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**SPCA Florida Invites Public To Take Dogs On Field Trips and Sleepovers**

**Lakeland:** Someone let the shelter dogs out - and it’s saving their lives and bringing out the public in droves. SPCA Florida launches new canine Sleepover Program called Pajama Pawty on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, to work in conjunction with existing Doggie Date Program, formerly known as Rent A Dog Program. The Pajama Pawty Program pairs members of the community with shelter dogs for a sleepover.

Outings can last from one hour to all day, and can include a hike, a trip to a beach or lake, a sleepover in a home or even a nice dinner in a pet-friendly restaurant. Whether you already have a dog or aren’t ready to have one, it’s a great way to get your pet fix in.

The Doggie Date Program and Pajama Pawty Program were created in order to help reduce kennel stress and provide dogs with enrichment and increased visibility. Outings give the shelter valuable insight on how the dogs behave outside a shelter environment. It’s also a great excuse to spend a day doing something new or exploring the town.

Short-term fostering and sleepovers, Pajama Pawty, can reduce stress for shelter dogs and gives them a break from the shelter. They also benefit from interactions with the foster family, human interaction is known to improve animal welfare, particularly for highly social species like dogs.

The program was designed to make it easy for the community to participate, so signing up is easy. Participants will be provided with everything they need for a successful field trip (water bowls, poop bags, food etc…). Individuals interested in the Pajama Pawty program should visit spcaflorida.org/programs… to sign up. Sign up opens 2/1/2020.

SPCA Florida is asking for financial, foster, and adoption support. To help, go online at www.spcaflorida.org and donate, foster or check out our available dogs and cats.

**About SPCA Florida**

*Founded in 1979, SPCA Florida is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization headquartered in Lakeland. Dedicated to improving the lives of pets and people in the community, SPCA Florida provides caring, compassion and hope to more than 6,000 homeless animals entering our doors each year. Open to the public, our McClurg Animal Medical Center is a state-of-the-art veterinary facility that heals and helps 50,000 patients annually. Thousands more pets and people are served through our community outreach and education programs.*