



## PRESS RELEASE

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

*Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*

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**RELEASE DATE:** November 21, 2023

### **DOG BROUGHT TO BAY STATE NEAR DEATH NOW IN RHODE ISLAND SPCA'S CARE**

[Warwick, Rhode Island, November 21, 2023] — On Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> our law enforcement division received a phone call from Bay State Veterinary Hospital regarding a severely emaciated puppy covered in matted fur that was brought there for treatment. The dog was in such bad condition that the hospital would not return it to the owner. The owner willingly turned over custody. Bay State vet staff removed his mattes and cared for little Coco as much as they could and then turned him over to the Rhode Island SPCA for additional care.

We know that Coco was owned by a person in Cranston, RI who has since been charged. We are withholding his name until an arrest has been made.

When Coco first arrived at our shelter, he could not walk and could barely drink. Our dog care staff has been nursing him back to life very slowly. We quickly learned that Coco was eating whatever he could find including small toys and erasers. His blood work also showed, not surprisingly, that he was extremely anemic – his red blood cell count was almost nonexistent. We are monitoring that and hoping they will regenerate now that he is getting the nourishment he has needed. While in our care, Coco has gained 8 ounces and is now walking on his own; his puppy personality is starting to show!

Coco is only a puppy and we are giving him a chance to live a full life! We will be using Giving Tuesday to share more about Coco and his survival journey. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 for cruelty pups like Coco. It's an aspirational goal, but with your support we know we can get there. The funds we raise on Giving Tuesday will help us help animals like Coco live the life they deserve.

For more information or other ways to help, please visit [rispca.org](http://rispca.org).

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**About the Rhode Island SPCA:** Founded in 1870, the Rhode Island SPCA is not only the oldest humane organization in the state of Rhode Island but the third oldest in the United States. As a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we do not receive any local, state or federal funding nor are we affiliated with any national humane organization. We rely solely on donations from individuals, businesses and foundations.

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