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**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Ambassador Dog Rommie, the face of Guide Dogs Victoria, breathing easier after mercy dash**

**Monday 15th November 2010**

Guide Dogs Victoria Ambassador Dog "Rommie", a public face of Guide Dogs Victoria, has been fighting life-threatening pneumonia at the Southern Animal Referral Centre. Rommie was rushed to Melbourne's Southern Animal Referral Centre on Melbourne Cup Day. She has spent a week in intensive care, but is now home and almost ready to return to her invaluable work.

Rommie typically spends her time raising awareness of the services Guide Dogs Victoria provides but found herself in need of emergency care after contracting life-threatening pneumonia. Rommie required 24 hour care critical care during which time she was treated at Melbourne's Southern Animal Referral Centre by a team of critical care vets, Victoria's only Veterinary Cardiology Specialist, Dr Richard Woolley and Small Animal Medical Specialist Dr Matt Reeves.

This combination of treatment, available only in a handful of facilities, has allowed Rommie to fight off her illness and take a well earned break from her duties until she makes a full recovery. Rommie has been an Ambassador Dog for nearly a year and in that time has been attending public events and giving people wanting a chance to come up close for lots of licks and cuddles.

**For additional information or a sample copy, contact Mark Amott at Southern Animal Referral Centre on (03) 9532 5261 or Charmaine Waduge at Guide Dogs Victoria on (03) 9854 4411.**

The Southern Animal Referral Centre (SARC) offers a wide range of small animal veterinary referral and emergency services. SARC is located in Highett, Melbourne and offers 24 hour emergency and critical care, referral surgery, specialist cardiology, specialist medicine and animal physiotherapy services to companion animals.