



NEWS RELEASE

ANIMAL CARE CENTERS OF NYC RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT FROM PETSMA CHARITIES® FOR ENHANCED REUNIFICATION PROGRAM

New York, NY – Today, Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) announced its receipt of a new \$50,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](#), the leading funder of animal welfare. The grant will support the daily operations of ACC so they can further promote responsible pet guardianship and reduce the chances of recurring separations between animals and the people who love them.

ACC's shelter operations grant is designed to enhance reunification efforts through mid-2018. Similar initiatives, such as those aimed at pet surrender prevention, have contributed to ACC's becoming a national leader among open-admissions animal-sheltering organizations in recent years.

"All of us at ACC are profoundly grateful to PetSmart Charities for this generous grant," said Summer Dolder, ACC Senior Manager, Manhattan Care Center. "Through an enhanced reunification program, we can prepare clients reuniting with their animals for successful pet/owner relationships and prevent recurring separations. We can now provide support to these clients, much in the same way we provide support to owners in order to prevent pet surrender."

In 2016, ACC reunited 1,486 dogs and 967 cats with their families. Reuniting animals with families is a regular shelter occurrence, and while some reunited animals arrive at ACC due to specific, situational circumstances such as eviction or owner illness, in many cases there are chronic factors that make these pet/owner relationships high-risk for failure. The owners, by coming to ACC and engaging with staff to claim their pets, demonstrate a strong bond with and desire to keep their pet; however, the tools and resources they need to be successful are often not readily available to them. The PetSmart Charities grant will help remedy this by enabling ACC to offer tools such as pet ID tags, collars/leashes, cat carriers, dog crates, pet food, structural help within the home and, in some cases, subsidies for needed veterinary care.

In animal welfare, funding for general shelter operations can be scarce. That's why PetSmart Charities identified this as an area of great need to its adoption partners and grantees and developed this new grant category.

"PetSmart Charities has partnered with Animal Care Centers for more than 20 years to help local pets in need. Their ability to reunite more than 2,400 pets with pet parents in 2016 alone is a testament to their passion and dedication," and efficient efforts of their team," said Sima Thakkar, regional relationship manager, from PetSmart Charities. "With the help of this grant, we hope they will be able to secure the necessary tools to continue this great work and provide the utmost care as they anxiously wait to be reunited with their forever families."

Shelter Operations is just one of PetSmart Charities' ten grant categories designed to support animal welfare organizations and nonprofits as part of their newly 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 that help pets thrive in a shelter environment until they find their forever family and offers funding for shelter-based programs that improve adoptions, reduce pets' length of stay and strengthen shelter infrastructure. For more information, visit PetSmartCharities.org.

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About Animal Care Centers of NYC

Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) is one of the largest animal welfare organizations in the country, taking in more than 30,000 animals each year. ACC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that rescues, cares for and finds loving homes for animals throughout the five boroughs. ACC is an open-admissions organization, which means it never turns away any homeless, abandoned, injured or sick animal in need of help, including cats, dogs, rabbits, small mammals, reptiles, birds, farm animals and wildlife. It is the only organization in NYC with this unique responsibility. For more information, please visit www.nycacc.org, and be sure to follow ACC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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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