

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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SQSPCA raises more than \$10,000 for assistance to Ukraine

March 21, 2022 – The Susquehanna Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SQSPCA) has more than doubled its original goal after issuing a call for funds to provide relief to animals, their owners, and animal shelters in war-torn Ukraine.

Following a weekend of horrific news, including a story about three volunteers shot and killed by Russian militants after delivering food to an animal shelter in Busha, Ukraine, the SQSPCA announced on March 7 that it would collect money locally on behalf of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), including a \$2,500 dollar-for-dollar match to get things started.

“IFAW has boots on the ground, assisting Ukrainians from Poland,” said SQSPCA Executive Director Stacie Haynes. “We are pleased to be able to contribute \$11, 081 toward these amazing, life-saving efforts.”

Shannon Walajtys, IFAW’s Director of Disaster Response and Risk Reduction, is one of the IFAW team members currently working overseas.

“Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your contribution to this effort. The fact that so many care gives us hope,” Walajtys messaged from Poland. “Since the conflict began, IFAW has rushed emergency assistance to multiple partners in Ukraine and the surrounding countries working to help both animals and people.

“These shelters need our support now more than ever as, all too often, animals are the voiceless victims of conflict. My team and I have deployed to Poland and will continue to work with government authorities and local shelters to help provide much-needed relief,” Walajtys wrote.

Founded in 1969, IFAW comes highly recommended by SQSPCA associate Dr. David Chico, a leading veterinarian in New York State who has volunteered with the organization.

“Folks in our region prove time and time again how very much they care about animals – in this case, in a war zone halfway across the world,” praised Haynes.

“Supporters understand the deep connection between helping animals and helping humans. People are risking their lives right now to ensure animals left in shelters are cared for and pets

are transported with families to safety. We are so proud to have initiated this campaign and we will always be grateful to those who donated,” she added.

In operation since 1917, the Susquehanna SPCA is a 501c3 nonprofit organization located in Cooperstown, New York committed to caring for homeless, surrendered, and seized companion animals and finding them loving, forever homes. For more information or to donate, visit www.sqspca.org