



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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South Florida SPCA Horse Rescue Takes in Record Number of Farm Animals in Neglect Case

JULY 9, 2018 - HOMESTEAD, FL: It's the rainy season of a very different kind at South Florida SPCA Horse Rescue. The equine welfare organization just took in 27 farm animals, including 18 sheep, six cows, one horse, one mini horse and a donkey in a neglect case in Southwest Miami-Dade. It's a record for the nonprofit group in terms of number and variety of animals at its Homestead location.

"We first got a call from Miami-Dade Agricultural Patrol about stray cows and a bull in a roadway, and brought them to our ranch for their safety. They are all seriously underweight with the exception of one cow, who is likely pregnant," said Laurie Waggoner, SFSPCA director of rescue operations.

After an owner called to claim them, Waggoner and an Agricultural Patrol officer learned of the other animals in his possession that were also underfed and struggling. Working in cooperation with an official from Miami-Dade Animal Services Department (MDAS), a joint determination was made to seize the neglected animals. The owner was cooperative and signed over ownership of all of them.

Today, SFSPCA's veterinarians will evaluate and treat the group with vaccinations and other medical care as needed, including castration of a bull, the donkey, and six rams.

SFSPCA is issuing an "S.O.S." for help. Already home to over 40 horses and animals, the additional 27 is stretching the organization's physical and financial limits. Staff and volunteers are working overtime to accommodate the new arrivals. Donations to help may be made at www.helpthehorses.org.

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ABOUT SOUTH FLORIDA SPCA HORSE RESCUE

South Florida SPCA Horse Rescue (SFSPCA) is the last line of defense for abused and abandoned horses and livestock in Miami-Dade, Florida. It is the only thing standing between them and starvation, death and even slaughter. The GFAS and TAA accredited 501(c)(3) nonprofit responds 24/7 to local law enforcement to investigate cruelty and abandonment cases, and to seize and care for those victims at its Homestead, Florida facility. SFSPCA also educates the community about responsible equine care and ownership, and promotes the welfare of equines through local and national advocacy. Now in its 26th year, SFSPCA is the only organization qualified to rescue, rehabilitate, retrain and rehome horses in Miami-Dade. Since 2008, Miami-Dade Animal Services Department has provided a portion of the funding required to support South Florida SPCA's activities for the care and rescue of abandoned horses and other livestock. For more information, visit helpthehorses.org.

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