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### FL SARC Deploys for First Time Under SPCA Florida Umbrella to Assist Animals Impacted by Hurricane Ida

Lakeland FL - SPCA Florida is on a mission to save lives through a variety of initiatives both locally and nationally. Since the absorption of Florida State Animal Response Coalition, “FL SARC”, a nonprofit 501(c) 3 emergency response organization on September 1, 2021, volunteers have deployed to Louisiana in support of animals impacted by Hurricane Ida.

At the request of the ASPCA (the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) disaster response team, FL SARC is responding to Louisiana to provide daily care for displaced animals at the Terrebonne Parish Animal Shelter. The ASPCA has been on the ground providing assistance, including search-and-rescue, emergency sheltering, evacuation, and pet food distribution, for more than 1,500 animals impacted by Hurricane Ida since before the storm made landfall. Trained volunteers will have boots on the ground to assist animals impacted by Hurricane Ida housed in an emergency shelter at Terrebonne Parish Animal Shelter. Providing daily animal care is the focus for the deployed volunteers for three weeks.

Animal welfare groups collaborated to set up an emergency shelter in response to an urgent request from Terrebonne Parish Animal Shelter and their staff after they were impacted by the storm. The animals, including many whose owners were forced to evacuate from their homes ahead of the storm, are receiving much-needed housing and care, including medical and behavioral services, until they can be reunited with their families or, if surrendered, placed into new homes.

Shelley Thayer, Executive Director for SPCA Florida, stated, “We are in the planning stages of a major roll out in 2022 that will benefit our state of Florida as well as outside our state during natural and man-made disasters. This roll out is based on collaborative efforts between local, state, and national organizations.”

“While Hurricane Ida made landfall several weeks ago, local shelters, pet owners, and animals are continuing to experience the impact of the devastation it left behind,” said Susan Anderson, director of ASPCA Disaster Response. “With support from our response partners across the country, we are able to provide ongoing assistance for these displaced animals in need, and we are grateful to FL SARC for mobilizing to support our lifesaving efforts.”

SPCA Florida will continue to assist rescued animals throughout 2021, while preparing for the new year.

**About SPCA Florida**

*Founded in 1979, SPCA Florida exists to eliminate animal suffering and engage the entire community in the welfare and well-being of animals. SPCA Florida will help and heal 20,000 dogs and cats through its SPCA Florida Animal Medical Center and provide direct care for 6,500 animals through its Adoption Center this year. Ani-Meals and Food Assistance Programs, provide food and medical care for animals of homebound families and families who need supplemental food for thousands of dogs and cats each year.*