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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Winnipeg Humane Society presents the first “Dog Champion of the Year” Award**

(WINNIPEG) – The Winnipeg Humane Society is holding a contest for kids and teenagers to submit their applications for the newly created “Dog Champion of the Year” Award. The contest opens on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and the winner will be announced on April 15 at the McNally Robinson Grant Park book launch for Rob Laidlaw’s *No Shelter Here*, a book for young readers that focuses on dog advocacy.

Interested applicants are asked to submit a 250-400 word story to [communications@winnipeghumanesociety.ca](mailto:communications@winnipeghumanesociety.ca) of how they’ve acted as an animal advocate (Dog Champion) in their community. The winner’s story and picture will be featured on Ace Burpee’s blog, the HOT 103 Facebook page, The Winnipeg Humane Society website and blog, receive a box set of author Rob Laidlaw’s books on animal advocacy, and title of “Dog Champion of the Year” by The Winnipeg Humane Society.

The *No Shelter Here* book launch will feature a reading by Rob Laidlaw, a Q & A moderated by Doug Speirs of The Winnipeg Free Press and a presentation of the award by Ace Burpee of HOT 103.

Rob Laidlaw is the Executive Director of Zoocheck Canada, and author of three children’s and young adult books. *Wild Animals in Captivity* is on the *School Library Journal*’s Best Books list and is a Silver Birch Award nominee, while *On Parade*, *The Hidden World of Animals in Entertainment* and *No Shelter Here* have received high praise for making the issues of animal cruelty comprehensible for children and young adults.

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*The Winnipeg Humane Society is a registered charity and non-profit organization whose mission is to protect all animals from suffering and to promote their welfare and dignity. Funded primarily by donations, memberships and bequests, The WHS also offers pets and dogs for sale to the public. All pets offered for adoption and sale have been spayed or neutered, received necessary shots and treatments, and a behavioural assessment. If you’d like to learn more about dogs for sale or The WHS please visit <http://www.winnipeghumanesociety.ca>*

**winnipeghumanesociety.ca**

**Where every adoptable dog finds a home and cats get a second chance at life**