

Media Contact:

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

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

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use

SPOKANIMAL RECEIVES \$75,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES®
Funding Shelter Improvements Will Help More Pets Find Homes

Spokane, WA—Jan 30, 2023 – SpokAnimal has been awarded \$75,000 from PetSmart Charities, enabling the shelter to make animal-care related facility improvements and ultimately find more pets homes throughout the Inland Northwest.

“For a long time, we’ve wanted to upgrade to energy-efficient, large capacity washers and dryers for all of the pet laundry we do. However, because our shelter is older, making improvements isn’t always straightforward,” Dori Peck, executive director for SpokAnimal, explained, “While the machines themselves are expensive, at our shelter, the project also requires us to widen doorways, upgrade electrics, run new gas lines and make plumbing improvements. The collective cost was way beyond our budget. Now, thanks to PetSmart Charities, we’ll be making the changes and getting the machines.”

Peck shared that new sterilizing dishwashers for pet dishes, an automated watering system for the dog kennels, energy-efficient lighting, and kennel noise abatement features are other improvements that also will rollout at the shelter in 2023 thanks to the PetSmart Charities’ funding.

“With more than five million pets entering shelters each year in the U.S., the goal of our adoption prep grant is to help shelters ensure as many adoptable pets as possible, find loving homes,” said Heidi Marston, director of Pet Placement Initiatives at PetSmart Charities. “SpokAnimal’s proposal illustrated how labor-saving changes related to animal care will increase their capacity to help more animals find people to love.”

For the past few years, SpokAnimal has achieved distinction as one of the top five adoption partners for PetSmart Charities in the nation and has become Eastern Washington’s largest humane society for pet adoptions.

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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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