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Petco Foundation Invests in Lifesaving Work of Cape Ann Animal Aid

Grant of \$30,000 will extend efforts to save more animal lives

Gloucester, Massachusetts (June 12, 2019) – Cape Ann Animal Aid of Gloucester has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Petco Foundation to support its pre-adoption veterinary care program.

The Petco Foundation's investment will secure essential equipment and supplies needed to expand the organizations current in-shelter veterinary practices for sheltered animals to include minor medical procedures and cat neuter surgeries.

Cape Ann Animal Aid has remained dedicated to curbing pet overpopulation issues over the years, making it a priority to spay and neuter animals prior to their adoption rather than relying on post-adoption voucher systems. In addition, the organization secures specialized vet care for animals needing more than routine care in preparation for adoption. For nearly twenty years, these surgeries and other procedures have been done in partnership with local veterinary clinics, most prominently with Cape Ann Veterinary Hospital and North Shore Veterinary Hospital, both of Gloucester.

“We are so grateful for the relationship we have with these local vets. They've provided excellent services, and at a generous discount, for our shelter animals. But, our adoption numbers are growing and we're running into delays due to space and scheduling issues. The next logical step is to begin performing many of these procedures in-house,” said Sunniva Buck, Executive Director.

Adopters travel from all over New England to adopt dogs or cats from Cape Ann Animal Aid and the organization has a strong presence in the local community, hosting school groups and leaning on a legion of nearly 200 volunteers each month. While local rescues are their priority, many of the animals are rescued and transported to the organization from areas battling high-euthanasia and neglect rates such as Texas, Georgia, and Puerto Rico.

The organization has seen impressive growth over the years. In 2010, they placed 769 animals into loving homes. That number has nearly doubled, with 1,535 animals saved and placed into loving homes in 2018. In 2012, the organization moved into a newly constructed shelter in West Gloucester and interest in animal adoption continues to increase.

“Adoption is becoming more and more popular in our area and we want to be able to keep up with that momentum so we can save more animals and make more adoption connections,” said Buck. “The investment from the Petco Foundation will help to move animals from the arrival to available stage more quickly. We’ll be able to take in more animals and save more lives as a direct result.”

In the future, the organization aims to move a majority of veterinary care for sheltered animals to an internal clinic under the leadership of the shelter’s Director of Shelter Medicine, Dr. Alex Becket.

“Thanks to the Petco Foundation’s investment, the first step of that dream is becoming a reality,” said Buck. “Cape Ann Animal Aid estimates that cat neuters will begin happening in the shelter later this year. It’s the start of a very exciting time for our shelter and the animals we care for.”

Representatives from the Petco Foundation will present Cape Ann Animal Aid with the grant check at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 23 at the Petco located at Gloucester Crossing in Gloucester MA (341 Gloucester Crossing Rd., Gloucester, MA). Members of the community are invited to attend.

For more information about Cape Ann Animal Aid, visit www.capeannanimalaid.org. For more on the Petco Foundation, visit www.petcofoundation.org and join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) by using the hashtag #PetcoFamily.

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About Cape Ann Animal Aid

Cape Ann Animal Aid is a non-profit, no kill organization dedicated to facilitating appropriate placement of adoptable animals and enhancing the lives of all companion animals by promoting respect and well-being through education and outreach.

About the Petco Foundation

At the Petco Foundation, we believe that every animal deserves to live its best life. Since 1999, we’ve invested more than \$250 million in lifesaving animal welfare work to make that happen. With our more than 4,000 animal welfare partners, we inspire and empower communities to make a difference by investing in adoption and medical care programs, spay and neuter services, pet cancer research, service and therapy animals, and numerous other lifesaving initiatives. Through our Think Adoption First program, we partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we’ve helped more than six million pets find their new loving families, and we’re just getting started. Visit petcofoundation.org to learn more about how you can get involved.