

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2020

ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO RECEIVES \$25,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® TO HELP KEEP PETS AND PEOPLE TOGETHER

August, 2020— Albuquerque, NM – Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM), a 41-year old New Mexico animal advocacy organization, received a \$25,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](#) to help keep more companion animals in loving homes and out of shelters statewide in New Mexico.

As the face of family has changed over the years, what remains constant is the role companion animals play in our lives. Most people consider their companion animals family members and it can be challenging to find resources when facing life changes and issues such as homelessness or fleeing domestic abuse in search of a safe-haven. Pet parents in these and other at-risk situations often determine they have no options beyond surrendering their beloved animal to a local shelter.

With this grant, APNM will help preserve the bond between companion animals and their people by providing temporary safe-havens in local animal boarding facilities for the companion animals of domestic abuse victims. Over 50% of domestic violence survivors report that they did not leave or delayed leaving their abusers due to fear of what would happen to their companion animals. APNM’s Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE), takes the anxiety about beloved pets out of the equation for victims seeking social services and shelter from their batterers. In 2019, APNM took calls to its CARE Helpline from 88 domestic violence victims and assisted 104 companion animals of domestic violence victims. The goal of the program is to reunite companion animals with survivors, which was fulfilled in 52 cases in 2019.

Hear directly from a few of the domestic violence survivors the CARE program has helped:

“During a time of crisis, fear and desperation, the girls (dogs) were quickly housed and safe and I was able to get them back. Thank you for being there every step of the way and being so helpful”.

“We were living in a van because we didn’t want to leave our dogs and the shelters wouldn’t take us because of them. We found out about the CARE program and called. You were able to take them and because of that, we could go into the shelter. We were able to get into safe housing because of CARE. We wouldn’t have made it without you, we are so grateful to CARE. This is a very special Thanksgiving for us because we are able to be together and it wouldn’t have been possible without you.”

“Sadly, nearly half of domestic abuse survivors delay leaving their abusers out of fear of what might happen to their pet, and just a small number of shelters nationwide accept pets in facilities,” said Jenny Aho, regional relationship manager at PetSmart Charities. “By partnering with APNM, both people and their pets can receive the resources they need to transition to a new beginning free from violence – ensuring survivors never have to choose between a safe haven and their four-legged family members.”

Since 1994, through its partnership with nearly 4,000 humane societies, SPCAs and pet rescues across North America, PetSmart Charities has helped more than 9 million pets to find loving homes via its in-store adoption program in over 1,650 PetSmart® stores. The leading funder of animal welfare has also donated nearly \$430 million to improve access to veterinary care, to positively impact communities, to connect people and pets and to help preserve families through initiatives like this Animal Protection of New Mexico.

For more information about CARE visit: [https://apnm.org/what-we-do/building-foundations-to-keep-animals-](https://apnm.org/what-we-do/building-foundations-to-keep-animals-safe/)

###

About Animal Protection of New Mexico

APNM’s mission is to advocate the rights of animals by effecting systemic change, resulting in the humane treatment of all animals.

We do that by promoting social change, resulting in the humane treatment of all animals. We help create policies that protect animals, we create practical solutions and infrastructure to fight seemingly impossible animal cruelty issues, and we change deeply-rooted beliefs that harm animals. APNM has received a Platinum rating (the highest possible) from Guidestar.org.

www.apnm.org

<https://www.facebook.com/animalprotectionnm>

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 600,000 shelter pets each year. 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 \$430 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 17 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of charities rated by this organization. To learn more visit www.petsmartcharities.org.

Follow PetSmart Charities on Instagram: [@PetSmartCharities](https://www.instagram.com/PetSmartCharities)

Follow PetSmart Charities on Twitter: [@PetSmartChariTs](https://twitter.com/PetSmartChariTs)

Find PetSmart Charities on Facebook: [Facebook.com/PetSmartCharities](https://www.facebook.com/PetSmartCharities)

See PetSmart Charities on YouTube: [YouTube.com/PetSmartCharitiesInc](https://www.youtube.com/PetSmartCharitiesInc)

Media Contact:

Animal Protection of New Mexico
Victoria Murphy, CARE Program Manager
victoria@apnm.org

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

(505) 803-3770