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PRESS RELEASE

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Cat Used for Target Practice Requires Urgent Surgery

Roseville, CA – Big Ben seemed fine when he arrived at the Placer SPCA on June 30, 2009. A sleek, handsome boy found as a stray, Big Ben was always ready for a cuddle.

Recently, a Placer SPCA staff person noticed he could not move his back legs and was paralyzed. He was rushed to Sunrise Animal Hospital for x-rays which revealed a heartbreaking past: prior to coming to the Placer SPCA Companion Animal Center, Big Ben had fallen victim to cruelty. He had been shot three times, and one pellet was wedged in his spinal column between two vertebrae. According to the attending veterinarian, the three pellets had likely been there for a very long time, and the one causing his paralysis had gradually shifted to its current location perilously close to his spinal column.

Big Ben will now need a very delicate surgical procedure by a specialist to remove the bullet. The estimated cost for his care will be well over \$1000. The Placer SPCA is seeking donations from the community in order to pay for his surgery.

“We are disgusted by this evidence of animal cruelty,” said Placer SPCA CEO Leilani Vierra. “We know our animals don’t have a voice to tell us what’s happened to them before they come to us, but this experience really brings that fact home.” 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.

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Compelling x-ray image available.