



MEDIA CONTACTS:

Kelli Schry
(619) 250-6801 cell
kschry@sdhumane.org

Elizabeth A. Pecci
(619) 277-9600 cell
epecci@sdhumane.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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San Diego Humane Society Receives \$10,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® AND A SEMI-TRUCKLOAD OF 20 TONS OF PET FOOD TO REDUCE PET HOMELESSNESS IN SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – [San Diego Humane Society](#) has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](#), the leading funder of animal welfare in North America. While many grants to San Diego Humane Society are designed to help pets currently in the shelter, this new grant is aimed at keeping more pets out of local shelters through intake diversion practices that will help to reduce pet homelessness in San Diego.

The most common reasons pets are surrendered to local shelters are due to behavioral issues and limited access to affordable pet wellness, training and education programs. With this grant, San Diego Humane Society hopes to support pets and pet parents in need of these services by providing subsidized veterinary care for clients of San Diego Humane Society's [PAWS San Diego program](#). This generous gift will positively impact up to 50 pets who, without intervention, would be at-risk of relinquishment because their families cannot afford medical care.

“We’re incredibly grateful for the generosity of our partners whose support allows us to fulfill our mission,” said Brian Daugherty, senior vice president, chief philanthropy officer, San Diego Humane Society. “Through PAWS San Diego, we’re proud to serve as the safety net for animals in our community. Our enduring partnerships with funders like PetSmart Charities are what make this possible.”

Historically, funding to support emerging best practices like intake diversion programming has been hard to come by in animal welfare. That’s why PetSmart Charities identified this as an area of great need, both for shelters and for pet parents across North America, and developed this new grant category. San Diego Humane Society’s grant is one of the first intake diversion donations made by PetSmart Charities.

“When we learned about PAWS San Diego, we knew instantly it was a great fit for PetSmart Charities,” said Jenny Aho, regional relationship manager at PetSmart Charities. “This program bridges the gap between human services and animal welfare by keeping pets in loving homes rather than in a shelter. We are proud to support San Diego Humane Society and the PAWS San Diego program.”



Intake Diversion is just one of PetSmart Charities' 10 grant categories designed to support its expanded mission: to find lifelong loving homes for all pets by supporting programs that bring people and pets together. Funding from PetSmart Charities supports best practices and thought leadership that enhance the human-animal bond and keep more pets in loving homes.

Holiday Pet Food Delivery to Pet Families in Need

In addition to this \$10,000 grant, PetSmart Charities is donating a semi-truckload of pet food – about 190,000 pet food meals, nearly 40,000 pounds, or 20 tons of pet food – to PAWS San Diego to help pets and pet families in need in the local area. **Santa Claus will be joining in the effort to deliver the food donations to families in need on Dec. 5 at San Diego Humane Society's San Diego Campus.**

The donation is from PetSmart's Buy a Bag, Give a Meal program, where for every bag of dog or cat food purchased online or in its 1,600 stores through Dec. 31, 2017, the retailer will donate a meal to a pet in need. Through this historic program, which PetSmart launched in celebration of its 30th anniversary this year, the pet retailer expects to donate 60 million meals* – more than 6,000 tons – to pets in need at hundreds of animal welfare agencies across North America, as well as human food banks, food pantries and meal programs, where pet food is a rare offering.

When: Tuesday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m. – noon

Where: San Diego Humane Society
5465 Gaines St.
San Diego, CA 92110

Photo Ops:

- The unloading of 50 pallets of pet food – 39,900 pounds or 20 tons of pet food – among the largest pet food donation to San Diego Humane Society/PAWS San Diego in recent years.
- Santa, along with local PetSmart store team members, helping load nonprofit agencies' trucks with the 38-pound bags of donated pet food. These nonprofits are shelters, rescues and animal welfare organizations that help pets in need in the San Diego metro area.
- San Diego Humane Society's PAWS San Diego clients – pet parents and pets – receiving the donated 38-pound bags of dog and cat food from Santa, who will also help them to their car with the large pet food bags.
- Santa interacting with pets on-site.
- Pets sampling the pet food.

About San Diego Humane Society

Serving San Diego County since 1880, San Diego Humane Society's scope of social responsibility goes beyond adopting animals. San Diego Humane Society offers San Diegans a wide range of programs and services that strengthen the human-animal bond, prevent cruelty/neglect, provide medical care, educate the community on the humane treatment of animals and provide safety net services for all pet families needing assistance with keeping their pets.

As San Diego's oldest nonprofit organization, San Diego Humane Society has campuses located in Escondido, Oceanside, and San Diego as well as adoption centers inside select Petco stores throughout San Diego County. San Diego Humane Society is supported solely through contributions, grants, bequests, municipal contracts, investments and small fees for services. For more information or to view our current animals available for adoption; please visit www.sdhumane.org.



About PAWS San Diego

PAWS San Diego – a program of San Diego Humane Society – provides essential pet services and support to low-income seniors, chronically ill, disabled and homeless individuals to help them keep their pets. The goal of PAWS San Diego is to provide support services to people in need so that falling into tough times does not mean having to give up your pet. The best thing we can do for pets is to keep them out of animal shelters and together with the people who love and need them. For more information about PAWS San Diego www.sdhumane.org/paws.

About PetSmart Charities®

[PetSmart Charities, Inc.](http://PetSmartCharities, Inc) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to find lifelong, loving homes for all pets by supporting programs and thought leadership that bring people and pets together. In addition to finding homes for almost 500,000 shelter pets each year through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities provides funding to non-profits aligned with its mission through four key areas of grant support: Preventing Pet Homelessness; Helping Shelter Pets Thrive; Supporting the Bond Between People and Pets; and Emergency Relief and Disaster Support. Each year, millions of generous PetSmart shoppers help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities using the pin pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities efficiently uses 90 cents of every dollar donated and has become the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, donating about \$300 million to date. PetSmart Charities, a 501(c)(3) organization, has received the Four Star Rating from Charity Navigator, an independent organization that reports on the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of nonprofits, for the past 14 years in a row -- placing it among the top one percent of charities rated by this organization. To learn more visit www.petsmartcharities.org

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