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For Immediate Release:

## **East Bay SPCA Receives \$200k Grant from PetSmart Charities® to Improve Access to Veterinary Care**

[January 9, 2024, Oakland, CA] – As East Bay SPCA celebrates 150 years in the community, it is proud to announce the receipt of a transformative multi-year grant from PetSmart Charities, a commitment poised to make a significant impact on the region's pet care landscape. This generous \$200,000 grant is part of PetSmart Charities' broader initiative, pledging \$100 million over the next five years to enhance access to veterinary care for the estimated fifty million pets in the U.S. facing barriers to essential services.

Fifty million pets in the U.S. currently experience a lack of access to even basic veterinary care. Rising costs and various obstacles have resulted in these pets struggling to obtain services such as spay/neuter procedures, vaccinations, and critical medical and preventative care. With pets now residing in approximately 70% of households, this issue affects families across nearly every community.

PetSmart Charities has launched the "Accelerator" program, a key component of its commitment to improving access to veterinary care. This program aims to support the expansion of low-cost veterinary care by providing funding for growth and operations for up to four years for nonprofit clinics seeking to broaden their services and better serve their communities. Recipients are also encouraged to share their experiences with other veterinary providers, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

With the \$200,000 commitment from PetSmart Charities, East Bay SPCA is positioned to elevate the standard of care for local pets and families. Through the grant program, the organization plans to expand its services through humane advocacy efforts (keeping pets and people together), introduce telemedicine services, focus on veterinarian recruitment, and enhance ultrasound services.

"With deep appreciation for the PetSmart Charities grant, East Bay SPCA is embarking on a transformative journey. This endeavor extends beyond the scope of providing veterinary care," explains Allison Lindquist, President/CEO at East Bay SPCA. "This initiative is a commitment to building a healthier and more connected community. The grant will allow us to expand our services, so more pet owners in our region can access affordable and high-quality veterinary care. We believe that by making veterinary care more accessible to more residents, we are contributing to the overall well-being of our community and fostering a deep bond between pets and their owners."

People overwhelmingly consider their pets as integral family members, making a significant impact on the health and wellness of their owners. This grant aims to enable more families to access preventative and standard care, ensuring their pets thrive at home and avoid unnecessary shelter stays.

"Our veterinary system is in crisis," said Kate Atema, director of community grants and initiatives at PetSmart Charities. "Rising costs are putting standard veterinary care out of reach for as much as 50% of pet-owning families. We need innovative solutions that make veterinary care affordable for the families

in every community who want the best for their four-legged companions but struggle to meet the cost of vet care. We're inspired by the incredible work East Bay SPCA is doing to create solutions that will build strong families and a healthy community."

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### **About East Bay SPCA**

Established in 1874, East Bay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (East Bay SPCA) is proud to celebrate its 150th anniversary as one of the nation's oldest shelters and a leading innovator in the Bay Area region. East Bay SPCA is More Than a Shelter, transforming the lives of cats and dogs by enriching the human-animal bond through accessible and respected expertise. Serving Alameda and Contra Costa counties and beyond, East Bay SPCA is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, operating independently of any national affiliation. Learn more at [eastbayspca.org](http://eastbayspca.org).

Learn more about [East Bay SPCA's Humane Advocacy initiatives](#).

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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](http://PetSmartCharities.org), while shopping at [PetSmart.com](http://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](http://www.petsmartcharities.org).

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