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For Immediate Release

Helping Cape Bretoners, One Paw at a Time *PetSmart Charities of Canada™ Helps to Open Veterinary Hospital*

Sydney, Nova Scotia – The Nova Scotia SPCA plans to help more pet owners in Cape Breton who cannot receive timely wellness appointments, due in part to the veterinary shortage all Canadians are facing.

With help from PetSmart Charities of Canada™ the Nova Scotia SPCA Veterinary Hospital in Sydney opened to all pet owners in the summer of 2022. The reception was overwhelming, and now the SPCA is looking to add more exam rooms, which will increase the number of pets that can be served in a day.

“Pet owners want the best for their animals, and that includes timely appointments for prevention and wellness. With the veterinary medical shortages we are seeing, it is hard to get appointments. I am happy to be part of the Nova Scotia SPCA Cape Breton Hospital team that saw that the community needed help in this area and is actively working to meet the demand,” said Dr. Melanie Gunson, Veterinarian, Nova Scotia SPCA Cape Breton Hospital.

“Preventative care for pets is key to helping them live long, healthy lives with their families,” said Kate Atema, Director of Community Grants & Initiatives at PetSmart Charities of Canada. “Too often, pets suffer when minor health issues escalate, making it difficult for some pet parents to afford additional treatment. By supporting the Nova Scotia SPCA, we’re committed to helping expand veterinary care services for those in need across the Cape Breton community.”

The hospital is not full-service and cannot treat sick or injured animals but specializes in offering preventative care to protect pets. Pet owners can book vaccines, spays/neuters, or

treatments for fleas or ticks by emailing hospital@spcans.ca or calling 902-241-2240. Profits from the hospital are re-invested to help with animal care.

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About the Nova Scotia SPCA

Proudly following no-kill principles, the Nova Scotia SPCA is a registered charity that helps companion animals in need. Every year, approximately 15,000 pets are helped through animal rescue, progressive programs, and rehoming opportunities. They do not receive any government funding for their shelters, so the SPCA relies on community support to help care for local pets in need. To learn more visit www.novascotiaspca.ca.

About PetSmart Charities of Canada™

[PetSmart Charities of Canada](http://www.PetSmartCharities.ca) is committed to making the world a better place for pets and all who love them. Through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart® stores across the country, PetSmart Charities of Canada helps thousands of pets connect with loving families each year. PetSmart Charities of Canada also provides grant funding to support organizations that advocate and care for the well-being of all pets and their families. Our grants and efforts connect pets with loving homes through adoption, improve access to affordable veterinary care and support families in times of crisis with access to food, shelter, and emergency relief. Each year, thousands of generous supporters help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities of Canada directly at PetSmartCharities.ca, while shopping at PetSmart.ca, and by 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 the leading funder of animal welfare in Canada, granting more than \$25 million since its inception in 1999. Independent from PetSmart LLC, PetSmart Charities of Canada is a registered Canadian charity. To learn more visit www.PetSmartCharities.ca.

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