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PRESS RELEASE

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DA McMahon's Office Partners With The Toby Project To Provide Low-Cost Spay and Neuter Services to Local Animal Rescue Organizations

Partnership aims to help keep animals safe and reduce overpopulation of cat colonies

Staten Island, N.Y. — Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced a new partnership between RCDA and The Toby Project to provide low-cost spay and neutering services to animals under the care of local rescue organizations in an effort to keep animals safe and also help mitigate the growing feral cat population on Staten Island. Over the past several months, cat colonies have grown exponentially in size due partially to the lack of affordable spay/neuter options caused by the COVID-19 crisis. This partnership between RCDA and The Toby Project will seek to fill the current gap in affordable spay/neuter services for local animal rescue organizations.

“RCDA is committed to keeping animals safe year-round, and The Toby Project’s presence will help us address the exploding community cat population by reducing the number of unplanned and unwanted strays, thereby preventing cruelty to these animals and their offspring who are regularly treated as a nuisance,” **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** “A special thanks to The Toby Project’s stellar clinical team and to all of our amazing rescue groups that work tirelessly to make sure these animals are properly cared for and find forever homes.”

Andrew J Kaplan, DVM, Founder and President, The Toby Project, said, “The Toby Project is excited about this new collaboration with the Staten Island District Attorney’s office to provide low cost spay neuter to community cats through rescue groups. During the last few months, the cat population has increased exponentially in NYC and sterilization is the only way to lessen their tremendous impact on shelter overpopulation, that results in unnecessary euthanasia. The fact that the Staten Island DA’s office recognizes the need to provide this vital service speaks volumes about their commitment to animal welfare.”

Carol Bullock, Luv on a Leash, a Project of the Pride Center of Staten Island, said, “We’re proud of our relationship with the DA’s office in providing therapy animals and visiting classrooms to inform our young people on the proper care of animals. This partnership with the Toby Project is another example of the DA’s commitment to animal welfare and we thank him for his leadership.”

April Soto, Victory 4 The Voiceless, said, “The impossible is suddenly possible when you meet others who share the same vision as you. The stray population of community cats has been an ongoing issue for a long time on Staten Island. Local rescue groups know what’s needed to address this problem but unfortunately, there are never enough resources to go around. Luckily, DA McMahon recognizes this need and we are so thankful to him and The Toby Project for stepping up to provide services and including Victory 4 The Voiceless in this initiative. I am optimistic that the rescue community can come together, tackle this challenge head on and be part of the solution.”

Susan Lamberti, Animal Rights activist, said, “I commend District Attorney McMahon for his commitment to animal welfare, and appreciate how this work is helping bring many different animal groups together while also providing knowledgeable, professional assistance to all Staten Islanders.”

Last month, RCDA and The Toby Project held their second event together at the South Beach Board Walk on Father Capodanno Blvd. where a clinical team from The Toby Project provided spay/neuter services to animals under the care of several local animal rescue groups. The next event is scheduled for Sunday, December 6th with additional events being held in the coming weeks and months.

The Toby Project is a nonprofit organization working to end the killing of thousands of adoptable dogs and cats each year in New York City's animal shelters through a targeted, free and low-cost spay/neuter initiative.

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