**For immediate release: October 14, 2022**

### Shelter Partners, including Polk County Animal Control and SPCA Florida Team Up to Save 50 Felines

Lakeland FL – Partnership and collaboration was the life-saving mission for 100 cats and dogs from 10 Florida shelters.

A special flight was arranged by BISSELL Pet Foundation to fly out shelter animals that were affected by Hurricane Ian to receiving shelters in the north. An enormous effort between Florida shelters, Slomba Shelter Solutions, and Shelter Medicine Program at University of Florida, made it possible to move 100 Florida shelter animals out of disaster zones.

With the need to fill 50 more feline travel spots on the plane, Polk County Animal Control scrambled to fulfill the need and save 50 more lives in Polk County. At 5:00p.m. SPCA Florida’s Shelter Medical Team rushed to Polk County Animal Control to assist with exams and Health Certificates for travel.

For four hours the teams of Polk County Animal Control and SPCA Florida, worked tirelessly to examine, test, and complete Health Certificates for travel. At 2AM, Polk County Animal Control returned to their facility to load the 50 felines and send to Naples, where they would board a plane for their new home.

“I am excited that so many animals’ lives were positively impacted through our collaboration with other animal welfare agencies,” said Sheriff Grady Judd.

Partnerships like these not only save lives but give an opportunity to a shelter animal to find a forever, loving home.

**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.*

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