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Media Contacts:

Alison Jimenez, the ASPCA
(212) 876-7700, ext. 4568 / alison.jimenez@aspca.org

Melissa Knicely, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
Animal Care & Control Division
(704) 336-3627 / mknicely@cmpd.org

Donna Ragan, Humane Society of Charlotte
(704) 494-7708 / DRagan@humanesocietyofcharlotte.org

ASPCA Launches Partnership in Charlotte, N.C.

Program aims to reduce shelter intake, increase live outcomes through collaboration

NEW YORK—Together with local agencies and city officials in a press conference at The Palmer Building, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) today officially launched its ASPCA Partner Community program in Charlotte, N.C. in an effort to save the lives of more at-risk and homeless pets through a collaborative effort called The ASPCA Partnership.

The ASPCA Partnership includes the following Charlotte-area animal welfare agencies: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Animal Care & Control Division (an open admission public shelter); and the Humane Society of Charlotte (a private, non-profit animal welfare agency).

"Today is a landmark day for our new partners in Charlotte and for the community's animals," said ASPCA President & CEO Matt Bershadker. "We're about to embark on a multi-year, multi-faceted partnership with these organizations, all with the overarching goal of sparking positive change in the lives of animals in our communities."

The ASPCA Partnership will include annual planning meetings with Charlotte partners to determine and monitor goals, strategies and needs. It also includes a grant allocation process, where partner agencies will have the opportunity to apply for substantial grants to address the community's needs and implement targeted, sustainable programs aimed at increasing live outcomes for animals. The agencies will also have access to ASPCA resources, expertise and guidance, as well as strategic planning support, statistical analysis, training, and participation in ground-breaking research projects.

"We are excited to be chosen by the ASPCA to become a partner community in 2014. The ASPCA has a great foundation and a vast array of knowledge that will assist us in making even greater strides in the welfare of animals in the Charlotte community. We are enthusiastic to be connected to an agency that not only lends us the support we need, but also engages the community through collaboration. The ASPCA has documented successes and we are honored to be chosen to be a part of a partnership that supports our efforts in increasing live outcomes and finding safe and loving homes for our animals," said Deputy Chief Vicki Foster of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department.

"The Humane Society of Charlotte is not only excited but honored to have the opportunity to work with our partners to further our work to increase the number of animals' lives saved here in Mecklenburg County. Having the support and expertise of the ASPCA and their knowledge of proven strategies that have worked in other partner communities is invaluable and will help us strengthen our community partnerships and pave the way to making Charlotte a city where ultimately every healthy animal has a chance at life. This transformational partnership can have a huge impact on how Charlotte treats animals as a community," said Humane Society of Charlotte President & CEO Shelly A. Moore.

Last year, approximately 16,000 homeless animals entered the Charlotte partner agencies. Aside from overcrowding in its shelters, some of the other challenges facing Charlotte are the need for more lost animals to be reunited with their owners, an increase in targeted spay/neuter, and more pet adoptions.

Since 2007, the ASPCA has been lending its support, financially and through training and other human resources, to communities around the country with the goal of helping them save more animals. The ASPCA's work focuses a collective effort on sustainable, data-driven plans and programs that engage the community in providing positive outcomes for these animals. Since the ASPCA began its Partnership program in 2007, more than one million animals have been adopted, returned to owners, or spay/neutered as a result of the exceptional collaboration among partner agencies in each community.

In addition to Charlotte, N.C., the ASPCA's current Partner Communities are Albuquerque, N.M. (set to launch next week); Louisville, Ky.; Miami-Dade County, Fla.; and Sacramento, Calif. The ASPCA's investment in these partnerships—in the form of direct grants, capacity-building, training, ASPCA staff expertise, and strategic planning—varies from a one- to five-year period to address homeless animal issues in each community.

About the ASPCA®

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) is the first animal welfare organization in North America and serves as the nation's leading voice for animals. More than two million supporters strong, the ASPCA's mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, the ASPCA is a national leader in the areas of anti-cruelty, community outreach and animal health services. For more information, please visit www.ASPCA.org, and be sure to follow the ASPCA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Pinterest](#).

About Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Care & Control

The Animal Care & Control Division of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is committed to protecting the safety of citizens and animals within our community. Our goals are to create partnerships within the community in order to promote responsible pet ownership, decrease the overpopulation of domestic pets through spay-neuter programs, and to place adoptable animals in good homes. Animal Care & Control is a multi-faceted agency dedicated to providing the citizens of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County with animal care services. We are an organization that values community partnerships and working jointly to build a better world for animals and the people who own them. Animal Care & Control is recognized and emulated nationally as a leading model within the animal welfare community, and takes pride in initiating and implementing progressive programs and practices.

About the Humane Society of Charlotte

The Humane Society of Charlotte is a community resource committed to improving the lives of companion animals through adoption, spay/neuter and education. The Humane Society of Charlotte provides low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for cats and dogs to reduce pet overpopulation throughout the Carolinas. The "space available" shelter provides pets with the love and attention they need to live happy and healthy lives while awaiting a new home. The Humane Society of Charlotte is a non-profit organization that relies solely on private donations to achieve its mission.

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