

Media Contact:

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

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use

SPOKANIMAL SEEKING PET OWNERS IMPACTED BY AREA FIRES
Offering pet food and supplies provided by national animal welfare foundations

Spokane, Wash., Aug 28, 2023 – SpokAnimal wants any pet owner impacted by the Gray and Oregon Road fires to know that pet food and supplies are available at its Resource Center located at 715 N. Crestline and at the Red Cross Emergency Center at Spokane Falls Community College. Groups and agencies providing fire relief support services that are interested in being a distribution site for pet supplies are also invited to contact the shelter.

“We’re hoping to reach pet owners displaced by the fires such as those now living with family or friends, in temporary accommodations, or even those that returned to damaged homes. Our local community has done an incredible job donating goods, and we’ve gotten outstanding support from national animal welfare foundations too. Now we’re working to get these items to the folks that need them,” stated SpokAnimal Executive Director, Dori Peck.

Today, SpokAnimal received a 40-pallet shipment of Purina dog and cat food courtesy of Seattle-based, Greater Good Charities. That foundation, along with Petco Love, are also sending shipments of in-kind goods such as breakaway horse harnesses, buckets, lead ropes, pet blankets, collars, leashes, cat litter scoops, pet food dishes and cat trees.

“Beyond helping pet owners replace pet supplies that were lost, our other focus is on trying to help reunite pets and their people,” Peck stated. “Facebook pages provide a quick and easy way to exchange info, however it can be daunting sorting through a running stream of posts. We’re encouraging folks to use Petco Love Lost because it is a database that uses artificial intelligence facial recognition. That helps users quickly see potential matches that are entered in the system, without the need to view all other posts. It has the added advantage of being able to notify users when new potential matches are entered into the system. Petco Love Lost is integrated with most national animal shelter databases, including SpokAnimal and SCRAPS, so once the shelter uploads photos of intakes, users can determine if the pet is at a facility without having to call. Love Lost can also be used by the general public for Samaritans that have rescued lost animals,” she stated.

Peck shared that the shelter also is assessing other ways to help impacted pet owners. “Petco Love, PetSmart Charities and the ASPCA have all made disaster-response financial grant opportunities

available to SpokAnimal. We're currently determining what requests will have the greatest benefit for local pets and their people, both now and in the longer term."

At the onset of the fires, SpokAnimal aided Spokane Humane Evacuation Animal Rescue Team (HEART) in providing emergency care services for pets impacted by the area fires. As livestock took refuge at the Spokane Fairgrounds, SpokAnimal contacted American Humane for assistance. That agency deployed within 24-hours to aid HEART in caring for more than 320 animals over the past week. At Spokane Falls Community College, SpokAnimal staff logged almost 200 hours taking care of over 40 domestic pets. The shelter is currently boarding two owned animals

Those interested in supporting SpokAnimal can access volunteer and donation opportunities at <https://spokanimal.org>. Relief agencies wanting to distribute pet supplies are invited to contact Dori Peck at (509) 995-6010.

###

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.