

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SPCA Wildlife Care Center to Host
16th Annual Fundraising Gala on January 12:
'FIRE & ICE'**

Fort Lauderdale, FL--The SPCA Wildlife Care Center (WCC) will host its 16th Annual Fundraising Gala: "Fire and Ice" at the Fort Lauderdale Grande Hotel (1881 S.E. 17th Street in Fort Lauderdale) on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at 7 p.m. This event will be an elegant evening dedicated to raising funds to benefit harmed and displaced wildlife, domestic, exotic and farm animals. The black-tie optional gala will surely "Awaken the Senses." The event will be a magical experience of dinner and dancing following the cocktail hour with silent auction. Participate in luxury and cash raffles and live music and entertainment by Hot Brass Monkey. Dinner is gourmet vegetarian cuisine especially created for our unique event.

This is the organization's most anticipated event of the year. Last year, the event raised more than \$140,000. Janet Buhl and Coleen Darni-Sotiré, this year's event co-chairs, expect to have nearly 400 attendees. Darni-Sotiré of Shades of Light Gallery will do the design for the event, which promises a series of surprises to that will awaken and delight the senses. She also co-chaired and designed WCC's successful galas in 2007 and 2006. Buhl manages the popular silent auction as well as an exciting travel package live auction.

"As co-chair for the 16th Annual SPCA Wildlife Care Center Gala, it gives me great pleasure to invite friends and guests to our yearly fundraiser an evening that promises elegance, charm and surprises, with excellent food, drinks and entertainment that will delight you. Let's show our support to this great cause by coming together at this event and bringing aid to the animals that need our help," says Janet Buhl. "Funds raised at this event directly benefit the nearly 14,000 animals admitted to our facility each year."

The silent auction boasts a list of more than 100 exciting items, including original artwork, autographed sports memorabilia, certificates to hot restaurants and health spas, prestigious trips and more. Raffle prizes include a cash raffle for \$1,000 and \$500 and a luxury raffle for a Holland America Cruise. A live auction will be held featuring exotic travel packages around the world.

Honorary committee members for the gala include: Gertrude Maxwell, founder and president of Save-a-Pet (the winner of the first Tri County Region Humanitarian Award), Kevin Boyd of Boyd & Powers, Steve Chaney of Mortgage Professionals, Linda Corley of WPBT, Kathryn Fox-Winokur, Artist Bruce Helander, Nancy & Ron Hummel, Debbie Igoe, Broward County Commissioner Ilene Leiberman, Tracy Mandart of Janney Montgomery Scott LLC, Cindy Morgan, Kirsten & Ross Parker of Native Visions Gallery, and Joan and Arnold Weiss.

Committee members include: Jeffrey Arciniaco, Gail Blount, Marcy Celentani, Toni Daby, Jessica Dietrich, Anne Ennis, David Hall, Lynn Henderson, Emily Hirschman, John Karr, France Karr, Ethel Lipoff, Amy Loebel, Ardath Rosengarden and Laura Ngo.

Sponsors of the event include: The Miami Herald, Comcast, Allied Richard Bertram Marine Group, Gunster Yoakley, Waste Pro, Whole Foods, Maroone, Edwards, Angell, Palmer & Dodge, HSBC, Republic Services, Ocean Drive Magazine, Clear Channel, Gold Coast Magazine, Rosenblum Cellars and Go Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, Bank of America, American Airlines, Holland America, Premiere Beverage Company and Ketel One.

Individual tickets to FIRE & ICE are \$250 and \$2,500 for a table of 10.

For tickets, sponsorship information or to donate auction items, please contact WCC's Ethel Lipoff by phone at 954.524.7154, by email at rsvp@wildlifecarecenter.org, or register online at www.wildlifecarecenter.org.

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About the SPCA Wildlife Care Center:

Serving the South Florida Tri-County Region, the mission of the SPCA Wildlife Care Center (WCC) is to rescue, rehabilitate and release native wildlife that has been harmed or displaced; to treat and place certain domestic, exotic and farm animals; and to educate the public toward co-existence with all animals. With 4.5 acres of property, three full-time ambulances, 70 employees and 600 volunteers, the WCC is home to up to 900 injured, harmed or orphaned wildlife at any given time. Last year alone nearly 14,000 sick, injured and orphaned animals were admitted to the SPCA Wildlife Care Center.

Over the past 38 years, the SPCA Wildlife Care Center has grown to be the largest facility of its kind in the nation. Located at 3200 SW 4th Avenue in Fort Lauderdale, the WCC recently announced its first multi-million dollar capital campaign to fund a new, state-of-the-art wildlife hospital and education center to serve South Florida. For more information, please visit www.WildlifeCareCenter.org.

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