



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

RANCHO COASTAL HUMANE SOCIETY RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM PETSMA RT CHARITIES® TO HELP KEEP PETS AND PEOPLE TOGETHER

August 25, 2020— Encinitas, CA – Rancho Coastal Humane Society (RCHS) received a \$10,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](#) to help keep more pets in loving homes and out of shelters in Encinitas and throughout San Diego County.

As the face of family changes over the years, what remains constant is the role pets play in our lives. Many people consider pets as family members and it can be challenging to find resources when facing life changes, including domestic violence. Pet parents in violent and other at-risk situations often determine they have no options beyond surrendering their beloved pets to a local shelter.

Grant funds support the RCHS Animal Safehouse Program (ASP). This program helps preserve the bond between pets and their people, serving as a safety net for community members in crisis. By offering temporary pet boarding to the victims of domestic violence, seniors facing emergency medical crisis and military veterans receiving health-related services through a VA hospital, RCHS keeps families together.

“For victims of domestic violence, finding a safe place for their pets often means the difference between staying in an abusive environment and leaving for a safe haven. With temporary shelter and vet care for their pets, these victims become survivors who ultimately reunite with their animals as they pursue new lives of safety and security,” said RCHS President Judi Sanzo. “For seniors or military veterans facing medical procedures, ASP provides a better chance for full recovery, knowing that their pets are being cared for until patients are healthy enough to return home with their pets.”

“We know many people consider pets family members and will forgo resources such as food, or even their own safety for them,” said Jenny Aho, regional relationship manager at PetSmart Charities. “That’s why we’ve partnered with Rancho Coastal Humane Society to support pet families throughout San Diego county. Whether domestic abuse, hospitalization or other issues, pet parents never have to choose between their beloved pets and their own wellbeing.”

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 with Rancho Coastal Humane Society.

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About Rancho Coastal Humane Society

Dedicated to the San Diego community since 1960, [Rancho Coastal Humane Society](#) (RCHS) is well-known for its personalized pet adoption process and humane education programs. RCHS is also recognized for services that strengthen the human-animal bond, including the Animal Safehouse Program, the Community Pet Food Bank, Pet-Assisted and Pet Loss Therapy programs, and community outreach that provides a “helping paw” to people in crisis. RCHS abides by the pledge that NO healthy, treatable animal will ever be euthanized due to a lack of time or space. At Rancho Coastal Humane Society, we believe that Every Animal Deserves a Tomorrow®. To learn more, please visit our website at www.sdpets.org.

About PetSmart Charities®

[PetSmart Charities, 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.

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