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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA Celebrates Major Success of Community Cat Program, Achieving 46% Reduction in Feline Stray Intake Since 2011

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (June 4, 2024) — The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA proudly announces a significant milestone achieved through its transformative Community Cat Program. Since its inception in 2011, the program has led to a remarkable 46% reduction in feline stray intake, revolutionizing the landscape of feline welfare in our community and beyond.

This substantial decrease in feline stray intake has not only alleviated the burden on local shelters, but has also empowered the SPCA to extend its life-saving efforts to other critical areas. By redirecting resources previously allocated to managing stray populations, the organization can now focus on providing essential care and support to cats in need, ultimately saving more lives and fostering a brighter future for feline companions.

"This milestone reduction is a day I never thought I would see," said Rachel Hoyle, Community Cat Manager at the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA. "We are thrilled to celebrate the success of our Community Cat Program, which has achieved a 46% reduction in feline stray intake since 2011. It's a testament to the effectiveness of Trap-Neuter-Return, and we expect further reductions each year. By working with community cat caregivers to spay, neuter, and vaccinate, we greatly reduce the number of stray kittens brought to the shelter."

In addition to the significant reduction in stray intake, the SPCA's Community Cat Program has achieved several other milestones in 2024:

- **171 Community Cats Spayed/Neutered/Vaccinated:** Through proactive measures and targeted initiatives, over 171 community cats have received essential spaying, neutering, and vaccination services, contributing significantly to population control, and the overall health of these feline companions.
- **Nearly 100 Felines Provided Free or Low-Cost Veterinary Care:** Recognizing the importance of accessible healthcare for all cats, regardless of their circumstances, the SPCA has extended a helping hand to over 100 felines, ensuring they receive the necessary veterinary care they deserve, irrespective of financial constraints.

- **Distribution of 775 lbs of Cat Food:** Acknowledging the vital role of proper nutrition in maintaining the health and well-being of community cats, the SPCA has distributed a substantial 775 lbs of cat food, ensuring that these furry friends receive adequate nourishment for a healthy life.

The SPCA provides this resource at no cost to residents of Charlottesville and Albemarle and works diligently with members of the public to help manage the community cat population. TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) is the only method proven to effectively reduce the free-roaming cat population. It is a non-lethal approach that is being embraced by towns and municipalities all across the nation.

The success of the Community Cat Program underscores the transformative impact of proactive community engagement and strategic interventions in promoting feline welfare. As the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA continues to expand its life-saving efforts, it remains committed to advancing the welfare of all animals and strengthening the bond between humans and their beloved companions.

For more information about the SPCA and its Community Cat Program, please visit <https://caspca.org/services/spay-neuter/communityferal-cats/>.

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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.*