

# P R E S S R E L E A S E

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## **Rees-Jones Foundation Expands Commitment to SPCA of Texas' New Shelter**

(Dallas, TX) January 11, 2010 -- The SPCA of Texas announced today that The Rees-Jones Foundation has pledged up to \$4 million to build a new 39,000-square-foot animal shelter, clinic and adoption center in Oak Cliff. The Foundation's gift will kick off the final phase of the SPCA of Texas' \$15 million capital campaign to build the new facility, which will replace the Dealey Animal Care Center near downtown Dallas.

The Rees-Jones Foundation has committed to match all new gifts to the capital campaign 2-to-1 up to \$4 million, provided that the new gifts are pledged by September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year so that construction on the new facility may be commenced by year-end. This promise is an expansion of the Foundation's previous gift, which matched gifts to the SPCA of Texas' capital campaign up to \$1 million.

"This project is one in which The Rees-Jones Foundation has had a particular interest for some time and we felt that it was critically important to offer this additional support to encourage its completion," said Jan Rees-Jones, one of the founders of the Foundation. "The mission of the SPCA matches closely my own passion for the humane care, treatment and adoption of animals. Properly cared for, our pets can add so much to our lives. In relating to each other in our families and among our friends and neighbors, we can all benefit from the lessons learned from our animals. They offer unconditional love and companionship to us, they teach us personal responsibility, respect for authority, and yes, even patience and humility. They become part of our families and they bring us enormous joy."

With the catalyst of The Rees-Jones Foundation's 2-to-1 challenge match, the SPCA of Texas expects to quickly raise the remaining \$8 million of the total \$15 million needed for the project. The SPCA will construct the full-service animal care facility within its large headquarters building at 2400 Lone Star near Hampton Road and I-30. The center will include a spacious shelter for homeless animals, a fully equipped medical wing and surgery suite to care for injured animals and neuter healthy ones, welcoming playrooms and outdoor green spaces where families can connect with adoptable pets, and classrooms for humane education programs and volunteer training. The building already houses the SPCA's public call center, rescue and investigations team, education programs and administrative offices.

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The new facility will replace the SPCA's Dealey Animal Care Center on Riverfront Boulevard (formerly Industrial Boulevard) near downtown Dallas. Built in 1974, when its only function was to care for homeless animals, the Dealey Center now operates as a shelter, medical clinic and adoption center, which annually serves more than 6,000 animals. As the need for its services continues to rise, the 16,000-square-foot facility grows less adequate and more exhausted each year. Moreover, the Dealey Center is slated to be destroyed when the Texas Department of Transportation widens I-35 over the next two years.

"The current economic environment of the last few years has made it difficult to raise the funding needed to advance projects of this nature," said Thornton Hardie, President of The Rees-Jones Foundation. "For this reason and in view of our long term interest in this project and the work of the SPCA, we have elected to offer this extraordinary grant as a challenge/match to encourage our entire community to rally in support of this project."

"It's impossible to overstate the importance of The Rees-Jones Foundation's partnership to our ability to rescue and shelter abused and neglected animals in this decade and beyond," said the SPCA of Texas' president, James Bias. "We estimate that our new shelter will be able to house 300 more animals daily than our current space, so we can take in more unwanted and neglected animals from municipal shelters and rescue operations. We'll be able to accept more pets that are surrendered by owners who cannot care for them, as those numbers continue to increase with the economic downturn. Best of all, we'll be able to unite more animals with North Texas families in loving homes. We are incredibly grateful."

Mr. Bias also noted that the new facility's clinic will be twice the size of its Martin Clinic in Oak Cliff, and will be open to the public for low-cost pet check-ups, treatments and spay/neuter surgeries, in addition to supporting the medical needs of the animals in the SPCA's care. "The Rees-Jones Foundation's gift is a blessing," Bias affirmed, "not only for the animals of North Texas, but for the people, as well."

The SPCA of Texas is the leading animal welfare agency in North Texas. The non-profit organization operates two shelters and two spay/neuter clinics located in Dallas and Collin Counties, and serves as an active resource center for an array of services that bring people and animals together to enrich each others' lives.

For additional information about the SPCA of Texas and the capital campaign to build the new animal shelter, the public may visit [www.spca.org](http://www.spca.org) or call Julie Siegel, Vice President of Development, at 214-742-SPCA. For additional information on The Rees-Jones Foundation, please visit the Foundation's website at [www.rees-jonesfoundation.org](http://www.rees-jonesfoundation.org).

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