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For Immediate Release:

East Bay SPCA Earns Fourth Renewal of American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Accreditation

East Bay SPCA is 1 of only 4 California shelters with an AAHA accredited veterinary practice.

[June 12, 2023, Oakland, CA] East Bay SPCA's veterinary practice just received its fourth renewal of their accreditation by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The voluntary accreditation recognizes excellence in animal medicine. East Bay SPCA is exemplary in providing this high level of animal medicine to dogs and cats. In addition to supporting the medical needs of animals in shelter care, their full-service veterinary clinic serves clients' pets in the East Bay community. **They are 1 of only 4 California animal shelters with an AAHA accredited veterinary practice.**

AAHA accredited practices must meet nearly 50 mandatory standards and are evaluated on over 900 other standards in the following areas:

1. **Patient care** – Patient care must be under the authority, supervision, and approval of a licensed veterinarian.
2. **Facility** – The facility, supplies, and equipment must meet AAHA standards.
3. **Services** – The practice must be full-service, offering dentistry services and on-site diagnostic imaging and surgery services. The practice must provide preventative pain management and meet protocols for administering anesthesia.
4. **Clinical protocols** – For example, the practice has the means to administer oxygen on a periodic or on-going basis for compromised patients.

In addition to providing this level of medical care to shelter animals, they offer accessible and reduced cost care for families needing financial help caring for their pets. The Veterinary Assistance Program provides eligible clients with an advocate to support navigating veterinary care, making financial decisions, and accessing resources for their pet. East Bay SPCA believes all people deserve to care for their pets, and all animals, including shelter animals, deserve excellent medical care.

"All our animals, regardless of where they come from, receive the highest level of care." - Kristen Beitzel, Vice President of Medical Services

"As an innovator in animal welfare and integral part of the Bay Area for almost 150 years, we are proud and honored to have this reaccreditation. It underscores our commitment to making a difference for people and their pets." - Allison Lindquist, President/CEO

The impact of accessible care is significant. In 2022, East Bay SPCA's Veterinary Clinic provided over 3,000 medical appointments to cats and dogs in the East Bay community. This level of medical support helps keep people and their pets together.

For more information, contact Sandy Mallalieu, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, at smallalieu@eastbayspca.org, or 510-564-2964.

About East Bay SPCA:

East Bay SPCA is a local non-profit that is not affiliated with any national organization. They are proud to be one of the oldest shelters in the country and one of the most innovative in the region. East Bay SPCA has helped injured, lost and abandoned animals since 1874. They serve Alameda and Contra Costa Counties with locations in Dublin and Oakland.

About Kristen Beitzel, Vice President of Medical Services, East Bay SPCA

Kristen Beitzel holds an MBA in Leadership and Change Management and an MBA in Human Resources. She is a Certified Veterinary Practice Manager, a Registered Veterinary Technician, and an Elite Certified Fear Free Professional. Kristen has over 18 years of veterinary experience and has held multiple roles in the veterinary field, allowing her to empathize and understand the challenges that every member of the team faces. She started her career as a receptionist at a small single-doctor private practice and helped to expand the practice to three locations with nine veterinarians. She also aided in training and setting up new corporate veterinary practices with ancillary services in Washington and California, and guided a multi-site private practice through an acquisition before coming to East Bay SPCA. She is drawn to East Bay SPCA's mission through her love for veterinary medicine in a non-profit setting.

About Allison Lindquist, President/CEO, East Bay SPCA

Allison Lindquist, President and CEO of East Bay SPCA, has spent nearly 30 years in the field of animal welfare. Prior to joining the East Bay SPCA in 2006, Allison worked for ten years at the Oakland and San Francisco zoos. Her work experience also includes ten years in the financial field in both Boston and San Francisco, and two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya. She holds a BA in Zoology from Ohio Wesleyan University. Allison's pack at home includes rescued Chihuahuas, parrots, a Clydesdale, and some very spoiled chickens.