



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ATLANTA HUMANE SOCIETY RECEIVES \$100,000 FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® TO FUEL SPAY AND NEUTER EFFORTS IN THE SOUTHEAST

Grant to fund more than 1,300 low-cost spay and neuter surgeries

ATLANTA, GA – January 16, 2018– The Atlanta Humane Society today announced it received \$100,000 from [PetSmart Charities](#), the largest funder of animal welfare in North America, to help fuel its spay and neuter efforts in the Southeast. With the help of this donation, the organization will be able to provide more than 1,300 low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to rural areas across the Southeast as well as in metro Atlanta.

Nationally it is estimated that at least three to four million healthy, adoptable cats and dogs are euthanized each year. Many of these homeless animals are former pets who find themselves at small municipal or rural, overcrowded shelters that are doing their best, but just can't keep up with the numbers. Sadly, millions of animals are euthanized who could have made great family companions. Across Georgia there are still many shelters where even kittens and puppies are routinely euthanized because the community's population isn't large enough to adopt them all into good homes.

To combat this, the Atlanta Humane Society operates low-cost spay and neuter program across the Southeast. This program fights against pet overpopulation in the region by travelling outside of the metro Atlanta area to perform low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to underserved communities. The state-of-the-art mobile Surgical Utility Vehicle (SUV) is designed to provide mobile spay and neuter services for individuals who are unable to access either of the Atlanta Humane Society metro Atlanta area locations.

"The mobile unit exists primarily for those who are unable to make the trek to us in Atlanta and, in my opinion, for those most in need of our service," said Dr. Erin Bell, DVM, Atlanta Humane Society Veterinarian. "So many people are out here who want to be responsible pet owners, but need help. The bottom line is that the mobile unit saves lives. This is the ultimate goal and the reason why I love what I do, despite the hardships. The rewards far outweigh the sacrifices."

To find out more about the Atlanta Humane Society's low-cost spay and neuter services, please visit <http://atlantahumane.org/services/low-cost-spay-neuter>.

PetSmart Charities aims to proactively prevent pet homelessness through increased spay and neuter efforts. With the help of animal welfare partners, such as the Atlanta Humane Society, PetSmart Charities has funded over 1.7 million spay and neuter surgeries in the U.S. since 2009.

###

About the Atlanta Humane Society

The Atlanta Humane Society (AHS) is one of the oldest private charitable organizations in Atlanta, founded in 1873. AHS placed 11,034 animals into forever homes in 2017. It is our mission to improve animal welfare in the southeastern United States by providing quality animal services including preventative initiatives, education, advocacy and adoption of animals into permanent loving homes. We are proud to be a part of the solution to ending pet homelessness and overpopulation in the Southeast United States. For more, visit www.atlantahumane.org.

About PetSmart Charities®

PetSmart Charities, Inc. is a nonprofit animal welfare organization 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 almost 500,000 shelter pets each year through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities provides funding to non-profits aligned with its mission through four key areas of grant support: Preventing Pet 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 using the pin pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities efficiently uses 90 cents of every dollar donated and has become the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, donating about \$300 million to date. PetSmart Charities, a 501(c)(3) organization, has received the Four Star Rating from Charity Navigator, an independent organization that reports on the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of nonprofits, for the past 14 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of charities rated by this organization. To learn more visit www.petsmartcharities.org.

Follow PetSmart Charities on Twitter: [@PetSmartChariTs](https://twitter.com/PetSmartChariTs)

Find PetSmart Charities on Facebook: [Facebook.com/PetSmartCharities](https://www.facebook.com/PetSmartCharities)

See PetSmart Charities on YouTube: [YouTube.com/PetSmartCharitiesInc](https://www.youtube.com/PetSmartCharitiesInc)

Media Contact:

Christina Hill

Director of Marketing and Communications

Atlanta Humane Society

C: 770.312.7589

E: chill@atlantahumane.org

24-Hour PetSmart Charities

Media Line: 623-587-2177