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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA Treats Endangered Red-Legged Frog with Broken Leg

BURLINGAME, CA. – On March 14, a rare and endangered red-legged frog was brought to the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA's (PHS/SPCA) Wildlife Care Center in Burlingame. The frog was spotted by a California Fish and Wildlife officer at the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve who noticed it was emaciated and not able to move its left leg. The officer carefully captured the injured frog and transported it immediately to PHS/SPCA for treatment.

"This is only the third red-legged frog we've seen in our center over the last five years," said Patrick Hogan, Manager of PHS/SPCA's Wildlife Care Center. "We worked with a specialist veterinarian to perform a surgical procedure where an inch long metal pin was inserted into the frog's leg and we expect within ten to twelve weeks the frog will be fully recovered and able to return to where it was found in the wild."

The frog patient is currently on pain medication and receiving daily antibiotic injections to help stave off infections and promote healing. PHS/SPCA staff are encouraged the frog is responding well to treatment, gaining weight and eating on its own.

"The frog is handling the leg pin and medicine very well," according to Hogan. "It's not every day we get to help mend a broken leg on a threatened species, so this is exciting for us."

The red-legged frog is a rare species that can live up to ten years and is found almost exclusively in California. It earned its name by the reddish coloring on the underside of the legs and belly.

In 1996, the red-legged frog was federally listed as a threatened species of the United States and is protected by federal and California law. The main cause of population decline is habitat loss and destruction.

The California State Legislature passed a law in 2015 designating the red-legged frog as the official "State Amphibian" for the state of California.

"Being able to provide care and treatment for this threatened frog species has been a real honor for our staff," said Hogan.

PHS/SPCA's Wildlife Center works to treat a variety of wildlife with the goal of returning them back into the wild once they have recovered.

About Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is a private, open-door, not-for-profit animal welfare organization. Primary programs include animal adoptions; animal rescue and sheltering, including specialty care for domestic animals with medical and/or behavioral challenges; wildlife rehabilitation; animal cruelty investigation; community outreach and education; low-cost spay/neuter; and obedience classes. This vital work is made possible by volunteers and donations. PHS/SPCA receives no funding from national animal welfare organizations. Visit www.phs-sPCA.org to learn about all PHS/SPCA's programs and services, ways to help the animals and special events.

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