



**Media Contact:**

SpokAnimal  
Dori Peck, Executive Director  
Cell Ph: (509) 995-6010  
e-mail: [dori@spokaniaml.org](mailto:dori@spokaniaml.org)

City of Spokane  
Brian Coddington, Director of Communications  
Phone: (509) 625-6740  
e-mail: [bcoddington@spokanecity.org](mailto:bcoddington@spokanecity.org)

**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate use

**CITY OF SPOKANE AND SPOKANIMAL SCORE MARS PETCARE'S BETTER CITIES FOR PETS GRANT**  
*Funding Provides Aid to Pets of the Homeless*

**Spokane, WA—Feb 8, 2023** – The City of Spokane and SpokAnimal, Eastern Washington’s largest humane society, are collaborating as a result of the City securing part of a \$130,000 in grant funding awarded through Mars Petcare’s Better Cities for Pets program, which is aimed at assisting pet parents that are facing challenges keeping and caring for their pets. Spokane is one of just seven cities to be awarded funding and the City’s winning proposal now means pet expert liaisons from SpokAnimal assist individuals at the Trent Resource and Assistance Center (TRAC), a homelessness services navigation center with pet-related needs while they are in and transitioning out of the shelter.

“We’re honored that the City sought our partnership and were receptive to our suggestions about ways to keep pet-owners, pets, and non-pet owners safe at the TRAC navigation center,” stated SpokAnimal executive director, Dori Peck.

For the program, a SpokAnimal vet technician and advocate are on-site each week for a two-hour clinic to ensure pets of the homeless have access to vaccines, wellness checks and supplies such as harnesses, muzzles, leashes, and coats. Spay/neuter bookings are made available to pet owners too. SpokAnimal also stocks an on-site pet food bank that TRAC patrons can access throughout the week.

“This partnership with SpokAnimal is keeping pets with their humans and well cared for as they transition into permanent housing through the navigation center,” Spokane Mayor Nadine Woodward said. “SpokAnimal is providing pets with the care they need and future landlords the information they require. They have also already provided a pet travel certificate for an individual that was intending to relocate. This is a level of care that hasn’t been previously provided.”



Peck pointed out that the pet care provided at TRAC ultimately benefits the community at large. Vaccinations prevent the spread of highly contagious, and often deadly, diseases like parvo, panleuk, and Rabies. Spaying and neutering of pets reduces demands on animal control services.

Currently, TRAC has been serving more than 300 people during the recent winter months and Peck estimates that people with one or more pets; including puppies, dogs, cats, and even a couple birds, occupy about a third of them. “In many cases, these animals are support animals that are closely bonded with their owners,” she stated.

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### **About SpokAnimal**

SpokAnimal was founded in 1983 and has become Eastern Washington’s largest and most cost-effectively operated humane society for pet adoptions. Last year, it found homes for 4,031 animals and, according to its 2021 tax filing, 78% of the organization’s income went directly towards programs that benefit shelter and public pets. Over 60 percent of the shelter’s intake was from owner-surrendered animals and transfers from the local municipal shelter, SCRAPS. The other portion of animals arrives through its vibrant transport program, which allows it to save pets from areas where overcrowding and euthanizing for space are still unfortunate realities. SpokAnimal’s foster program helps it care for fragile and vulnerable animals. Its vet clinic supports both shelter and public pets with spay/neuter services, microchips, vaccines and dentals. Ad hoc care for pets, such wound care, pregnancy complications, and digestive issues, is provided for public pets as staffing and finances allow. The Guardian Angel emergency boarding service and Pet Food Bank are other programs that support the local community. To further enhance animal welfare in the community, partnerships with organizations such as Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, Sullivan Park Care Center, Spokane Meals on Wheels, Blessings Under the Bridge, Red Cross, Family Promise and Best Friends are core to SpokAnimal’s outreach. Those interested in supporting our nonprofit’s work can contribute online at [www.spokanimal.org](http://www.spokanimal.org).