



## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **PETS IN NEED RECEIVES \$500,000 GRANT FROM PETSMA®RT CHARITIES® TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBLE VETERINARY CARE**

**December 2024 - Cincinnati, OH** - As the cost of veterinary care continues to rise, millions of families are struggling to afford even basic services like spay/neuter, vaccinations, and preventative care. Fifty million pets in the U.S. lack access to essential veterinary services. With as many as 70% of households now including pets, this issue affects families in nearly every community. Low-income pet owners are often faced with gut-wrenching decisions, sometimes even having to choose between their own or their children's needs and those of their pets.

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.

Pets In Need of Greater Cincinnati has been awarded a \$500,000 grant to strengthen its ability to provide low-cost, accessible veterinary care. The funding will support essential capital improvements, system upgrades, and operational enhancements, including investments in staffing, equipment, and medical supplies. These improvements will enable the clinic to serve more pets, ensuring they receive the care they so desperately need. By increasing capacity and enhancing quality while keeping services affordable, Pets In Need is better able to meet the increasing need for wellness, illness, and advanced care to our communities most vulnerable pets.

"We know pets are widely viewed as beloved family members, playing a vital role in the health and well-being of those who care for them," said Pam McKie, Executive Director of Pets In Need of Greater Cincinnati. "This generous grant from PetSmart Charities is a transformative investment in our sustainability to ensure that every pet, regardless of their owner's income, has access to high-quality veterinary care." "With these resources, we remain the only dedicated low-cost affordable option for full service, comprehensive veterinary care in Greater Cincinnati. We are grateful to be able to expand our reach, improve our facilities, and continue providing compassionate care to even more pets in need. Together, we're breaking down barriers to ensure pets and their owners enjoy healthier, happier lives and foster stronger, more meaningful bonds—helping both pets and families thrive."

“Our veterinary system remains 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 continue to seek 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 remain inspired by the incredible work Pets In Need is doing to create solutions and are investing more to build strong families and healthy communities.”

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### **About Pets In Need of Greater Cincinnati**

Pets In Need is committed to helping pets stay healthy and together with the people who love them. Its clinic in Lockland provides comprehensive, low-cost veterinary services for pets from homes in which income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The clinic is the only resource of its kind in Greater Cincinnati, serving over 3,000 pets each year. Our compassionate team is committed to supporting both our clients and their pets with kindness and care. To learn more about Pets In Need and the services it provides, please visit [www.PINCincinnati.org](http://www.PINCincinnati.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](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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