



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HBSPCA's *Hip to Snip* Spay/Neuter Program for Cats Expands with the Support of a \$70,000 Grant from PetSmart Charities® of Canada

Hamilton, ON (January 9, 2018) – The Hamilton/Burlington SPCA (HBSPCA) says 2018 promises to be a great year for pet parents seeking to spay or neuter their feline friends. For the third year in a row, the HBSPCA has received a significant grant from leading animal welfare funder, PetSmart Charities of Canada, to subsidize 1,200 spay/neuter surgeries in 2018 through their *Hip to Snip* Spay/Neuter Program. The subsidized procedures are especially for cats in families or homes that otherwise may not be able to afford this vital procedure for their pets.

“This year’s \$70,000 grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada allows our team to reach out to families who want to do the right thing for their owned cat(s), but who may not always have the means to do so,” says Karen Reichheld, manager, animal care and adoptions at the HBSPCA. “The surprise and joy we see every day among pet loving families and caregivers who receive this subsidized surgical procedure for their pets is phenomenal. The community is so incredibly grateful for PetSmart Charities’ support.”

The PetSmart Charities of Canada grant builds on successful outreach in Hamilton and Burlington neighbourhoods where families with pets may have limited access to animal care services and affordable veterinary care. The HBSPCA works in partnership with neighbourhood associations and social services agencies to help identify and reach out to pet parents in need.

“We’re so proud of our ongoing partnership with the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA,” says David Haworth, DVM, Ph.D. and president of PetSmart Charities of Canada. “Over the past two years, grants from PetSmart Charities of Canada have helped the HBSPCA to spay or neuter more than 1,900 pets, and by the end of 2018, that number will reach 3,100. Not only are those pets healthier, happier and protected from illness and unplanned litters, but those surgeries are also helping to mitigate the cat overpopulation issue facing communities in Hamilton and Burlington.”

“We’re making great progress, but cat overpopulation continues to be an issue in Hamilton and its surrounding areas”, reports Marion Emo, CEO of the HBSPCA. “The good news is that a recent report published by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies indicates that attitudes about

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 Registration #: 119236750 RR0001

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cats are shifting, as pet parents of cats are displaying a desire to ensure their pets get proper veterinary care. Spay/neuter rates are on the rise, and we're seeing more cats with permanent identification," says Emo. "The Hip to Snip program funded by PetSmart Charities aligns with this trend by providing affordable, accessible spay/neuter surgeries for pets of people living on or near the poverty line. All cats seen by the HBSPCA also receive a rabies vaccination and FVRCP (respiratory and distemper vaccine), preventative flea and deworming treatment as well as microchip that will ensure they can be reunited with their family should they ever become lost."

PetSmart Charities of Canada aims to proactively prevent homelessness by supporting spay and neuter efforts. With the help of animal welfare partners, such as the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA, PetSmart Charities of Canada has facilitated 54,000 spay and neuter surgeries in Canada since 1999.

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About the HBSPCA

The Hamilton/Burlington SPCA (HBSPCA) is a non-profit registered animal welfare charity. Donors and supporters sustain animal cruelty prevention and protection, animal care in our Companion Animal Hospital, kennels and foster homes, and outreach programs including child and youth programs and pet visiting. About 2,000 pet companions find their forever homes every year. The HBSPCA provided 4,531 spay neuter surgeries in 2017. Discover the miracles that happen every day at www.hbspca.com

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About PetSmart Charities® of Canada:

[PetSmart Charities of Canada](http://www.pet-smart.com/charities) is a registered Canadian charity with a mission to find lifelong, loving homes for all pets by supporting programs and thought leadership that bring people and pets together. In addition to finding homes for more than 25,000 shelter pets each year through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart stores, PetSmart Charities of Canada provides funding to registered charities aligned with its mission through four key areas of grant support: Preventing Pet 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 Registration #: 119236750 RR0001

Homelessness; Helping Shelter Pets Thrive; Supporting the Bond Between People and Pets; and Emergency Relief and Disaster Support. Each year, millions of generous PetSmart shoppers help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities of Canada using the pin pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities efficiently uses 89 cents of every dollar donated and has become a leading funder of animal welfare in Canada, donating nearly \$12 million to date. PetSmart Charities of Canada is a member of Imagine Canada and a registered Canadian charity independent from PetSmart, Inc. To learn more, visit www.petsmartcharities.ca
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