



## NEWS RELEASE

### Memphis Animal Services hires new Veterinary Medical Director

*New head vet brings national response experience to MAS*

**Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 31, 2016** – In keeping with its continued efforts to improve the care of animals sheltered at Memphis Animal Services and increase the number of pets adopted, the City of Memphis today is announcing the appointment of its newest Veterinary Medical Director, Dr. Mary Manspeaker.

Dr. Manspeaker joins the city after serving as the Medical Director for the ASPCA National Field Investigation and Response Team. During her tenure, she led the medical division in temporary emergency shelters created for the animal victims of large-scale cruelty cases and natural disasters. As Medical Director, she responded to cases involving up to 1,000 animals - including an animal hoarding case earlier this year in North Carolina where over 700 animals needed to be treated and rehomed. She has also assisted other animal welfare organizations such as the Animal Rescue Corps and was recently a part of an international spay/neuter campaign with Animal Balance.

In making the decision to return to her native Memphis for this role, Manspeaker says being a part of the team that intends to achieve a 90 percent plus live release rate at MAS was an offer she could not resist. "I am very excited to be a part of a growing organization and hope to help build new programs to improve animal welfare in Memphis," Manspeaker said, "The citizens of Memphis express such passion for the health and welfare of the animals in our shelter system, and I believe we can all work together to make this one of the best animal shelters in the country."

Manspeaker has worked as a veterinarian since 2002 after earning her veterinary degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Additionally, she has a Graduate Certificate in Shelter Medicine from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, and is currently working on her Master's degree in Veterinary Forensic Sciences, also through the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

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