



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **RUFF HAVEN CRISIS SHELTERING RECEIVES A \$75,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® TO HELP KEEP PETS AND PEOPLE TOGETHER**

**November 18, 2021— Salt Lake City** – Ruff Haven Crisis Sheltering received a \$75,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](#) to help keep more pets in loving homes and out of shelters across the Wasatch Front.

As the face of family changes over the years, what remains constant is the role pets play in our lives. Many people consider pets family members and it can be challenging to find resources when facing life changes and issues such as homelessness, lack of pet-friendly housing, emergency hospitalizations, or fleeing domestic violence in search of a safe haven. Pet parents in these and other at-risk situations often determine they have no options beyond surrendering their beloved pet to a local shelter.

With this grant, Ruff Haven Crisis Sheltering will help preserve the bond between pets and their people by providing emergency crisis sheltering for owned pets. In 2020 Ruff Haven Crisis Sheltering was able to provide shelter for 237 animals with 162 families. In 2021 Ruff Haven has already served 143 families.

“Thank you to Petsmart Charities for supporting pet families and understanding the importance of keeping pets with their people. As a young organization and Utah's first and only organization dedicated to pet retention, this grant will allow us to serve more pets in need of a haven while their families work through their temporary challenges, and continue to support our growth. We are grateful for Petsmart's support and recognition of the work we are doing.” Says Kristina Pulsipher executive director at Ruff Haven Crisis Sheltering.

Since 1994, through its partnership with nearly 4,000 humane societies, SPCAs and pet rescues across North America, PetSmart Charities has helped more than 8.5 million pets to find loving homes via its in-store adoption program in over 1,600 PetSmart® stores. The leading funder of animal welfare has also donated nearly \$400 million to improve access to veterinary care, to positively impact communities, to connect people and pets, and to help preserve families through initiatives like this with Ruff Haven Crisis Sheltering.

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#### **About Ruff Haven Crisis Sheltering**

Our mission is to provide a temporary safe haven for companion animals in order to keep pets and their

people together in times of crisis, increase pet retention, and decrease the number of animals entering the shelter system. We are an all-volunteer-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

**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 600,000 shelter pets each year. 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 \$400 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 16 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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