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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate use**

**PetSmart Charities Awards \$50,000 to SpokAnimal's Pearly Whites Initiative**

Spokane, Wash., – December 1, 2021 – PetSmart Charities has awarded SpokAnimal \$50,000 to advance its Pearly Whites Initiative for pet dental care. The funding allows SpokAnimal to purchase a dental x-ray, expand its program, and help subsidize dentals for qualifying pet owners in Spokane County.

“There is growing awareness that poor oral conditions in pets can lead to other costly health problems. However, dental care can be financially out of reach for many pet owners, particularly for those with fixed or low incomes,” stated SpokAnimal Executive Director, Dori Peck. “We’re excited that PetSmart Charities has chosen to help us serve this demographic and invest in animals in our community.”

The dental X-ray is expected to be in service by January 2022. This purpose-built system will allow SpokAnimal veterinarians to see the conditions of teeth below the gum line, as well as the jaw bone. This will enable SpokAnimal to expand its dental care to include cats with stomatitis, and ensure thorough dental care is provided to all companion animals.

The majority of the funding will be used to help income-qualified pet owners pay for dental care provided at SpokAnimal’s clinic by experienced veterinarians. Proof of income and a modest deposit will be required. A pre-procedure appointment also will be required, at which time the extent and cost of treatment will be determined and the dental appointment scheduled. SpokAnimal estimates at least 40 local pets will receive grant-funded treatment, while the X-ray system will help hundreds of pets over its service life.

PetSmart Charities is the leading funder of animal welfare in North America and over the last two years it has invested approximately \$230,000 in the Spokane community.

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**Additional Support Information:**  
**SpokAnimal**

Support for public pets is a new dimension to our Pearly White Initiative, which launched earlier this year through a \$10,000 grant from The Grey Muzzle Organization. That grant funding is restricted to providing dental care for homeless senior dogs. The treatment

removes a barrier that frequently deters adoptions of dogs with more life experience. So far, over a dozen senior dogs have benefitted from the program and all have found homes.

Founded in 1983, SpokAnimal has worked hard to become Eastern Washington's leading humane society for adoptions. Last year 3,019 animals found a home through SpokAnimal. We performed 3,515 spay and neuter surgeries, and administered 2,272 microchips and 5,190 vaccines.

### **PetSmart Charities**

Since 1994, PetSmart Charities has granted over \$451 million to change-making organizations that help transform the lives of pets and those who love them. They return 90 cents of every dollar donated to animal welfare causes and receive a significant portion of their funding through donations made at the registers in PetSmart stores.

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