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**For Immediate Release
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HYDE PARK, NY - The Dutchess County SPCA hosted its annual Holiday Gift for the Animals dinner and auction on December 6 at Christo's. The event raised \$70,000 to support services for animals at the shelter. DCSPCA Executive Director Joyce Garrity presented a certificate to John Paraskeva, Chairman of the East Fishkill Board of Fire Commissioners in recognition of the heroic measures of the fire department to save the lives of 30 cats during a home fire last May. Ms. Garrity stated that all the

cats suffered smoke inhalation and more would have perished had firefighters not administered oxygen to the cats at the scene. Uma and Sampson, two of the surviving cats, attended the gala.



The Dutchess County SPCA, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, is the lead agency for animal rescue and adoption in Dutchess County. The DCSPCA is a no-kill shelter with a 138-year history of concern, caring and providing shelter for unwanted, abused, abandoned and neglected animals. Central to the mission of the DCSPCA is the securing of caring, responsible, permanent homes for the adoptable animals in its care.

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Cut Line: Left to right Lynn Paraskeva, Assemblyman Joel Miller, John Paraskeva, Eric Ewing (President of The DCSPCA Board) and Joyce Garrity