



**Contact:**  
Randa Richter  
Media & Partnership Relations  
O: (863) 577-4608  
[rrichter@spcaflorida.org](mailto:rrichter@spcaflorida.org)

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## **Florida SARC Repositioning Under SPCA Florida Umbrella**

Lakeland FL - SPCA Florida is on a mission to save lives through a variety of initiatives both locally and nationally. On Wednesday, September 1, 2021, Florida State Animal Response Coalition, FLSARC, a nonprofit 501(c) 3 emergency response organization will officially fall under the SPCA Florida umbrella.

Established in 2011, FLSARC was created to help Florida's dogs and cats during natural and manmade disasters. Trained volunteers or "boots on the ground" assisted with disasters such as Hurricane Matthew and Irma, hoarding cases in multiple Florida counties, and Florida animal shelters during floods and disease control. FLSARC provided emergency animal sheltering for all. Emergency sheltering includes building a temporary shelter, understanding animal behavior & illnesses, and providing daily animal care.

"It has been an amazing 10 years and we have accomplished goals beyond our expectations, but there is more to do, and SPCA Florida is the perfect organization to bring these goals to reality, said FLSARC Founder, Consie von Gontard. "It has been an honor to work with our amazing team of volunteers and I thank you for your continued dedication to our organization," said the retiring, founder.

Shelley Thayer, Executive Director for SPCA Florida, stated, "It is truly an honor to lead this vital program that was created because of tremendous need. FLSARC's mission will remain the same, and we will continue their dedication to disaster mitigation, preparation, response, and recover and care of companion animals. SPCA Florida will take the necessary time to plan and expand on the current curriculum. Full roll-out is expected this year."

"We ask for the continued support of FLSARC volunteers, trainers, sponsors, donors, and state and national organizations who have assisted animals caught in the wake of natural or man-made disasters. SPCA Florida has been helping animals and those who love them for more than 40 years. The merger of FLSARC will support our mission of mercy and care," said Thayer.

Lastly Consie said, "I am very excited for the future of Florida SARC under the management of the amazing SPCA Florida. Here's to a new future for all of us!"

Florida SARC is a coalition of various groups and individuals working within the state of Florida to plan for and assist animals impacted by disasters. Coalition members have the combined knowledge and skills gained over many years of experience responding to both natural and man-made disasters. Pooling that experience, knowledge and talent has created a preeminent team of professional disaster animal responders.





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### **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.*

### **About Florida State Animal Response Coalition**

*Since 2011, FLSARC has helped Florida's pets during natural and manmade disasters. The Florida State Animal Response Coalition is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to disaster mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery for emergencies involving companion animals. Our vision is to be the gold standard in emergency response involving companion animals with best-in-class training and volunteers.*

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