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RICHMOND COUNTY

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **D.A. McMahon Announces “Staten Island Loves its Pets” Photo Calendar Contest to Raise Awareness of Animal Abuse**

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced the inaugural “*Staten Island Loves its Pets*” photo Calendar Contest. It is designed to give Staten Islanders a chance to showcase their love for their animals while raising awareness of animal abuse. Upon completion the calendars will be distributed at all Staten Island veterinarians and animal hospitals to serve as a resource for pet owners.

D.A. McMahon made the announcement today at the Greater Staten Island Veterinary Services, located at 3135 Victory Blvd. He was joined by ADA Jane Grinberg, Chief of the Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit, RCDA Detective Raymond Wood, Det. Lisa Bergen of the NYPD 121 Detective Squad, as well as Thomas and Pat Scavelli of the Greater Staten Island Veterinary Services, and Mary Grace Tortora of the South Shore Animal Hospital.

“We want to celebrate the bond that pet owners have with their pets while sending a clear message that we will not let precious members of our families be harmed,” said **District Attorney Michael E. McMahon**. “Together, we will stand up against animal abuse in our borough.”

Every year the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office (RCDA) prosecutes an average of 20 animal cruelty cases. Violent acts against animals are predictive crimes meaning they often can indicate an offender’s likeliness to commit further heinous acts.

#### **Official CONTEST RULES:**

1. The contest is open to residents of Staten Island. Each entry may be submitted only by the pet owner or a parental guardian.
2. Only previously unpublished photos may be entered. Each photographer may submit only one black-and-white and/or one color photo. Those who submit more than one color and/or one black-and-white photo will not be considered.
3. All entrants represent and warrant that any material that he or she submits is original, has not been previously published or won an award, does not infringe upon the copyright or any other right or interest of any other person or organization, and that the entrant has not previously granted any rights

to such material to any other person or organization, nor does any third party have any interest in such materials.

4. We encourage submission photos to be in high resolution so they may be size edited for printing
5. All photos become the property of the Richmond County District Attorney's office. Winning photos will be published on our 2018 *Protecting Our Pets* Calendar and featured on our website. Pictures may also be used by partner veterinarians on Staten Island.
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7. Photographers are advised to keep a copy of any photo submitted.
8. The office of the District Attorney of Richmond County shall have the right to disqualify any entries that it deems not to meet the criteria, or due to technical, legal, or other problems, as determined by RCDA at its sole discretion.
9. Winners will be notified by mail, phone, or e-mail prior to publication of calendar.

Photos can be submitted by email to: [contest@rcda.nyc.gov](mailto:contest@rcda.nyc.gov) or mailed to 130 Stuyvesant Street, Staten Island, New York 10301 ATTN: Community Partnership Unit. All entries must include the pet owner's name, the pet's name, pet's age, the pet owner's address, email address, and phone number. All photos must be submitted as a JPEG or a PDF.

Photos should showcase creativity and may feature different seasons, events, or Staten Island locations.

### **PRIZES:**

The winning entries will each represent a month in the pet calendar distributed at Richmond County District Attorney events as well as to partnering veterinarians and animal hospitals.

Additional photos may be used in a collage or a photo grid to be featured on an inside cover of the calendar.

Winners will receive copies of the calendar to proudly display.

### **How to Report Animal Abuse:**

Concerned citizens wishing to report animal cruelty are directed to call either 911 or 311.

RCDA's Animal Neglect Prevention Program aims to provide financially struggling pet owners with affordable medical services for their animal companion. The goal of this collaborative effort is to help animal guardians, who might otherwise be criminally charged with animal neglect, properly care for their pets.

RCDA hosts the Animal Neglect Prevention Program hotline, which is 718-876-6300. Callers will be prompted to press option #2 and the hotline will provide a brief summary of information regarding the affordable medical services that are available to financially-struggling pet owners. It will also direct the caller to contact one of the four VCA Animal Hospitals on Staten Island that are participating in the program to set up an appointment.

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