



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA
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**Charlottesville Celebrities do the *Boot Scootin' Boogie* and
raise more than \$210,000 for the animals at the SPCA**

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA: The SPCA's 2012 Critter Ball raised more than \$210,000 largely due to its Celebrity Dance Competition. This annual SPCA Ball consists of a dinner, silent and live auction and the Celebrity Dance Competition modeled after ABC's Dancing with the Stars. In the fourth year of the dance competition where dancers compete for dollar donation votes to take home the mirror ball trophy, this year's dancers raised a record-breaking \$123,000 to help the animals at the SPCA.

Director of Marketing and Development, Lisa Lane said, "we are so thankful for our supporters, sponsors, and all of the dancers who put an incredible amount of time and energy into their dance routines and raising money for the animals at the SPCA. This is always such a fun fundraiser thanks to the Celebrity Dance Competition, and the dance performances were the highlight of the evening. All proceeds from the Critter Ball will go to support critical medical care for the animals at the SPCA and the SPCA's public spay/neuter programs."

Although all the dancers were just incredible, there can only be one winner of the Mirror Ball Trophy. And, this year, it was Celebrity Dancer Julie Bonistalli and her partner Kevin Sumter who stole the show and raised the most donation votes for the animals. They lit up the dance floor boogying to John Michael Montgomery's hit "Be My Baby Tonight." The 2012 celebrity dancer line-up included:

- Actress, Albemarle High School Teacher and cat lover, Meghan Crider;
- Arts Advocate, rescue dog owner and Executive Director of Live Arts Matt Joslyn;
- Family CFO, mother of two, and passionate animal lover Julie Bonistalli;
- Charlottesville native and owner of Beer Run, Josh Hunt;
- And, amateur couple, local chiropractor & President of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Cortland Neuhoff and Leslie Bowman.

Because of support from our generous event sponsors, every dollar raised during the Critter Ball will go directly to help animals in need. The SPCA graciously thanks our

returning presenting sponsors BMW of Charlottesville and Virginia National Bank. For a full list of sponsors please visit www.spcacritterball.com.

The mission of the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the lost, abandoned, and homeless animals of the City of Charlottesville and the County of Albemarle and to increase the number of these animals being placed in appropriate, loving, and permanent homes through adoptions, foster care, and outreach, and to set a standard of excellence and leadership in shelter animal care, humane education, and progressive animal welfare programs.

For more information about the SPCA call 434-973-5959 or visit our website at www.caspca.org.