



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hamilton/Burlington SPCA and Zachary's Paws for Healing Partner on Home Again Program to Provide Foster Care for Pets of Patients in Hamilton Area Hospitals.

Program has received a \$12,500 grant from PetSmart Charities® of Canada to help keep people and their beloved pets together, even during hospital stays.

Hamilton, ON (October 5, 2018) – Pets of isolated and elderly persons can be at risk of surrender to an animal shelter when their pet parents require a hospital stay. In fact, ailing pet parents often delay or are reluctant to go to the hospital at all in favour of keeping their furry friends safe and at home. But a new \$12,500 grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada could help. The grant is earmarked to support Home Again—a partnership between the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA (HBSPCA) and Zachary's Paws for Healing (ZPFH) that provides foster care and veterinary care for the pets of hospital patients in the Hamilton-Burlington area.

"Patients and pets are a healing combination," says Donna Jenkins, founder and president of Zachary's Paws for Healing. "When patients have confidence that their pets are safe and well cared for, they are better able focus on their own health and recovery and look forward to reuniting with their pet when they return home. That's what the Home Again program is all about."

The Home Again program is a collaborative effort between fostering volunteers, area hospitals, Royal Canin, ZPFH and the HBSPCA. ZPFH and its network of 24 volunteers provide full-time foster care for pets when pet parents are hospitalized. Pets can be fostered in their own homes, or in one of 20 foster homes depending upon how long the hospital stay may be. For its part, the HBSPCA provides health checks, vaccinations, spay/neuter procedures dental and veterinary care for the fostered pets, thanks to the PetSmart Charities of Canada grant. Area hospitals like Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton have even agreed to allow patients to receive visits from their very own pets during their hospital stay, while Royal Canin donates cat and dog food for the program.

"It is always best to keep pets healthy and safe in the homes where they are already loved and wanted", says Marion Emo, CEO, HBSPCA. "Pet companions brighten the lives of their owners every day, and with the generous support of PetSmart Charities of Canada, and together with Zachary's Paws for Healing, we can ensure that life events like hospitalization do not sever the human-animal bond."

"At PetSmart Charities of Canada, we believe in the healing power of pets and that's why we're so proud to support the Home Again program," said Dani La Giglia, regional relationship manager. "Through the work of the HBSPCA and Zachary's Paws for Healing, Hamiltonians can feel supported in seeking the medical attention they need while their pets are lovingly cared for until they can be happily reunited at home, even healthier than before."

About the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA

The Hamilton/Burlington Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (HBSPCA) is animal focused and donor based. The HBSPCA is committed to thriving animals, thriving pet families and thriving communities. With donor support and community partners, we are making progress keeping people and pets together, helping pet owners be the pet parents they want to be, and helping animals thrive in care on the way to their second chance homes. We invite you to check out the miracles that happen every day at www.hbspca.com Charitable registration # 11923 6750 RR0001

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About Zachary's Paws for Healing

Zachary's Paws for Healing works directly with hospitals and their patients and provides patients with visits with their own companion dogs or cats. Zachary's Paws provides foster care for patients' pets when there is no one to look after them and they certify and provide therapy dogs for hospital visits. To learn more visit www.zacharyspawsforhealing.com

About PetSmart Charities® of Canada

[PetSmart® Charities of Canada](http://www.petSMARTcharities.ca) 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 Canada, PetSmart Charities of Canada helps to find forever homes and families for more than 25,000 shelter pets each year. PetSmart Charities of Canada also provides grant funding to registered Canadian charities 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, more than 500,000 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 of Canada efficiently uses more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as a leading funder of animal welfare in Canada, granting more than \$14 million since its inception in 1999. PetSmart Charities of Canada is a registered Canadian charity, a member of Imagine Canada and is independent from the PetSmart business in Canada. To learn more visit www.petSMARTcharities.ca

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