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Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA to receive training through  
acclaimed enrichment program for shelter dogs**

The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for the dogs in our care. In an effort to continue to meet their physical and emotional needs, the SPCA will be welcoming Dogs Playing for Life to the shelter to present a seminar on their enrichment program for sheltered dogs featuring playgroups along with hands-on training. The program utilizes playgroups as an enrichment, assessment, training, and adoption enhancement tool to help save lives.

Dogs Playing for Life will be at the SPCA May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 5<sup>th</sup>. The shelter will be closed to the public on Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> to allow staff to attend the seminar. **Media is invited to attend the hands-on training in the shelter's play park on May 5<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m., and 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.**

"We're thrilled to have this opportunity to train our staff on the benefits of playgroups and for them to receive the hands-on training needed to be able to conduct successful playgroups long after the event has concluded," said Angie Gunter, Chief Executive Officer of the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA. "We're encouraged that this training will

decrease the length of stay for the dogs in our care and increase their chances of being adopted.”

The program provided by Dogs Playing for Life is being sponsored by Petco Love and ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

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*About the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA: The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is proud to have maintained the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County as a No Kill community, providing life-saving care to thousands of animals in the region. The mission of the SPCA is to advance the compassionate treatment of animals by providing sheltering, medical care and behavioral services for dogs and cats; promoting permanent, caring homes; and furthering education and outreach to place healthy animals in caring homes.*