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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use

**SPOKANIMAL RECEIVES \$34,000 IN GRANT FUNDING
TO AID SPOKANE TRIBE HOUSING AUTHORITY WITH PET SPAY/NEUTER EFFORTS**

Spokane, Wash., August 28, 2023 – The Spokane Tribe Housing Authority is getting some support in its efforts to curtail domestic pet population on the reservation. SpokAnimal recently secured two grants totaling \$34,000 in funding to make two free spay/neuter events possible for pet owners living on the reservation. The Innovia Foundation contributed \$6,400 for a spay/neuter event scheduled for October 7, which is expected to serve up to 60 large dogs. The ASPCA Northern Tier Shelter Initiative contributed \$28,000, which will help fund the balance of October’s event costs, and finance another event for up to 140 felines, which is slated for sometime early 2024.

Marie Ely, HMS Lead Services Specialist for the Spokane Tribe stated, “We want to encourage pet owners to take advantage of these events because they will help the Tribe use its resources more effectively. For example, by gaining control over the domestic pet population, we hope to spend less time responding to nuisance calls and less money on repairing pet damage in Tribal housing units, and instead, allocate our time and financial resources to other community projects.”

SpokAnimal Executive Director, Dori Peck stated, “Spaying and neutering pets is the most effective way to manage animal populations. Pet vaccines, which are also available at the event, are in public health interests too. They prevent the spread of deadly diseases such as Rabies and distemper. We’re excited that our grant funders share our commitment to making these services and benefits accessible to rural communities.”

The October event will require any interested dog owner living on the reservation to pre-register with the Spokane Tribe Housing Authority. Dogs will be dropped off at the Wellpinit Dance Hall and shuttled to SpokAnimal’s vet clinic in Spokane. Three veterinary teams, a clinic crew, and a team of volunteers will prep animals for surgery, perform spay/neuter procedures, vaccinate pets, and monitor animals throughout recovery. The dogs will then be returned to the Dance Hall where pets and discharge instructions will be provided to the pet owners.

October’s event will be the third spay/neuter event for the Housing Authority and SpokAnimal partnership. The first event, held in 2022 at the Wellpinit Dance Hall, was led by an East-coast vet.

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SpokAnimal was instrumental in helping with that event's logistics and showing up with a team of 13 that made it possible for 155 animals to be treated over the two-day event. In March 2023, the second event saw 30 female cats spayed, 25 male cats neutered, and 57 unwanted animals surrendered to SpokAnimal for rehoming.

Funding from the Innovia Foundation was part of \$1,187,600 awarded through its Community Grant Program in June. Grants were given to 127 organizations in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho for innovative programs addressing specific challenges and opportunities through the region. This year, priority was given to request that met the theme of bringing people together and increasing social connections and inclusivity.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) is one of the nation's largest animal welfare grant makers. The Northern Tier Shelter Initiative (NTSI) is an ASPCA program that provides grants, free consultations and training to brick-and-mortar shelters, non-profit veterinary clinics, and Indigenous communities in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Washington improve the quality of life for cats and dogs. The \$28,000 in funding was funded through an invite-only opportunity.

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About SpokAnimal

SpokAnimal was founded in 1983 and has become Eastern Washington's largest humane society for pet adoptions. Last year, it found homes for 4,031 animals. 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, Meals on Wheels Spokane, The Salvation Army (TRAC shelter), The 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.