

Media Contact:

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

PetSmart Charities
24-Hour Media Line: 623-587-2177

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use

SPOKANIMAL FINDS HOMES FOR 2,500 ANIMALS WITH PETSMAZT CHARITIES®

Setting New In-Store Adoption Record for Inland Northwest, Earning \$25,000 in Adoption Reward

Spokane, Wash., – Feb 5, 2023 – SpokAnimal has completed a combined total of over 2,500 adoptions within a single year at Spokane’s three PetSmart stores. The historic achievement is a first for any shelter in Eastern Washington and has earned SpokAnimal \$25,000 in adoption reward funding from PetSmart Charities.

“We’ve had our eye on this goal for the past couple years. Last year we missed it by 165 adoptions, which made this year’s achievement just that much sweeter for our team,” Dori Peck, executive director for SpokAnimal explained. “In addition to our staff and board members, that team includes our incredible foster volunteers, who cared for over 1,000 pets last year. We also want to thank the community, because ultimately, they made this possible.”

Within area PetSmart stores, SpokAnimal staffs a PetSmart Charities Cat Adoption Center at both the South and North stores, and a bank of kennels in the Valley. Collectively these locations provide just 27 kennels through which 2,033 felines found homes. To complete the 467 dog adoptions, SpokAnimal relied upon collapsible pens and dog handlers.

“The goal of our adoption rewards program is to help our partners find loving homes for as many pets as possible. In-store adoptions provide a wonderful opportunity for adoptable pets to meet people who they might not have encountered otherwise. The financial support we provide helps fund any cost associated with finding homes for pets, including staffing, medical bills, marketing and logistics,” said Heidi Marston, director of Pet Placement Initiatives at PetSmart Charities. “SpokAnimal’s adoption success reflects their commitment and hard work over the years and is a bright spot that sets a model for other groups on how in-store adoptions can be a true force multiplier.

Throughout PetSmart Charities fiscal year, which runs February 1 thru January 31, the adoption rewards programs provides progressive funding to in-store partners for reaching various adoptions tiers. While the 2,500 adoption level earned SpokAnimal a \$25,000 reward, reaching other adoption tiers along the way accrued another \$50,000 in PetSmart Charities support for the organization.

Peck shared that the \$75,000 has helped cover expenses related to fostering vulnerable animals until they are old enough, or healthy enough, for adoptions. It also helped the shelter fund animal adoption prep, in-store adoption advisors, and the shuttling of pets to the various locations.

SpokAnimal became a PetSmart Charities adoption partner in 2007 and since that time the collaboration has helped over 12,000 pets find homes thru area PetSmart stores. That's in addition to the pets adopted from its shelter, at other adoption store partners, and at special events. In 2022, reaching the 2,500 adoption target at PetSmart Charities helped the agency complete 4,031 adoptions overall.

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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.

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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