



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

WITH A NEW \$15,200 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES®, THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON IS HELPING TO KEEP PEOPLE AND PETS TOGETHER

December 13, 2018— Arlington, VA – The Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) recently received a \$15,200 grant from [PetSmart Charities](#), the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, designed to help keep more people and pets together in Arlington County. When people are experiencing life changes and challenges such as homelessness, financial struggles, domestic violence, or emergency situations, having a pet can add an extra layer of complexity and concern. Pet parents in these situations often feel that they have no other option but to surrender their beloved pets to local animal welfare organizations.

With the help of this new grant, AWLA is committed to offering solutions that will help pets to stay within their loving homes and families. These programs will include vouchers for spay/neuter services, wellness clinics, expansion of a pet food pantry, flea/tick preventatives, microchips, rabies vaccine vouchers, enrichment packages, safekeeping for emergency situations, grooming, and much more. Our aim is to help owners comply with local laws and keep loved pets in their home and out of the shelter. With this generous grant we aim to serve an additional 225 families and approximately 380 pets by October 2019.

“We strive as an organization to ensure that all companion animals in Arlington County find compassionate, loving and forever homes. We know this program will further that mission and help owners and families fill in small holes that arise that would lead to them being unable to keep their beloved pet. With rising costs on all fronts in the county continuing, including the cost of veterinary care, we aim to assist owners to comply with the law so people and their pets can live healthy, secure, and happy lives,” said Jennifer Toussaint, Chief of Animal Control at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington.

“We are happy to support the work of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington to provide affordable pet health and wellness care,” said Sima Thakkar, regional relationship manager with PetSmart Charities. “Thanks to our donors nationwide, more people and pets will be able to stay

together during the most challenging of times due to the support of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington.”

Pet retention is just one of PetSmart Charities’ seven grant categories. Funding from PetSmart Charities supports animal welfare organizations and non-profits committed to reducing pet homelessness and enhancing the human-animal bond. For more information, visit www.PetSmartCharities.org.

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About The Animal Welfare League of Arlington

Founded in 1944, AWLA is a private 501(c)(3) open admission shelter that provides animal housing and animal control services to Arlington County, Virginia. AWLA is the only animal shelter in Arlington County and the main resource for the community’s at-risk animals. With a mission to improve the lives of animals and create a world where all companion animals find compassionate and permanent homes, AWLA puts itself on the leading edge of animal care through continual improvement and expansion of services. With core values of compassion, progressiveness, and openness-AWLA has proven to be a leader in the community of willingness to serve and evolve with the continuing rising needs of the community. The Animal Welfare League of Arlington is celebrating 75 years of service to Arlington County in 2019. To learn more please visit www.awla.org.

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About PetSmart Charities®

[PetSmart Charities, Inc.](http://PetSmartCharities.Inc) is committed to finding lifelong, loving homes for all pets by supporting programs and thought leadership that bring people and pets together. Through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart® stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities helps to find forever homes and families for more than 500,000 shelter pets each year.

PetSmart Charities also provides grant funding to nonprofits aligned with its mission under four key areas of support: Preventing Pet Homelessness; Helping Shelter Pets Thrive; Supporting the Bond Between People and Pets and Providing 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 more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, granting almost \$340 million since its inception in 1994. Independent from PetSmart Inc., PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization that has received the Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, a third-party organization that reports on the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of nonprofits, for the past 15 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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