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## PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release**

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### **Big Ben Back on His Feet**

**Roseville, CA** – Big Ben has eight lives left. The Placer SPCA previously alerted the community to the plight of the black cat found as a stray after x-rays showed three pellets under his skin, one lodged perilously close to his spine causing temporary paralysis. Big Ben underwent surgery on Monday, November 2, where veterinarians found five pellets plus fragments throughout his body.

Following the successful surgical procedure to remove the pellets, Big Ben is recovering well. The surgery needed was highly specialized, and the Placer SPCA would like to thank neurosurgical specialist Dr. Robert Runyan and neurologist Dr. Jessica Holland, along with VCA Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center for generously providing the use of their facilities.

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.

“The community has shown that they care about animals, and they share our outrage for animal abuse,” said Placer SPCA CEO Leilani Vierra. “We have received donations for Big Ben’s care and then some.”

Donations not needed directly for Big Ben’s care will be used for medical care for other Placer SPCA animals, dubbed “Guardian Angel” animals because they are in need of benefactors to cover the cost of their veterinary procedures.

“Big Ben’s case was extreme,” said Vierra, “but we frequently receive animals who have been struck by cars or are enduring other painful medical conditions. Every donation makes a difference.”

The Placer SPCA is committed to providing the best possible care to each animal in an effort to fulfill its vision: that every adoptable companion animal in Placer County has a home.

If you want to help Big Ben and the Placer SPCA, please call (916) 782-7722 or (530) 885-7387, extension 102 or email [funddevelopment@placerspca.org](mailto:funddevelopment@placerspca.org).

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**Video of the pellet removal is available.**





**Photos available as JPEGs on request.**