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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use

Orphan Kitten Club Selects SpokAnimal As First Mightycat Partner in Washington State

Spokane, Wash., – Nov. 2, 2022 – SpokAnimal has been selected by the Orphan Kitten Club as its first Mightycat Partner in Washington State. The Orphan Kitten Club, based in California, was founded with a mission to help build innovative programs that save the lives of the tiniest of felines and SpokAnimal is now one of just 65 national partners the Club has selected to help realize its vision.

The Mightycat program is specifically aimed at helping neonate kittens, those felines that are just days old up to 12 weeks of age. To do this, the foundation has created the first grant program in the world to specifically fund the care and protection of neonatal kittens.

As Orphan Kitten Club program director, Sonja Lueschen explains, “We invest in impactful, innovative, fiscally responsible organizations in an effort to make the world a safer place for kittens. We provide our Mightycat Partners with funding to help with medical expenses for individual neonates, plus access to funds for developing kitten care programs as a whole.”

The visionary behind the Orphan Kitten Club is Hannah Shaw, who is widely known in animal welfare circle as “The Kitten Lady”. In addition to being a kitten rescuer and humane educator, Shaw is a *New York Times* bestselling author with multiple kitten-care books to her credit. Since 2019, her Orphan Kitten Club has provide more than \$1 million in funding to shelters and rescues to further the cause of neonatal kitten welfare.

“The Kitten Lady has been, and is, a go-to resource for our shelter staff and our fosters,” stated SpokAnimal executive director, Dori Peck. “To be associated with someone of her caliber and expertise is really an honor.”

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Orphan Kitten Club Selects SpokAnimal - continued

SpokAnimal has worked hard for opportunities such as this. In 2021, it took in 1,003 kittens up to 8 weeks of age and ultimately, 2,958 of SpokAnimal's 3,478 adoptions were felines. To achieve these numbers, SpokAnimal relies on a robust network of fosters, which includes the 2022 Royal Canin and Greater Good Charities national Feline Foster Hero. It also makes animals available at eight different locations throughout Spokane, including Spokane's Mecca for kitties: the Kitty Cantina.

In addition to being Eastern Washington's largest humane society for adoptions, it is also the most cost-effective. Its 2021 tax return shows that 78% of all expenditures went directly into programs for adoptable and public pets.

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About SpokAnimal

SpokAnimal was founded in 1983. Over half our shelter's intake is from owner-surrendered animals and transfers from the local municipal shelter, SCRAPS. The other portion of animals arrives through our vibrant transport program, which allows us to save pets from areas where overcrowding and euthanizing for space are still unfortunate realities. Our foster program helps us care for fragile and vulnerable animals. Our vet clinic supports both shelter and public pets with spay/neuter services, microchips, vaccines and dentals. Ad hoc care for pets, such wound care, pregnancy complications, and digestive issues, is provided for public pets as staffing and finances allow. The Guardian Angel emergency boarding service and Pet Food Bank are other programs that support our community. To further enhance animal welfare in our community, partnerships with organizations such as Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, Sullivan Park Care Center, Spokane Meals on Wheels, Blessings Under the Bridge, Red Cross, Family Promise and Best Friends are core to our outreach. Those interested in supporting our nonprofit's work can contribute online at www.spokanimal.org.