



**Rescue . Adopt . Education . Resource**

For More Information, Please Contact:  
Lynn Rasys, Phone # 941.366.2404  
lynnr@catdepot.org  
www.catdepot.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Cat Depot Emergency Response Team Asks for Help  
With Second-Largest Dog Fighting Raid in U.S. History**

Sarasota, Florida – (September 18, 2013) – Cat Depot’s Emergency Response Team (CDERT) will deploy September 22 at the request of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®). CDERT will help care for hundreds of dogs rescued in a multi-state, federal dog fighting raid – the second largest dog fighting bust in United States history. CDERT is comprised of Cat Depot staff and volunteers who have trained with the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FL SARC) and have required FEMA certifications.

Cat Depot is asking everyone to help fill their rescue trailer with urgently needed supplies. Items needed are: blankets, towels, paper towels, individual bottles of water and Gatorade, individually packed snacks (granola bars, chips, crackers, nuts, candy, jerky, cookies, etc.), clipboards, peanut butter, gift cards to Home Depot, Lowes or Wal-mart, and ASPCA-approved dog toys and treats. Donations can be dropped off at Cat Depot through Saturday, September 21 until 4:00 p.m.

Donations are needed to assist Cat Depot with emergency response costs, and volunteers are greatly needed at Cat Depot the week of September 22-29. If you can help with cat care and cleaning from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., please contact Cat Depot, or call (941) 366-2404.

After a three-year investigation initiated by the Auburn Police Department in Alabama, in conjunction with the United States Attorney’s Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 367 dogs across the Southeast were rescued and transported to temporary emergency shelters by the ASPCA and The Humane Society of the United States. Thirteen suspects were arrested and indicted on felony dog fighting charges. Federal and local officials also seized firearms and drugs, as well as more than \$500,000 in cash from dog fighting gambling activities that took place over the course of the investigation.

The dogs, ranging in age from just several days to 10-12 years, had been left to suffer in extreme heat with no visible fresh water or food. Many are emaciated with scars and wounds consistent with dog fighting, and some were tethered by chains and cables that were attached to cinder blocks and car tires.

The ASPCA counts on partnerships with other animal welfare groups such as Cat Depot to be at-the-ready to provide emergency care for animals saved from cruelty and neglect. These lifesaving rescues are made possible with the help of emergency response teams.

Cat Depot, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 no-kill, free-roaming facility, is recognized for its commitment to helping homeless, abandoned and injured animals. Open seven days a week, Cat Depot's mission is to save lives, find loving homes, and provide the resources and education to improve the destiny of homeless cats. Cat Depot is where compassion meets commitment.

Cat Depot supports more than 130 cats and kittens on any given day. Shop in our Cat Depot Supply and Gift Store specializing in cat supplies and unique gifts. Open Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Handicap accessible. Cat Depot is located at 2542 17th Street, Sarasota, Fla. 34234. For more information, go to [www.catdepot.org](http://www.catdepot.org), or call 941.366.2404.