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MEDIA RELEASE

Petco Love awards \$5,000 grant to Humane Society's veterinary outreach program

KITCHENER, ONTARIO: February brings a lot of love for people and pets this year, as The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (HSKWSP) thanks Petco Love for a \$5,000 grant. The grant is aimed at supporting HSKWSP's veterinary outreach program, which serves Waterloo Region pet owners experiencing homelessness or who are vulnerably housed. The funds have already helped a number of pets receive wellness services, including vaccines, flea and tick prevention, and microchips, along with basic exams and spay and neuter surgeries.

In 2022, over 125 animals received wellness and other veterinary services. In 2023, the medical team is poised to see almost 100 animals within the first three months of the year.

"Petco Love's investment in our outreach program is a huge help considering we are seeing a significant increase in demand in the program," stated Calla James, director of community engagement and outreach, HSKWSP. "This program plays a vital role in keeping people and pets together and supporting relationships that are so incredibly crucial to the mental health and wellness of both the owners and pets involved."

Recent clinics have operated with veterinary staff from HSKWSP, students from the Ontario Veterinary College, as well as community volunteers. Individuals are referred to the program through social workers or partner agencies in the community.

"As a registered charity that receives no level of government funding, grants like this are critical to ensuring that we can offer outreach programming to people and pets who need us the most," stated Kathrin Delutis, chief executive officer, HSKWSP. "We are extremely thankful that Petco Love chose us as a grant recipient."

For more information on the initiatives of The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth, or if you'd like to donate to the veterinary outreach program, please visit kwsphumane.ca.

- 30 -

We are leaders in animal welfare in our communities and committed to promoting the human-animal bond, while focusing on the responsible treatment of animals through education, collaboration, compliance, advocacy and care. Charitable BIN 11898 3550 RR0001

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