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WOMEN ARE NEW TOP DOGS AT THE SAN FRANCISCO SPCA

Catherine B. Brown has been named Chair of the Board of The San Francisco SPCA, the first woman to occupy this post in the venerable organization's 139-year history. Coincidentally, Brown's election comes just a few months after the appointment of Jan McHugh-Smith, The SF/SPCA's first female president.

Brown succeeds Richard E. Dirickson, who served as Board Chair for nine years. "We are grateful for Rick's years of leadership," said McHugh-Smith. "This generous man always made time for The SF/SPCA and never hesitated to provide hands-on help. The animals and people of San Francisco owe him a huge thank you for all he has done for them."

"I'm very excited to take on this new, larger role," said Brown, who has been an SF/SPCA Board member for ten years. "The San Francisco SPCA has a proud heritage of innovation and I look forward to advancing our mission on behalf of animals in San Francisco and beyond." Serving as Board co-vice-chairs are Donald Brown, M.D. (no relation) and Belinda Levensohn. David Tateosian remains as Treasurer.

Catherine Brown is an independent consultant to the health care industry. She grew up in San Francisco and as a child clipped pet food coupons from the Sunday newspaper and sent them to The SF/SPCA for distribution to low-income pet guardians. After living in Los Angeles and New York for six years with her cat, "The Toad," adopted from The SF/SPCA, she finally made San Francisco her home again in 1993. She began volunteering with The SF/SPCA through CLAW (Criticter Lovers At Work), and joined the Board in 1997, eager to focus her free time on helping homeless animals. Ms. Brown currently has two small children and two big dogs, Chewie and Boomer.

Dr. Donald Brown, who has served on the SF/SPCA Board for 12 years, is a board-certified plastic surgeon with a private practice in San Francisco. Most of his volunteer work has involved plastic surgery in third-world countries of Asia, Africa and South America. He and his wife adopted Hans, a pointer mix, from The SF/SPCA earlier this year.

Belinda Levensohn joined the SF/SPCA Board three years ago. She has wide experience in the merchandising field, including executive positions with Associate Merchandising Corporation and Macy's. An avid community volunteer for the last dozen years, she introduced a "Young Philanthropists" program to the Town School, which involved adopting a school building project

for the Afghan Institute of Learning under the auspices of the Global Fund for Children. Her family includes golden retrievers Leaf and Twig and a Norwich terrier named Buster.

David Tateosian is President of First Republic Securities. He is a financial services industry veteran, having served with Preferred Trade, Inc., and Fidelity Investments. He also acts as an NASD Arbitrator. He joined The SF/SPCA Board two years ago; this will be his second term as Treasurer.

Richard E. Dirickson remains on the Board. Other SF/SPCA Board members are Katherine H. Black, Sharon Bradford, Austin E. Hills, Bernard M. Kramer, M.D., Leslie M. Lava, Marie O’Gara Lipman, James J. Ludwig, Fillmore C. Marks, Craig A. Pinedo, J. Peter Read, and Eric B. Roberts.

The San Francisco SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization dedicated to saving homeless dogs and cats, to providing lifesaving care and treatment to dogs and cats in need, to helping pets stay in loving homes, and to cultivating respect and awareness for the rights and needs of animals and the importance of the human-animal bond. Founded in 1868, The SF/SPCA is a national leader in saving lives and raising the status of companion animals. For more information, visit www.sfspca.org.