



LAKELAND
FIRE DEPARTMENT



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For immediate release:

July 27, 2015

**Lakeland Fire Department and SPCA Florida Launch Partnership
*Wellness Wagon Stop Scheduled for Saturday, August 8 at Station 1***

Lakeland, FL— Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) and SPCA Florida—organizations that value the role pets play in healthy lives—are partnering together to further each organization’s mission of serving the community’s two and four-legged residents. On Saturday, August 8, SPCA Florida’s mobile pet vaccination unit, the Wellness Wagon, will visit LFD Station 1, 701 E Main St, Lakeland, 33801 from 3-5 p.m. The Wagon is open to public animals in need of affordable vaccines, microchips, and preventative products such as flea, tick and heartworm control. The location is ideal as it is centrally located, easily accessible and pet-friendly with shade.

“We are excited to partner with Lakeland Fire Department on this new Wellness Wagon stop, and to offer our full-service medical center as needed for injured or distressed pets they encounter during emergencies,” said SPCA Florida Executive Director Adam Stanfield. LFD has equipment on its apparatus, including animal specific oxygen masks and medical rescue kits, to help pets in medical need that may be encountered in fire calls or medical responses for human patients. Stanfield said the medical center’s hyperbaric oxygen therapy unit has previously proven effective in expediting healing in feline and canine smoke inhalation victims. “While we always hope those unfortunate circumstances do not arise, we hope to save more lives by providing that healing technology to the four-legged residents LFD serves.”

Beyond its rescue efforts, LFD currently provides pet fire safety education, and has participated in SPCA Florida’s Walk for Animals at Lake Mirror. The partnership will also help support pet rescue training for LFD’s specialty teams including SWAT Medics and Urban Search and Rescue team members with SPCA Florida providing medical facility access.

For more information on the LFD and SPCA Florida’s first partnership initiative, the Wellness Wagon stop on Saturday, August 8, please visit www.spcafloida.org/wellness-wagon-1.

About Lakeland Fire Department

Established in 1916, the Lakeland Fire Department has a rich history, approaching nearly 100 years of service as a career fire department. The department has seven stations serving approximately 100,000 people in the City of Lakeland. The department has 170 employees of which 150 are emergency response personnel. In 2014, the department responded to over 21,000 service calls in its 84 square-mile response area, which includes the city limits as well as portions of unincorporated Lakeland. The department offers a wide range of services to include heavy rescue, technical rescue, fire prevention, fire code enforcement, fire investigation, aircraft rescue and firefighting, and in-house fleet maintenance; all in addition to fire suppression and emergency medical response.

About SPCA Florida

Founded in 1979, SPCA Florida exists to eliminate animal suffering and engage the entire community in the welfare and well-being of animals. SPCA Florida will help and heal 70,000 dogs and cats through its McClurg Animal Medical Center and provide direct care for 6,500 animals through its Adoption Center this year. Ani-Meals, which provides food and medical care for animals of homebound families, helps thousands more dogs and cats each year.

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