

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WALK FOR WILDLIFE RAISES MORE THAN \$100,000 FOR SPCA WILDLIFE CARE CENTER**

**FORT LAUDERDALE, FL**—On April 19, 2008, more than 4,500 people from the tri-county area participated with their companion animals in the SPCA Wildlife Care Center's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Wildlife with Jeff Corwin. The 1.25 mile walk took place at Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach and raised more than \$100,000. All proceeds from the event go toward the rescue, rehabilitation and release of South Florida's native wildlife, and will find homes for abused and misplaced farm and exotic animals.

This was Animal Planet star Jeff Corwin's third year hosting the Walk for Wildlife. The previous evening, the Wildlife Care Center honored Corwin with a VIP reception at the Northern Trust Rooftop Garden on Las Olas in Fort Lauderdale. More than 100 VIPs attended the reception to meet and listen to the Emmy award winner's presentation about preserving our local wildlife, and participate in a silent auction to raise funds for the Center.

At the Walk for Wildlife, Corwin was on hand for photos and autographs, and kicked off the event with a ribbon cutting ceremony along with SPCA Wildlife Care Center Board President Jeffrey Arciniaco and Ardath Rosengarden, member of the organization's Board of Directors.

"Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Wildlife was a great success, with a 30 percent increase in attendance from the previous year," said Arciniaco. "The Wildlife Care Center is grateful to Jeff Corwin, its committee, volunteers, staff, sponsors and vendors for their support."

Walkers raised funds by asking friends, family, co-workers for donations, and even created web pages asking for contributions to the SPCA Wildlife Care Center. Awards went to Donna Leone raising \$2,120 for top adult fundraiser; Alex Ng raising \$3,130 was the top fundraising child for a second time and Michelle Lawless Wildlife Warriors raising \$3,165 was the top fundraising flock (team).

After completing the walk, families enjoyed an all day festival including: bounce houses, a giant double slide, rock climbing wall, SPCA Wildlife Care Center education station, contests and demonstrations, Lowes' kid birdhouse building station, live music from Hot Brass Monkey and emcee Tim Byrd the Byrdman.

Please mention: A surprise guest appearance from Nickelodeon's Diego

Kool 105.5 FM was this year's presenting sponsor. Other sponsors included: Comcast, Miami Herald, Petsmart, Gunster Yoakley, LXR Resorts, Northern Trust, Petsupermaket, Transcontinental Warranty and the Boca Resort.

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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 have 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 ambulances, 70 employees and 600 volunteers, the WCC is home to approximately 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 Center.

Over the past 39 years, the **SPCA Wildlife Care Center** has grown to be the largest facility of its kind in the country. Located at 3200 SW 4<sup>th</sup> 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 visit [www.WildlifeCareCenter.org](http://www.WildlifeCareCenter.org).

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**Photo Captions L-R:**

2483 Kelsey & Aubrey Harper with Charo

2560 MIKE INGENITO with Cody and Coco

1598 Jeff Corwin with crowd

1676 Jeff Corwin walker with youth prize winner Alex Ng

2089 Corwin with flock winners

Ribbon Cutting Jeffrey Arciniaco, Jeff Corwin and Ardath Rosengarden