



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

SFC VIRGINIA ANIMAL RESCUE RECEIVES \$35,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® TO HELP MORE HOMELESS PETS FIND HOMES IN VIRGINIA

Spotsylvania, VA – 4/1/2023– SFC Virginia has received a \$35,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](#) to help prepare more homeless pets in Virginia for adoption. Some five million pets make their way into shelters each year in the U.S. With the help of this grant, the organization will offer pre-adoption vetting to include spay/neuter, age-appropriate vaccinations, treatments and preventatives, microchipping, and any needed extraneous medical care for 250 animals in 2023.



SFC Virginia is a foster-focused rescue with a home base in the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania area. With over 300 active fosters, they have found homes for over 5000 dogs and cats since their formation less than 4 years ago. SFC Virginia hosts adoption events weekly at local PetSmart locations, which are open to the public, and help connect pets like Millie Mashed Potato, who worked with a trainer and her dedicated foster home during her time in rescue, to families in the region willing to open their hearts and homes to pets in need.

“Since July of 2019, we have been working with rural and underserved shelters across Virginia toward the goal of ending space-related euthanasia and improving the overall live release rate in the state,” said Ryan Barker, Executive Director of SFC Virginia. “As a young organization without high barriers and requirements for the animals we take in, medical expenses make up the majority of our budget. This generous grant will enable us to provide medical support for at least 250 of Virginia’s homeless pets in 2023, while simultaneously helping us increase our annual intakes and ensuring that the pets that come out of our program are set up for success in their forever homes.”

“Shelter and rescue groups across the country continue to navigate realities like full facilities, limited access to veterinary care and staffing shortages. That’s why it’s more important than ever to support partners like SFC Virginia who help hundreds of pets find loving homes every year through our in-store programs”, said Heidi Marston, director of pet placement at PetSmart Charities. “We’re grateful for our

longtime and thriving partnership with our friends at SFC Virginia and for their dedication to bringing pets and people together.”

Find out more about SFC Virginia (and consider signing up as a foster parent!) online any time at www.sfcva.org.

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About SFC VIRGINIA

SFC Virginia is a foster-focused animal rescue group in Spotsylvania, VA. Founded in June 2019 with the goal of saving dogs and cats from rural and otherwise underserved shelters in the state, we strive to provide quality medical care including vaccinations and spay/neuter surgeries, and to find permanent adoptive homes in our area. Our goal is to make a positive contribution to the overall live release rate in Virginia and toward No-Kill Nation 2025. Since our formation, we have placed more than 5000 dogs and cats into new homes, and work with over 20 shelter partners throughout the state to pull animals in need to safety. Find out more about our work at www.sfcva.org

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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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