



For Immediate Release

**PAWS OF JACKSON HOLE RECEIVES \$40,000 FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® TO FUEL SPAY AND NEUTER EFFORTS  
ACROSS THREE LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**JACKSON, WY – February 6, 2018** – [PAWS of Jackson Hole](#) has received a donation from [PetSmart Charities](#), the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, to help fuel spay and neuter efforts in Teton County, WY, Star Valley, WY and Teton Valley, ID. With the help of this donation, PAWS of JH will significantly increase its spay and neuter voucher program that serves three local communities and engages 12 veterinarian offices.

PAWS of JH began a spay/neuter voucher program in 2008 in Jackson, Wyoming. Since then, the number of unwanted pets in Jackson/Teton County Animal Shelter has been reduced by 40%. PAWS expanded the spay and neuter voucher program to Star Valley, WY and Teton Valley, ID in 2011. The staggering number of feral cats and the rural nature our mountain towns show the need for further expansion in all communities to see greater spay/neuter success rates. PAWS of JH will use the grant to engage with partners to increase outreach, as well as focus on trapping, neutering and returning (TNR) populations of feral cats. It is our goal to see a marked reduction in the number of animals at the shelters in Teton Valley, ID and Star Valley, WY, with the help of this grant.

Amy Romaine, Executive Director of PAWS of Jackson Hole, noted that the program’s success to date is largely due to partnerships across three communities. “We work with veterinarians across county and state lines, and partner with dedicated volunteers, shelters and our local rescue organization to provide free or low-cost spay and neuter services for pets. Reduction in the number of homeless animals is directly related to accessible spay and neuter programs. We are grateful to PetSmart Charities for this investment in our program.”

“PAWS of Jackson Hole has not only demonstrated an understanding of the needs of local pets but also how best to effectively address those needs,” said Jenny Aho, regional relationship manager at PetSmart Charities. “Having identified a need for affordable spay and neuter procedures is a great step in proactively reducing pet homelessness in the area.”

PAWS of JH advertises its spay and neuter voucher program on their website at <http://pawsofjh.org/programs/spay-neuter/> as well as through brochures that are placed at veterinary clinics within a three county area. Once a person submits an application, PAWS staff will call and confirm the voucher, and then pay the veterinarian directly.

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

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**About PAWS of Jackson Hole**

PAWS of Jackson Hole helps pets and their people through nine community programs that prevent pet overpopulation, homelessness and suffering, and promote adoption, healthy pets, and pet-friendly communities.

**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](http://www.petsmartcharities.org).

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