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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Snohomish County Auditor's Office announced today that effective January 3, 2005; a new animal services hotline will be available to citizens to report animal related complaints in unincorporated Snohomish County. The number is 425-388-3440. Callers will be assisted by the Licensing staff during regular business hours or they may leave a voice message after hours. This program is designed to reduce the number of non-emergent animal related calls made to 911 annually. Citizens with life threatening emergencies, including dog bites occurring after hours and on weekends, are asked to call 911 for assistance.

Another new feature that will be added in February 2005 to the Auditor's web page allows citizens to enter on-line animal related complaints to the county for follow up. Citizens can report dogs running loose in their neighborhood, vicious dogs, animal neglect and abuse, unlicensed pets, and livestock at large. The web access will also help provide important statistical data on the most frequent types of animal complaints received by the county. The Snohomish County Animal Control unit responds to over 7,500 animal related complaints each year.

The web link that will be effective on February 1, 2005 is:

<http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Auditor/Divisions/Licensing> follow the link to Animal Services, then On-line Complaints.

“The implementation of the animal services hotline and web site coincide with the transfer of the Snohomish County Animal Control unit from the Sheriff to the Auditor's Office – Licensing Division beginning in February 2005”, said Bob Terwilliger, Snohomish County Auditor. “This move consolidates all of the county's animal service programs and animal code enforcement under the same department”.

For pets found with a Snohomish County Regional Pet License, citizens may contact 425-388-3627, 24-hours a day and access the lost pet IVR (Interactive Voice Response) system to reunite the pet with its' owner. Finders of lost pets may also access pet owner information through the Auditor's web page: <http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Auditor/Divisions/Licensing/Pet/LostOrFoundPets.htm> then click on the found a lost pet link.

For additional information, visit the Auditor's web page or contact the Snohomish County Auditor's Office – Licensing Division during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm at 425-388-3388.