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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release**

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We Want Big Ben to Have a Home for the Holidays Cat Shooting Victim Fully Recovered and Ready for Adoption

Roseville, CA – Big Ben, the cat who made headlines earlier this year for needing delicate spinal surgery after being shot and paralyzed, has fully recovered and will be available for adoption at the Placer SPCA at 150 Corporation Yard Road in Roseville on Thursday, December 24. He will be available for visits from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The Placer SPCA expects a high level of interest in adopting Big Ben, and encourages those interested to complete a Matchmaker Questionnaire, found at www.placerspca.org. Big Ben's adopter will be chosen by lottery at 1:30 pm on December 24 from among the questionnaires approved as appropriate homes.

"Big Ben has endured a lot in the last few months, and he is ready for a loving forever home," said Placer SPCA CEO Leilani Vierra.

Big Ben first arrived at the Placer SPCA in June 2009, and one morning in October the staff was shocked to discover that he could not move his back legs. X-rays revealed a pellet perilously close to his spine, causing his temporary paralysis. The Placer SPCA made an appeal to the community to cover the costs of his treatment, and the response was overwhelming.

Big Ben underwent surgery on Monday, November 2, where veterinarians found five pellets plus fragments throughout his body. Following his surgery at the VCA Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, which generously donated the use of its facilities, Big Ben spent the last month in foster care, under the care of a Placer SPCA volunteer.

The Placer SPCA extends thanks to the community for donations and the outpouring of good wishes, as well as Sunrise Blvd. Animal Hospital staff and Dr. Bill Fastiggi for providing care for Big Ben leading up to his surgery and during his recuperation, and neurosurgical specialist Dr. Robert Runyan and neurologist Dr. Jessica Holland of VCA Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center.

For more information about Big Ben, those interested as encouraged to visit www.placerspca.org or call (916) 782-7722 x. 100 or (530) 885-7387 x. 100.

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Video of the pellet removal is available.



Photos available as JPEGs on request.