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# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Lawrence Humane Society Hires Executive Director

**Lawrence, Kan.** – Nationwide search ends with selection of Dori Villalon.

Dori Villalon has been named Executive Director of the Lawrence Humane Society, a nonprofit animal shelter that has been serving Lawrence and Douglas County since 1951. Ms. Villalon, 46, will join the organization on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

“We are excited to welcome Dori to the Lawrence Humane Society and the community,” stated Emily Peterson, President of the organization’s Board of Directors. “She brings the leadership experience, animal welfare expertise and energy we need to continue moving the organization forward.”

According to Peterson, Villalon will work on a contractual basis to immediately address goals related to shelter operations and funding. Explains Peterson, “In order to continue and expand our essential animal care and rescue services, we need to grow community support and contributions. Dori has agreed to jump in to help us meet the goals vital to our success.” After a 6-month trial period the Board of Directors will have the option of extending a long-term offer to Villalon.

A recruitment committee formed by the Board of Directors, including non-board members, reviewed all applications submitted for the position and conducted a series of interviews of qualified candidates. Upon identification of the top candidate, the Board of Directors invited individuals representing the organization’s key stakeholder groups to a reception to meet Dori before proceeding with an offer.

Villalon most recently serviced as Vice President of Animal Protection for the American Humane Association and held principle positions with the San Francisco SPCA, Sonoma County Animal Control, and the Cleveland Animal Protective League. She is recognized as a progressive leader in the field of animal protection and holds a B.A. in Animal Welfare Management.

The executive director position has been occupied on an interim basis since March by Mike Wildgen. A former Lawrence city manager, Wildgen provided support to the organization while the nationwide search was conducted. “We are extremely grateful for Mike’s help during a time of significant change,” noted Peterson. “He was essential in keeping our services available to the community, while also allowing us the time necessary for a thorough recruitment process.”

### *ABOUT THE LAWRENCE HUMANE SOCIETY*

The Lawrence Humane Society is an independent, non-profit animal welfare organization dedicated to providing shelter, care, and advocacy to stray, homeless, and abused animals. We rely on donations to provide medical care and adoption services for animals’ in-need. For information on adopting a pet or to make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit [www.LawrenceHumane.org](http://www.LawrenceHumane.org).

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