



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grant from PetSmart Charities™ of Canada to Increase the Number of Low Cost Spay/Neuter Surgeries Provided by the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA in 2017

Jan. 18, 2017 – Hamilton, ON – Pet parents in Hamilton and Burlington will have some help when they decide to spay or neuter their pet this year. A new \$70,000 grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada is enabling the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA (HBSPCA) to offer a low cost spay and neuter program in 2017.

“Over the last three years we have learned about the significant need for more affordable spay/neuter services for families with pets in neighbourhoods across Hamilton,” says Karen Reichheld, Manager, Animal Care and Adoptions at the HBSPCA.

Through a 2016 grant, PetSmart Charities subsidized 700 cat spay and neuter surgeries at the HBSPCA last year and its new donation will nearly double that, supporting 1,200 procedures in 2017. Staff and volunteers at the HBSPCA say they are overwhelmed at the level of interest among pet owners who want to do the responsible thing, but for many of whom the cost of veterinary care can be out of reach.

“We are delighted this grant will enable us to continue this important work,” says Marion Emo, CEO of the HBSPCA. “The surgeries and care made possible by the support of PetSmart Charities of Canada will help our community to achieve several goals, especially for cats in Hamilton,” Ms. Emo goes on to say. “Spay/neuter surgeries ensure cats are not producing kittens so it is addressing the number one cat issue - overpopulation. All cats are also vaccinated against rabies, a current concern in the city, and they receive a permanent form of identification to ensure they can be returned to their families if they ever get lost.”

“At PetSmart Charities of Canada, we’re committed to ending pet homelessness. One of the best ways we can do that is by granting funds to local animal welfare organizations like the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA to help them provide more accessible, affordable spay/neuter services. We’re honoured to support their efforts to help families in need to spay or neuter their pet,” said David Haworth, DVM, Ph.D., President of PetSmart Charities of Canada.

In 2016, there were more than 4,000 spay/neuter surgeries performed through the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA. These numbers were made possible with the tremendous generosity of legacy gifts, donations, and grants, and at no cost to taxpayers. PetSmart Charities of Canada aims to proactively prevent pet homelessness and assist pets in need by encouraging and facilitating pet adoption and increasing spay and neuter initiatives. With the help of animal welfare partners, including Hamilton/Burlington SPCA, PetSmart Charities has funded more than 40,000 spay and neuter surgeries in Canada since 2009.

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The Hamilton/Burlington SPCA is donor based and animal focused. Our programs protect animals from people, care for animals in our companion animal hospital, foster homes and kennels and promote responsible pet ownership. Approximately 2,000 homeless and neglected animals find their forever homes every year. Charitable

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