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Hilary Bryan

Director of Advancement, Communications and Marketing

Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA

(434) 973-5959

hbryan@caspca.org

Charlottesville, VA

Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA Euthanasia Policy

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (September 28, 2023) — Here at the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA, we love our shelter animals fiercely. Our dedicated staff and volunteers provide as much support to healing our animals as they do in getting them adopted into loving forever homes. With that being said, there is an unfortunate truth that we all must face in the animal welfare community and that is the animal outcome of euthanasia.

CASPCA does not specifically euthanize for space or for time, nor do we euthanize what we determine to be adoptable animals. In fact, our organization prioritizes lifesaving and has achieved a 97% placement rate for 2023.

We at the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA take these decisions very seriously and follow a level of care and protocols to properly determine if and when euthanasia is considered a viable outcome for an animal. The two biggest factors that are taken into consideration when faced with these decisions is public safety and the overall quality of life that can be provided for that animal. Euthanasia can be the necessary outcome when an animal requires medical treatment that goes beyond our ability to humanely provide or has a condition that puts other shelter animals, staff and community members at risk. Euthanasia may also be the appropriate outcome when an animal displays negative behaviors, such as unmanageable aggression towards other dogs or aggression towards people that goes beyond our ability to correct. This is particularly a concern when that behavior presents a safety concern to a potential adopter or the community.

In our position as animal welfare professionals, it would be irresponsible to place dangerous animals into the community. We are not only here to provide shelter, love, medical, behavioral care and placement to our shelter pets. We also have a duty to keep our community safe from an animal who poses a threat to anyone's safety, including other animals, and ensure that our decisions are prioritizing the animals' needs and their quality of life.

"Our goal is to be as transparent as possible with our community members, said Taylor Reinson, Director of Animal Operations at the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA. "We have a responsibility

to educate the public on our practices so that we can continue to work together to save the lives of these animals.”

Nonetheless, these decisions are difficult to make and have a strong impact on all of our staff and volunteers that spend time with these animals. We would like to ask the community to recognize that our organization works tirelessly to better understand the circumstances around the behavioral and medical conditions of every pet that enters the shelter’s care. Our decisions are backed by data and the expertise of our staff in order to support an outcome that is deemed humane and safe for everyone concerned, including the 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 life-saving communities for 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.