

**PRESS RELEASE:** CONTACT: Rachel Klousnitzer

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**INTERVIEW/FOOTAGE OPPORTUNIES:**

9/2/2022 12 a.m. – 2 a.m.: Transport vans of beagles arrive | 510 N. LaSalle

9/2/2022 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.: Beagle foster families meet and take beagles home | 510 N. LaSalle

**The Anti-Cruelty Society Takes in Beagles Rescued from Breeding**

**and Testing Facility**

*36 One-Year-Old Female Beagles Rescued and Transported to Chicago Shelter*

**CHICAGO**—The Anti-Cruelty Society is participating in national efforts in partnership with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to rescue beagles from Envigo, a research animal breeding facility in Virginia that was recently found guilty of dozens of federal regulation violations, resulting in dogs being ill, injured, underfed, and, in the worst cases, dead. Our dedicated staff members are making the nearly 800-mile trip to Virginia to safely transport 36 of these dogs to our shelter. The Anti-Cruelty Society has been all hands on deck working diligently behind the scenes to prepare for their arrival by securing fosters, adopters, supplies, and funds to ensure that each beagle taken in receives the best possible care and outcome.

“As an organization that prides itself as a leader in animal welfare in our community, we felt it was our duty to open our doors to these beagles and treat them with compassion that they have never received. We are exceedingly grateful to our support network of staff, fosters, community partners, and donors who have stepped up to help us take on this lifesaving rescue initiative,” said Tracy Elliott, CEO. “These efforts align with our vision to build a humane Chicago for pets and people; and our mission to build a healthy and happy community where pets and people thrive together.”

Under The Anti-Cruelty Society’s care, the beagles will receive innovative medical and behavioral treatment to address their specific needs; foster care as a transformative experience for optimal adoption outcomes; and other immersive environmental and social engagements to prepare them for life in a loving home with families.

We anticipate these beagles will face special medical challenges and will differ from our usual transport animals, Dr. Emily Swiniarski, Medical Director, explains, “I expect the dogs will have ear and skin infections due to living in crowded conditions at the Virginia facility. Fleas and heartworm disease are possible, given that the dogs were housed with outdoor runs. These beagle pups have gone without vaccinations, so to prepare them for life in a home, all dogs will need to receive vaccines. Once the beagles have decompressed in their loving foster homes, they will need to come into our clinic for a thorough veterinary assessment followed by spay/neuter.”

If you are interested in assisting with our beagle rescue efforts, we encourage the community to make a donation to our beagle fund or donate an item from our dedicated Amazon beagle wishlist. We look forward to sharing the beagles’ journey every step of the way on our website and social media channels. Learn more at anticruelty.org/beagles.

***About The Anti-Cruelty Society***  
Founded in 1899, The Anti-Cruelty Society is Chicago’s oldest and largest, private, open-admission, unlimited stay humane society. With a mission of building a healthy and happy community where pets and people thrive together, its comprehensive programs and services help over 20,000 animals and humans every year and include: adoption, charity veterinary clinic, low or no-cost spay/neuter clinic, cruelty investigations and rescue, humane education & community outreach, a free behavior helpline, the Bruckner Rehabilitation & Treatment Center, the Virginia Butts Berger Cat Clinic and the Dog Rehabilitation Center. The Anti-Cruelty Society provides community support to keep people and their pets together through safety net services such as the pop-up pet food pantry program, wellness fairs, emergency pet boarding, senior citizen pet owner support and community education programs. For more information, visit [anticruelty.org](http://www.anticruelty.org/).

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