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### FL SARC Deploys Under SPCA Florida Umbrella to Assist Animals Impacted by New Mexico Fires

**Lakeland**: 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 New Mexico in support of animals impacted by the fires.

At the request of a national organization disaster response team, FL SARC is responding by providing daily care for displaced animals in the Santa Fe area. FL SARC has been on the ground providing assistance to include pet food distribution, cleaning, and exercising the animals in Santa Fe area shelters. Trained volunteers will continue to deploy through FL SARC to assist animals impacted by the fires for the next few weeks.

The animals, including many whose owners were forced to evacuate from their homes ahead of the fires, 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 have trained volunteers from Polk County and around the state of Florida who are providing boots on the ground assistance at this time. I urge everyone who has ever wanted to make a difference for animals to attend a one or two day training and join our dedicated team.”

SPCA Florida will continue to assist rescued animals throughout 2022.

**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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