



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **WITH A NEW \$40,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES®, THE DONA ANA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY IS HELPING TO KEEP PEOPLE AND PETS TOGETHER**

**October 8, 2018— LAS CRUCES, NM** – The Doña Ana County Humane Society recently received a \$40,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](https://www.petsmartcharities.org), the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, designed to help keep more people and pets together in Las Cruces.

When people are experiencing life changes and challenges such as injury/hospitalization, losing a job, or being on a fixed income, having a pet can add an extra layer of complexity and concern. Pet parents in these situations often feel that they have no other option but to surrender their beloved pets to local animal welfare organizations.

But with the help of this new grant, the Doña Ana County Humane Society is committed to offering solutions that will help pets to stay within their loving homes and families. Through its Animal Relief Fund, the organization is able to offer emergency, quality-of-life and preventive veterinary assistance to low-income families in Doña Ana County. More than 250 pets and their families will benefit from this program this year.

“The Animal Relief Fund is the only program of its type in southern New Mexico,” said DACHS Executive Director Kathy Lawitz. “Our goal is to keep pets healthy and with their families, who would otherwise be forced to euthanize their animals, surrender them to a shelter, or allow them to suffer due to lack of funds. With an intake rate of approximately 30 animals a day at our overcrowded municipal shelter, this program is key to keeping pets from being surrendered for financial reasons. It is central to our goal of ‘Keeping People and Pets Together.’”

“We know that pet parents in need are often faced with the heart-wrenching decision to sacrifice their own resources or surrender their pets in tough times. By lending our support to Doña Ana County Humane Society’s unique initiative, not only will the strain on the local shelter be reduced, but Las Cruces pets and families can remain together despite financial challenges,” said Jenny Aho, regional relationship manager at PetSmart Charities.

Pet retention is just one of PetSmart Charities’ seven grant categories. Funding from PetSmart Charities supports animal welfare organizations and non-profits committed to reducing pet homelessness and enhancing the human-animal bond. For more information, visit [www.PetSmartCharities.org](https://www.PetSmartCharities.org).

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### **About the Doña Ana County Humane Society**

The [Doña Ana County Humane Society](#), founded in 1955, administers programs that help people and pets in areas of unaddressed need. To that end, we offer low-income veterinary assistance, free behavior training for shelter dogs, and discounted adoptions for senior citizens who wish to adopt shelter pets. To learn more, visit [www.dachslc.org](http://www.dachslc.org), or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DonaAnaCountyHumaneSociety/>.

### **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 500,000 shelter pets each year. PetSmart Charities also provides grant funding to nonprofits aligned with its mission under four key areas of support: Preventing Pet Homelessness; Helping Shelter Pets Thrive; Supporting the Bond Between People and Pets and Providing 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 more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, granting almost \$340 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 15 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of charities rated by this organization. To learn more visit [www.petsmartcharities.org](http://www.petsmartcharities.org).

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