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Press Release

Louisiana SPCA Hosts The *Big FIX Rig*: Unique Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic for Area Residents

NEW ORLEANS (7/19/06) – The Louisiana SPCA is hosting the *Big FIX Rig*, a 53' mobile, high-volume spay/neuter clinic, in partnership with Spay/Louisiana, beginning July 24. The *Big FIX Rig* will be stationed at LA/SPCA's Algiers shelter for at least a month. The partnership offers area residents a low-cost, high volume spaying and neutering option for feral, stray and domesticated cats. The public can utilize the service by contacting the LA/SPCA at 504-368-5191, ext. 141 to schedule an appointment.

"Pet overpopulation is the number one reason animal shelters across the country house thousands of homeless, neglected animals, and high-volume spaying and neutering is a critical tool in reducing those numbers," said Laura Maloney, LA/SPCA's Executive Director. "The *Big FIX Rig* is collaboration at its best – organizations of varying sizes and philosophies coming together to tackle a universal problem," she added.

The LA/SPCA hopes to spay and neuter at least 35 animals a day. Cats are a primary focus of the project as New Orleans has one of the highest per-capita feral populations in the country.

The *Big FIX Rig* was designed and purchased by Humane Alliance of Asheville, NC with funding provided by The PETCO Foundation and the Bosack and Kruger Foundation. The ASPCA and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) have funded a significant portion of the *Big FIX Rig*'s first year of operational expenses. Through a generous grant from the ASPCA, PetSmart Charities, United Animal Nations (UAN), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Spay/Louisiana is coordinating the Rig's travels, ordering surgical supplies, ensuring compliance with local laws and regulations, providing liability insurance, hiring and scheduling veterinarians and technicians, and maintaining medical records for all surgical patients. LA/SPCA will schedule surgical appointments and provide volunteer support for intake, recovery, data entry and release of patients.

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The Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (LA/SPCA) is a private non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of animal suffering. Chartered in 1888, it is the oldest and most comprehensive animal welfare organization in the state of Louisiana providing care and basic medical services for approximately 11,000 homeless and unwanted animals each year. The LA/SPCA is a membership organization that depends upon the support of the public.