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Charlottesville, VA Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA welcomes 20 more beagles from the Envigo facility in Cumberland, Virginia

Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA assists in the Humane Society of the United States' work to find placement for approximately 4,000 beagles

**(August 24, 2022)**— The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA has received 20 additional beagles at its shelter in Charlottesville as part of the group to be removed from a mass-breeding facility riddled with animal welfare concerns. This brings the total number of beagles that the SPCA has rescued from the facility to 75. The Humane Society of the United States is coordinating the removal of approximately 4,000 beagles housed at an Envigo RMS LLC facility in Cumberland, VA which <u>bred dogs</u> to be sold to laboratories for animal experimentation.

The transfer plan was submitted by the Department of Justice and Envigo RMS LLC, with the agreement of the Humane Society of the United States to assume the responsibility of coordinating placement. The transfer will take place in stages over the next 60 days, and the dogs will be up for adoption via the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA and other shelters and rescues.

"It has been a major undertaking to rescue these beagles, but we're grateful for the opportunity to help them find their first loving homes," said Angie Gunter, Chief Executive Officer of the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA. "We have had success placing the previous groups of beagles into foster and adoptive homes and we're hopeful our community will continue to support our efforts to find this group of beagles their families as well."

Those interested in fostering can email <u>foster@caspca.org</u> or sign up <u>online</u>.

The transfer plan comes as a result of a <u>lawsuit</u> filed against Envigo by the Department of Justice in May, alleging Animal Welfare Act violations at the facility. Repeated federal inspections have resulted in dozens of violations, including findings that some dogs had been "euthanized" without first receiving anesthesia, that dogs had received inadequate veterinary care and insufficient food, and that they were living in unsanitary conditions.

"It takes a massive network of compassionate, expert shelters and rescues to make an operation of this scale possible," said Lindsay Hamrick, shelter outreach and engagement director for the Humane Society of the United States. "We are deeply grateful to each organization that is stepping up to find these dogs the loving homes they so deserve."

The Humane Society of the United States is maintaining a list of partners accepting animals into their adoption program will be <u>here</u>. For more information about the beagles the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is finding homes for, visit <u>caspca.org</u>.

**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.

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