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May 1, 2011

Joyce Garrity
Dutchess County SPCA
636 Violet Avenue
Hyde Park, NY 12538

Dear Joyce Garrity:

On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate Dutchess County SPCA on achieving our coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management.

As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, highlights the fine work of efficient charities such as your own, and provides donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make.

Based on the most recent financial information available, we have calculated a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce Dutchess County SPCA has earned our fourth consecutive 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Only 8% of the charities we rate have received at least 4 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Dutchess County SPCA consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Dutchess County SPCA from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

Forbes, *Business Week*, and *Kiplinger's Financial Magazine*, among others, have profiled and celebrated our unique method of applying data-driven analysis to the charitable sector. We evaluate ten times more charities than our nearest competitor and currently attract more visitors to our website than all other charity rating groups combined, thus making us the leading charity evaluator in America. Our irrefutable data shows that users of our site gave more than they planned to before viewing our findings, and in fact, it is estimated that last year Charity Navigator influenced over \$10 billion in charitable gifts.

We believe our service will enhance your organization's fundraising and public relations efforts. Our favorable review of Dutchess County SPCA's fiscal health will be visible on our website as of May 1st.

We wish you the best in all of your charitable endeavors.

Sincerely,

Ken Berger
President & Chief Executive Officer

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