

# PRESS RELEASE

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## RISPCA RESPONDS TO NEW EVIDENCE OF ANIMAL SACRIFICE RITUALS

**[Riverside, Rhode Island, March 8, 2022]** — On February 25, 2022, the Rhode Island SPCA Division of Law Enforcement was contacted by the East Greenwich Police Department regarding the discovery of a plastic garbage bag located in the vicinity of a boat launch near Water Street that contained what appeared to be a calf's head. The Rhode Island SPCA Division of Law Enforcement responded and took custody of the bag for forensic evaluation.

Upon examination, it was confirmed that the bag contained an animal head that was consistent with a calf's head and also contained several rooster heads, a lamb head and a kid goat head along with grains and colored materials associated with previous animal sacrifice investigations. It is believed that animal remains that were found were from animals that were sacrificed as part of a religious ritual. Furthermore, two hand drawn pictures were located in the bag.

The Rhode Island SPCA Division of Law Enforcement is seeking the public's assistance in identifying these drawing and the significance of their presence with the remains. The Humane Society of the United States has previously offered a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons involved in the perpetration of animal sacrifice rituals in Rhode Island.

Persons with knowledge of the significance of these drawings or with information concerning the animal remains recovered in East Greenwich on February 25<sup>th</sup> are asked to contact RISPCA Special Agent Earl Newman at (401) 438-8150 x3.

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**About the Rhode Island SPCA:** Founded in 1870, the Rhode Island SPCA is the oldest humane animal welfare organization in the state of Rhode Island and is also the third oldest in the United States. As a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, it does not receive any local or federal funding and relies on donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations to provide its critical community programs and services.

