

'Mutts' Cartoonist Supports Obama's Pet Pick Strategy

Weeklong comic-strip series, featuring Mooch the Cat, advocates shelter adoption.

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Cartoon courtesy King Features Syndicate. The "Mutts" comic strip set to appear in newspapers Monday, Dec. 8, features the lead characters, Mooch the cat and Earl the dog, talking about the desire of President-elect Barack Obama's family to adopt a puppy from an animal shelter.

Creator Patrick McDonnell's topical storyline, which runs through Saturday, Dec. 13, mirrors the nation's interest since Obama promised daughters Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, during his victory speech that they "have earned the new puppy that's coming with us to the White House."

McDonnell, an animal welfare advocate, has received national recognition for his work, including three Genesis Awards from The Humane Society of the United States. Twice a year during the past decade, he has created a special "Shelter Series" storyline for "Mutts" in honor of the staff and volunteers who care for the more than 6 million abandoned animals in shelters across the United States.

McDonnell's comic strips are distributed by King Features Syndicate to more than 700 newspapers worldwide and also appear online.