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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BaRC Re-tail Closing at the End of the Year

After nearly six years, WAIF's BaRC Re-tail will be closing its contract with Island County Solid Waste at the end of the year. We are grateful for our partnership and the opportunity to work with Island County Solid Waste that allowed us to save an average of 20,000 lbs. of items from going into the yard each month, and have those items resold with proceeds helping WAIF shelter animals and its operations. We're also proud of establishing a recycling program that took in old electronics and small appliances that helped reduce local environmental impact on Whidbey Island. It is anticipated that the county will be looking for a new contractor some time in the early part of 2019.

As WAIF heads into the new year, WAIF renews its commitment to fiscal responsibility by streamlining operations to optimize proceeds that help fund the daily care of homeless pets and programs that serve the local island community. With this decision to close down BaRC operations, and the purchase of the old Sears building located at 465 NE Midway Boulevard in Oak Harbor, WAIF will be setting up for a long-term future of positive growth in serving homeless animals. With the help of P&L General Contractors and a kind generous donor, the new location has been remodeled and updated to include its thrift store operations and its cat adoption center, which are now open to the public.

BaRC Re-tail staff will be reassigned to the old store location at 50 NE Midway Boulevard. The old location will serve as an extension of the new Oak Harbor thrift store for the short-term, with donation overflow and sales of large furniture, certain appliances, tools, and building materials.