

**RELEASE: Immediate**

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**HILLCREST'S FREE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM  
FEATURES GUEST VETERINARIAN TO GIVE ADVICE ON  
*HOW TO KNOW WHEN YOUR PET IS SICK ?***

**Hermitage, Pennsylvania – September 17, 2007** — “Sometimes by the time an owner brings a pet in to the office, it’s too late,” said **Dr. Joseph Raught, Animal Medical Clinic**, New Wilmington, PA. He’ll give advice drawing from his 50 years of experience as a veterinarian on the tell-tell signs of “How to Know When Your Pet Is Sick” at a free community service program offered by **Hillcrest Dog Park and Wellness Center**, 2619 East State Street, Hermitage, PA, on **Saturday, September 22, from 1-2 p.m.**

“People love their animals and they want to take care of them, and it’s important to know what to do to prevent problems, to make people aware, and to help people extend the lives of their pets,” said Raught. At age 72, the semi-retired veterinarian lives by his words by providing prevention information as he sees his patients and when he’s been asked to speak over the years. “Its’ what you do every day of your life when you’re a vet.”

“Gone are the days of the emergency room for people as well as for pets. We want to prevent diseases and keep our pets healthy just like people.” Helpful things to look for and know, such as why your pet may be drinking too much water and why even older pets should be neutered or spay?

**Ask-A-Vet** is open to the public and offers an opportunity to learn more about specific health topics of interest to pet owners, ask medical questions of a local veterinarian and get free expert advice, get tips on pet care, and meet with other owners in a pet-friendly environment.

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Dr. Raught works two days a week at the practice he sold in 2006. The 2001 Pennsylvania Veterinarian of the Year graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and received a Master's degree in Parasitology and Public Health from the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He and his wife, Dorothy, live in Mercer County with a new puppy, five cats, a large and rare breed of Sulcata tortoise and goats, which they raise to provide food to underdeveloped countries. They have four grown children and eight grandchildren. Dr. Raught is an avid gardener and hiker, and has provided countless hours in humanitarian efforts locally, nationally and overseas.

**Hillcrest-Flynn Pet Funeral Home and Crematory, and Hillcrest Memorial Park People and Pet Gardens** provide respectful, compassionate, comprehensive after-life care for pets and their families. It is the first pet funeral home and crematory to be located on the grounds of a human cemetery.

**Hillcrest Dog Park and Wellness Center** is the first private off-leash park for dogs in Mercer County and surrounding areas. Members can exercise their dogs and allow them to interact with other dogs in a safe, enclosed environment. It is also a venue for clinics, demonstrations and seminars to educate on pet health and safety, as well as for promoting pet adoption and socializing with other pet owners.

For more information on Hillcrest-Flynn Pet Funeral Home and Crematory, Hillcrest Memorial Park People and Pet Gardens, and Hillcrest Dog Park and Wellness Center, please see: **hillcrestflynn.com** or call: **724-347-5100**.

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Please contact Catherine Susa at 412-600-4694 to arrange an interview with Dr. Raught.