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N E W S R E L E A S E

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American Anti-Vivisection Society Purrs Over Closing of Pet Cloning Company Says animal suffering does not lead to profit

Jenkintown, PA—Genetic Savings & Clone, Inc., the only company to ever sell cloned companion animals to the public, has closed its doors. The American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS) welcomes the news that Genetic Savings & Clone will no longer be able to capitalize on pet owners' grief with false promises to 'bring back' a beloved deceased pet in exchange for up to \$50,000.

Since the inception of Genetic Savings & Clone, AAVS has led efforts to prohibit pet cloning and educate the public about the problems associated with cloned animals. Cloning is a remarkably inefficient and harmful technology. Studies highlighted on AAVS's website, www.NoPetCloning.org, report that less than four percent of cloned embryos are carried to term, and of those that survive, most die shortly after birth or suffer severe health problems and abnormalities. AAVS estimates that hundreds of animals, including surrogate mothers who underwent multiple surgeries, were required for Genetic Savings & Clone to produce just one cat for sale. In spite of that enormous cost, there is no guarantee that any cloned animal will physically match the original and even less likelihood that there will be a behavioral similarity.

"The American Anti-Vivisection Society is thrilled to hear that Genetic Savings & Clone will no longer be able to profit from the suffering of animals in the pet cloning business," said Sue Leary, AAVS President. "We hope this closure will send a message to other companies looking to sell cloned animals: American consumers are not interested."

In fact, several independent national surveys reveal that the overwhelming majority of Americans are opposed to cloning companion animals such as cats and dogs and feel that companies should not be allowed to sell genetically engineered animals as pets. "Given the public's strong opposition to pet cloning, it is not surprising that Genetic Savings & Clone was only able to sell two cloned cats in over two years of promoting them," noted Tracie Letterman, AAVS Executive Director.

Genetic Savings & Clone's attempts at pet cloning were remarkable failures of both science and ethics. AAVS celebrates the closing of Genetic Savings & Clone and will continue to work to protect animals from the dangers of cloning.

AAVS is a non-profit animal advocacy and educational organization that has been monitoring the use of animals in laboratories since 1883. AAVS is among the oldest animal protection organizations in the United States. AAVS pursues its objectives through legal and effective advocacy, education, and the support of the development of non-animal alternative methods.