

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contacts:**    **Gail Silver**                      **Andy Mahlman**  
Silver Bells Rescue    Cincinnati SPCA  
513-475-0002                      513-541-6100

**Anita Barron**  
Pet Alliance  
513-753-3270

**General public:**    [www.ForeclosureCats.org](http://www.ForeclosureCats.org)  
To foster or adopt, donation instructions

### **SPCA donates \$1,000.00 to rescue effort to save 60+ abandoned East End cats** *Unprecedented cooperation between SPCA and area rescues*

Cincinnati, Ohio, May 22, 2007 – In a move signaling unprecedented cooperation between the Cincinnati SPCA and area rescue groups, the SPCA has donated \$1,000.00 to the effort to save about 60 so-called “foreclosure” cats and kittens in the East End. The animals were left behind when an evicted man walked away from his home, not telling anyone about the animals trapped inside without food, water or medical attention.

Four small rescue groups (Pet Alliance, Save Our Strays, Silver Bells Rescue, Wildwood Pet Network) with minimal resources and no shelter facility, established a website, [www.ForeclosureCats.org](http://www.ForeclosureCats.org), to get help from the community. With community donations, as well as foster homes and adopters identified through the website, the rescues have brought about 45 cats to safety so far.

The animals are in temporary staging areas such as garages and basements, a few foster homes, and boarded in veterinary hospitals. Those in most urgent need of medical care are receiving it, and spay or neuter surgeries are proceeding as funds are received.

“A project of this size would have complicated care at the SPCA,” said Harold Dates, President and CEO of the Cincinnati SPCA, “and saving these animals is only possible because the rescues stepped in to help.” The SPCA, which is required to accept any and all animals presented by the public, says that large influxes of animals like these would have been a strain on its facilities.

“It is a relief for our entire staff to have this kind of help, and to see so many animals saved,” said Dates. “We wanted to reward the efforts of these grassroots rescue groups with this donation, hoping the effort might be a model for future cooperation when animal crises such as this arise,” said Dates.

The foreclosed property was scheduled to be locked up, with all property cleared out, on May 8. That process would have trapped some cats in the house to starve, and driven many out into the neighborhood during the frightening clearing of the house. The result would have been a preventable overpopulation of animals, many of them sick, that the neighborhood would have to deal with for years. The rescues won a two-week extension from the bank that now owns the house, for rescuing as many cats as possible.

The rescues are still working to get a few cats remaining in the house, expect to continue trapping the outside cats well into the summer, and need continued community support in the form of donations, experienced fosters, and adopters.

Go to [www.ForeclosureCats.org](http://www.ForeclosureCats.org) for details, pictures, to foster, adopt, or give donations.

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