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For Immediate Release



## NOVA SCOTIA SPCA RECEIVES PETSMART CHARITIES® OF CANADA GRANT TO LAUNCH NEW PROGRAM

**Dartmouth, Nova Scotia** – The Nova Scotia SPCA is elated to announce a new pilot program in Halifax Regional Municipality, Paws & Support, after being awarded a \$25,000 grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada. Paws & Support will be a free program at the Nova Scotia SPCA for dogs, cats and critters while their owners have exhausted other options and are seeking short-term in-hospital treatment or transitioning out of domestic violence relationships.

While in the care of the Nova Scotia SPCA, owned pets will receive resources and access to veterinary care thanks to funding from PetSmart Charities of Canada. Owned pets will live with trained temporary foster families. Once participating pet owners are in a healthy, safe space, they will be reunited with their pet. To provide extra support, the Nova Scotia SPCA will also provide families with pet supplies and necessities from their Nova Scotia SPCA Thrift Stores. Space in the program is limited and it will launch in the upcoming weeks.

“Without a close family member or trusted friend to look after their pet, some owners may be reluctant to leave or seek treatment,” says Elizabeth Murphy, Nova Scotia SPCA CEO. “Because of Paws & Support, pet owners can feel confident their pet is well cared for while they focus on their own wellbeing. This will help pets, support families and strengthen communities.”

“We’re proud of our ongoing partnership with the Nova Scotia SPCA and are thrilled to support them with this pilot program,” said Dani LaGiglia, regional relationship manager, PetSmart Charities of Canada. “We are pleased to support programs that help families going through a transitional period and that provide them with the peace of mind that their pet is being cared for until they can be reunited.”

The Nova Scotia SPCA is looking for 30 new foster families to help with Paws & Support for both dogs and cats. Fosters will receive full support from the Nova Scotia SPCA during the pet’s stay but will be required to adhere to strict confidentiality. All animal costs such as veterinary care, food, bedding and toys will be provided. Interested foster families are asked to complete the Nova Scotia SPCA Paws & Support foster application attached [here](#).

Proudly no-kill, the Nova Scotia SPCA operates on a policy of zero tolerance for animal cruelty. Their shelters provide medical care, rehabilitation, spay and neuter services and re-homing opportunities for thousands of animals in Nova Scotia every year.

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### **About PetSmart Charities® of Canada**

PetSmart® Charities of Canada 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 30,000 shelter pets each year. PetSmart Charities of Canada also provides grant funding to registered Canadian charities aligned with its mission. 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 \$19 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](http://www.petsmartcharities.ca)

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