



**150 Years**



**Media Contact:**

Alexandra Frey  
East Bay SPCA  
[marketing@eastbayspca.org](mailto:marketing@eastbayspca.org)  
[eastbayspca.org](http://eastbayspca.org)

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

For Immediate Release:

**East Bay SPCA Receives \$1 Million Grant from PetSmart Charities® to Improve Accessible Veterinary Care**

[February 2024, Oakland, CA] Fifty million pets in the U.S. experience a lack of access to even basic veterinary care. Rising costs and other barriers mean these pets struggle to access services such as spay/neuter procedures, vaccinations and critical medical and preventative care. With as many as 70% of households now including pets, this issue affects families in nearly every community.

PetSmart Charities has committed \$100 million over the next five years toward improving access to veterinary care. The “Accelerator” low-cost veterinary care grant program is a key part of this effort. These grants support the expansion of low-cost veterinary care by funding growth and operations for up to four years for nonprofit clinics looking to expand their services, serve their communities better and inspire other veterinary providers by sharing their experiences.

The grant made to East Bay SPCA in the amount of \$1 million will support the expansion of East Bay SPCA’s veterinary services. Through the grant, the organization will increase funding and capacity for its Humane Advocacy department, which provides accessible, high-quality services to families facing financial challenges and barriers to meeting the needs of their pets. The grant will also help increase recruitment and training of additional veterinarians to allow East Bay SPCA to meet the increasing demand for affordable veterinary care in the community. Finally, the grant will support expanded telemedicine and Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) training.

"We know that families in our communities love their pets, but need affordable, accessible services in order to provide them with the basic care they need. Accessible veterinary care and services are critical to allowing families to keep their beloved pets with them and keep them safe and healthy," says Allison Lindquist, President of East Bay SPCA. "We are incredibly grateful to PetSmart Charities for providing this generous grant to support our mission transforming the lives of cats and dogs by enriching the human-animal bond."

Overwhelmingly, people consider their pets important members of the family. Pets make a significant impact in the health and wellness of the people they love. This grant will enable more families to get the preventative and standard care that ensures their pets thrive at home and stay out of shelters.

"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).

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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](http://www.petsmartcharities.org).

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