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**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate use

**SPOKANIMAL AWARDED \$70,000 FROM PETCO LOVE FOR ANIMAL LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS**  
*Celebrates With Special Adoption Event at All Area Petco Stores on Saturday, June 17*  
*Pets to Benefit from Kennel Upgrades, In-Store Adoption Counselor, and Fundraising Event*

**Spokane, Wash., June 15, 2023** – SpokAnimal has received a \$70,000 grant investment from national nonprofit Petco Love in support of the animal welfare agency’s lifesaving work for pets in the Pacific Northwest. To celebrate, SpokAnimal will be hosting a special adoption event at all area Petco stores on Saturday, June 17, and a check presentation will happen at noon at the Petco located at 2805 E 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

SpokAnimal has used some of the funds to finalize its acquisition of 20 new canine kennels that cost over \$121,000. The new kennels, which currently are being installed, feature a middle divider to provide maximum occupancy for 40 dogs. The new kennels will also be equipped with an automatic watering system, which is slated for installation in July. That new feature ensures kennel occupants will no longer be dependent upon shelter staff to refill water bowls, since they will have easy access to fresh water on demand.

Another portion of the award is being used to subsidize the salary of a SpokAnimal in-store adoption counselor for local Petco stores. Currently, SpokAnimal provides felines for all of Petco’s local in-store cat enclosures, but showcasing dogs requires a handler. The Petco Love funding means dogs will be accessible at stores more often, increasing the number of pets saved.

The grant also secured Petco Love as the title sponsor of SpokAnimal’s Woofs and Whiskers hybrid fundraiser, held last month. The invitation-only in-person event was hosted at Overbluff Cellars, with free virtual participation open to all those who registered. Proceeds from the event are being used to compound the lifesaving impact of Petco Love’s support.

“Our investment in SpokAnimal is part of more than \$15M in investments recently announced by Petco Love to power local organizations across the country as part of our commitment to create a future in which no pet is unnecessarily euthanized,” said Susanne Kogut, president of Petco Love. “Our local

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investments are only part of our strategy to empower animal lovers to drive lifesaving change right alongside us. We recently launched [Petco Love Lost](#), a national lost and found database that uses pet image technology to simplify the search for lost pets.”

Dori Peck, executive director for SpokAnimal stated, “All of Petco Love’s support has been phenomenal. Including this grant, over the past three years, they’ve invested \$150,000 towards our efforts to save pets and that’s helped us increase adoptions by 33% annually. They’ve twice chosen local pet owner’s stories as winners in the Love Stories campaign, which granted us another \$10,000, and they’ve provided over 1,500 free vaccines to help us support owned animals, as well. We also realize that these awards are made possible primarily because of donations people make at the Petco registers, so we want those folks to know we appreciate their generosity too!”

Petco Love is a national nonprofit leading change for pets by harnessing the power of love to make communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since its founding in 1999, Petco Love has invested \$350 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. And Petco Love helps find loving homes for pets in partnership with Petco and more than 4,000 organizations — like ours — across North America, with 6.7 million pets adopted and counting.

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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).

### **About Petco Love**

Petco Love is a life-changing nonprofit organization that makes communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since our founding in 1999 as the Petco Foundation, we’ve empowered animal welfare organizations by investing \$350 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. We’ve helped

find loving homes for more than 6.7 million pets in partnership with Petco and organizations nationwide.

Our love for pets drives us to lead with innovation, creating tools animal lovers need to reunite lost pets, and lead with passion, inspiring and mobilizing communities and our more than 4,000 animal welfare partners to drive lifesaving change alongside us. Join us. Visit [petcolove.org](https://petcolove.org) or follow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to be part of the lifesaving work we lead every day.