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**MEDIA ALERT – March 1, 2023**

**NEPA Rescue Vet Clinic to Hold Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony  
At Indraloka Animal Sanctuary on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 5 p.m.**

Funded in part by \$190,000 in total grants from the **Robert H. Spitz Foundation**, the **NEPA Rescue Veterinary Clinic at Indraloka Animal Sanctuary in Dalton** will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by officers of the Scranton Area Foundation on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:00 p.m.

This event, which is open to all members of the media, offers journalists the opportunity to tour the new facility and to learn more about this groundbreaking vet clinic, the only one of its kind in the area. This is a story of hope and healing.

Spearheaded by Leslie Interlandi, DVM, a rescue medicine specialist and resident veterinarian at Indraloka, the NEPA Rescue Veterinary Clinic provides low-cost vet services to animals under the care of shelters that are part of the **NEPA Animal Welfare Collaborative**, including **Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, Northeast PA Pet Fund and Rescue, Adopt a Boxer, Quigley's Shelter Pets** and others. While the clinic is not open to the public, it will reduce the burden on all local veterinary practices. Several dogs and cats rescued by Griffin Pond Animal Shelter and Adopt a Boxer have already been treated at the clinic and Dr. Interlandi visits Griffin Pond Animal Shelter weekly to provide vet care.

In addition to a \$40,000 grant awarded in 2021, the \$150,000 multi-year grant awarded in 2022 is one of the largest gifts the Robert H. Spitz Foundation has ever awarded.



Founded in 2015, the **Robert H. Spitz Foundation**, which is administered by the **Scranton Area Foundation**, provides funding for philanthropic programs and initiatives that help children, minorities, veterans, animals and the environment. Indraloka’s educational, animal welfare and environmental awareness programs exemplify the values and work the Foundation supports.

“The Spitz Foundation was an early supporter of the NEPA Rescue Veterinary Clinic. We are so grateful they shared our vision and invested in this project from the very beginning,” Indraloka founder Indra Lahiri, PhD, says. “This support allowed us to keep moving forward during the pandemic. These funds will help us complete construction and equip the clinic.”

Indraloka rescues animals from the most desperate circumstances. They all need immediate emergency vet care. Getting that care has proven to be one of the most difficult aspects of running a sanctuary. Dog and cat rescues also struggle to get rescued animals the particular care they need.

“I never met Mr. Spitz but I thank him in my heart daily. Through his foundation, the Scranton Area Foundation and the many individual sanctuary supporters in NEPA, many, many lives are saved,” Dr. Lahiri says.

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**About Indraloka Animal Sanctuary**

Indraloka, a 501(c) nonprofit, provides “heaven on earth” for farm animals that have nowhere else to turn. We inform, inspire and empower the community, especially children, on ways in which we can better care for ourselves and the environment while helping animals in need. We advocate for



a kind and compassionate lifestyle that protects animals, the earth and our own health and. As educators, we offer a wide range of STEAM-based learning programs, summer camps and field trips for children, K-12. The community is invited to tour the sanctuary; reservations are required. We host live, public and virtual events throughout the year for adults and children. Visit us at [Indraloka.org](http://Indraloka.org).