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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

PetSmart Charities and SpokAnimal Celebrate Investment In Local Pets

Spokane, Wash., – July 16, 2022 – PetSmart Charities presented SpokAnimal with a check for \$175,125 today to commemorate its 2021-2022 fiscal year contributions to the area’s highest-volume humane society. These funds are helping pets staying in shelters and also those living in local communities with their families throughout the Inland Northwest.

“Support from PetSmart Charities’ and the area PetSmart stores has had a profound impact on our organization and made a life-changing difference to thousands of animals in our community,” stated SpokAnimal’s Executive Director, Dori Peck.

The \$75,000 grant to SpokAnimal is fueling the shelter’s Find Homes Faster program. That effort has already boosted adoptions by 20 percent compared to the year prior. Another \$50,000 grant is helping low-income pet owners obtain dental care for their animals at SpokAnimal’s vet clinic, complete with full dental X-rays. Numerous smaller awards will account for the remaining funds, which have been used for medical expenses related to preparing animals for adoption with preventative health care.

“Pets are important members of the family,” said Aimee Gilbreath, president of PetSmart Charities. “We know 40 percent of low-income pet parents cite a lack of access to veterinary care as a top reason for surrendering their pets. And that’s an impossible choice to have to make. But when they’re connected to the resources they need, the chances of keeping their pets at home where they belong improve. We’re proud to support the important work SpokAnimal is doing.”

Last year, 3,478 animals were adopted from the agency, of those over 1,700 were placed through PetSmart Charities adoption events at PetSmart stores.

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About SpokAnimal:

SpokAnimal is a privately funded nonprofit humane society dedicated to the placement, protection and health of animals through programs for pets and their people. It is the largest humane society in Eastern Washington for pet adoptions and found homes for 3,478 animals last year. In addition to its shelter

operations, SpokAnimal's low-income vet clinic provides spay/neuter services and dental care for both shelter and public animals. The nonprofit has earned national attention for its work to expand pet-friendly housing through a joint project with Best Friends Animal Sanctuary and Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington. Most recently, the humane society launched the Hearts and Paws program, which enables seniors living in skilled nursing residences to time-share the fostering of a dog. Its pet food bank already has distributed over 10,000 pounds of food to aid public-owned pets this year.

About PetSmart Charities®

PetSmart Charities is committed to making the world a better place for pets and all who love them. Through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart® stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities helps up to 600,000 pets connect with loving families each year. PetSmart Charities also provides grant funding to support organizations that advocate and care for the well-being of all pets and their families. Our grants and efforts connect pets with loving homes through adoption, improve access to affordable veterinary care and support families in times of crisis with access to food, shelter and emergency relief. Each year, millions of generous supporters help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities directly at PetSmartCharities.org, while shopping at PetSmart.com, and by using the PIN pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart® stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities efficiently uses more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, granting more than \$500 million since its inception in 1994. Independent from PetSmart LLC, PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization that has received the Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator for the past 18 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of rated charities. To learn more visit www.petsmartcharities.org.

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24-Hour PetSmart Charities

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