**For immediate release: March 21, 2023**

**SPCA Florida Felines Fly The Friendly Skies to Maine . . . Again**

**Lakeland, FL—** SPCA Florida supporters, Donna Robinson and Mark Helmericks will depart Thursday, March 23rd from Lakeland International Airport at 9:00am, to fly 40 homeless felines to their new home in Maine. In partnership with Refuge League of Greater Portland, staff and volunteers will meet the arriving feline passengers at Portland International Airport. The felines will be fully vetted and spayed or neutered according to an agreement between the no-kill organizations.

This partnership between the No Kill Shelters provides lifesaving results for Polk County’s homeless animals. SPCA Florida is extremely grateful to Donna and Mark for donating their plane, resources, and time to fly kittens to Refuge League of Greater Portland who together are saving precious lives.

“The Animal Refuge League is honored to partner with SPCA Florida to welcome these pets to Maine and to loving homes. Collaboration between shelters is the key to saving lives and helping pets across the country receive the new beginnings they deserve,” said Jeana Roth, ARLGP Director of Community Engagement.

“SPCA Florida is on a mission to save lives through a variety of initiatives both locally and nationally. Our Maine affiliates and our pilot are instrumental in helping us leverage those lifesaving efforts. We are grateful for their collaborative and compassionate partnership,” said Shelley Thayer, SPCA Florida Executive Director.

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

**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 4,000 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.*

SPCA Florida Partners:

**ORLANDO CAT CAFÉ**

*The Orlando Cat Café opened in September 2016. Working together with SPCA Florida, Cagan Management Group, Inc., and Minch Coffee Company, our joint mission is to save the lives of homeless cats in Central Florida while drinking good coffee. Visit orlandocatcafe.com for more information.*

**Petco**

*Petco is a category-defining health and wellness company focused on improving the lives of pets, pet parents and our own Petco partners.*

**PetSmart**

*We love pets and we believe pets make us better people. PetSmart is the trusted partner to pet parents and pets in every moment of their lives.*

**Petsense**

*Founded in 2005, Petsense by Tractor Supply is a pet specialty retailer focused on meeting the needs of pet owners, primarily in small and mid-size communities. We specialize in providing a large assortment of pet food, supplies and ervices, such as grooming and training, and offering customers a tailored experience while providing the top-quality products they need at a price they love.*

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