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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Humane Society of Indianapolis announces winner of first Mutt Strut Poster Pooch Photo Contest

Voters choose mixed-breed dog as representative for Mutt Strut, Humane Society's biggest fundraiser

INDIANAPOLIS (August 11, 2009) – Junior, a 1-year-old mixed-breed dog, has won the first Mutt Strut Poster Pooch Photo Contest, held by the Humane Society of Indianapolis (HSI). He will represent HSI's annual Mutt Strut fundraiser on print and online promotional materials and tee-shirts given to participants at the seventh-annual Mutt Strut at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sunday, April 25, 2010.

Beginning in June, owners entered their dogs in the online Mutt Strut Poster Pooch Photo Contest for a \$5 donation to HSI, with the public voting on entrants for \$1 donation per vote. Junior and his striped brindle coat beat 281 other contestants with 2850 votes, followed by mixed-breed dogs Cliffy and Hopps.

"A native Hoosier mutt, Junior was born in Haughville, Indianapolis, amidst more than 70 other dogs," say Junior's owners, Kevin and Danielle Mitchell. "He was rescued along with his siblings, all of which were white. Junior knows what it's like to be different."

The Mutt Strut Poster Pooch Contest raised over \$26,000 for the Humane Society of Indianapolis, and will help provide food and care for homeless cats and dogs and also help the non-profit organization to continue offering services such as low-cost microchipping, behavior advice, lost and found pet resources, and affordable adoptions. For more information on the Humane Society of Indianapolis and Mutt Strut, visit indyhumane.org and indymuttstrut.org.

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About HSI: *The Humane Society of Indianapolis is the leading voice for the welfare of animals and improving their quality of life. HSI is the first choice in providing direct services for shelter cats and dogs, including adoption, foster home placement, behavior training, appropriate medical care, and affordable spay/neuter services. As the voice for the animals, HSI brings together like-minded animal-focused individuals and groups to educate the public about animal welfare issues and concerns. For over 100 years, it's all about the animals.*

A private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that receives no public or private government funding, the Humane Society of Indianapolis is supported solely by contributions, grants, bequests, investments, and adoption and service fees. For more information and current adoptable animals, visit <http://indyhumane.org>.