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PRESS RELEASE
For immediate use

Kitty Cantina Owners Win National Feline Foster Hero Competition

Spokane, Wash., – Jan 6, 2022 – Justyn and Tori Cozza, owners of the Kitty Cantina, won the nation-wide Feline Foster Heroes Contest sponsored by Seattle-based Greater Good Charities, and pet food manufacturer, Royal Canin. That achievement earned them \$500 and a \$5,000 grant for SpokAnimal.

The competition sponsors received over 500 nominations for the award and selected just 10 finalists. In December, public voting determined the top three. The Cantina’s loyal social media following helped them lock in the win with over 7,000 votes. Two runner-ups scored \$1,000 grants for their chosen shelters. Mary Egger-McCarroll chose Rescue League of Iowa in Des Moines, and Megan Berg selected Williamson County Animal Center in Franklin, Tennessee. Funding was awarded this month.

While the Cozza’s will use the funds for cat care at Kitty Cantina, SpokAnimal has used the windfall to purchase a handheld ultrasound for its vet clinic. The new imaging technology will help vets assess animal gestation, organ functionality, and aid in other diagnostic procedures.

The Cozza’s began fostering for SpokAnimal in 2019, prior to opening the Kitty Cantina in 2020. They have fostered over 50 kittens and have found homes for almost 800 felines since opening the Cantina’s doors. For health code reasons, the cat lounge is a separate portion of the café, and bookings are scheduled to allow cat lovers to enjoy interacting with the furry occupants. Located at 6704 N. Nevada, even drive-thru patrons have views of the cat antics that unfold daily.

According to SpokAnimal’s Executive Director, Dori Peck, “Tori and Justyn have been wonderful fosters, and this competition helps raise awareness about the valuable contribution fosters make.”

She explained foster care assistance is needed for both cats and dogs, and ranges from caring for babies that need to be bottle fed, to socializing puppies and kittens that are too young for adoption, supporting animals that need medical care or emotional comfort, and even providing hospice care. Fosters choose what type of animal they want to help and the level of caretaking they are comfortable providing, knowing SpokAnimal will support them through the process.

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Photo caption: Justyn Cozza with former Kitty Cantina resident.

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