FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ways to help Suncoast Humane Society

Suncoast Humane Society feels very fortunate that the animals entrusted to them survived the wrath of Hurricane Irma. Sadly however, the damages sustained from the storm will cost the Society approximately $20,000 in repairs. In addition, disruption of services including their three thrift stores resulted in loss of $22,000 in revenue.

The perimeter fencing was destroyed. The fence not only provides security, it also acted as a buffer between their animals and distracting activities at the adjacent County Park. Shelter roofing, repaired less than a year ago, has been damaged. There was also some water damage in different areas of the shelter. Fallen trees and debris will cost staff time to clean up.

All three thrift stores suffered a disruption of services for days which results in a loss of income to care for the animals. The Preventive Health Care Clinic was at a standstill due to the cancellation of spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations and other services. Of course pet adoptions were non-existent for several days. A planned fundraiser over the weekend had to be cancelled. On top of all of this the shelter continued to take in stray animals and pets surrendered by their owners. BOTTOM LINE IS HURRICANE IRMA IS COSTING SUNCOAST HUMANE SOCIETY APPROXIMATELY $40,000 IN DAMAGES AND LOST REVENUE.

The Society’s Pet Pantry, which distributes donated pet food to families in need, rescue groups and wildlife centers, has been depleted. Especially now, there are families in need of help from the Pet Pantry Program.
There is a strong possibility that other shelters affected by Irma, across the state may need to transfer adoptable animals to safer structures. Suncoast Humane Society would like to be ready to assist.

Executive Director Phil Snyder said, “We are asking for help from the communities we serve, Charlotte County, Sarasota County, Boca Grande and beyond. Please consider a monetary donation to Suncoast Humane Society to help us continue our mission to reduce the number of homeless animals and improve the quality of life.”

**Suncoast Humane Society has been serving animals and people since 1971.** Founded as Englewood Animal Aid Society, the organization’s services and programs were soon challenged to meet the demands placed on them by the pet over-population crises.

Expansions to their facility in Englewood during the 1980s and 1990s helped the Society to more effectively provide for a growing service area. To reflect the changes, the organization became Suncoast Humane Society. **Over time our service area expanded and is now Charlotte County, Sarasota County, the Boca Grande portion of Lee County and beyond.**

Visit our adoptable pets and learn more about Suncoast Humane Society online at www.humane.org, in person at 6781 San Casa Drive, Englewood, FL 34224 or at one of our many community events!

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Photos submitted by Suncoast Humane Society