appropriate pets, AC&C’s adoption department will create “forever” homes for these once-sheltered animals. These successful adoptions will reduce the number of animals returned or surrendered to AC&C care centers.

AC&C is also fully engaged in a proactive community initiative called the [New Hope](#) program to help find homes for unwanted pets. Because of these efforts, animal placements have more than doubled and the number of animals euthanized has declined by two-thirds over the last 10 years.

For more information, visit www.nycacc.org.

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