



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Petco Love Lifesaving Investment Helps Woods Humane Society Find Homes for 2,793 Pets in SLO County during Fiscal Year 22-23

San Luis Obispo, CA (July 24, 2023) – In spite of rising costs of animal care, Woods Humane Society announces that it was able to rescue, shelter and find loving homes for nearly 2,800 dogs and cats in San Luis Obispo County during fiscal year 2022-2023, thanks in part to the timely support of a \$15,000 lifesaving investment from Petco Love.

Petco Love's investment in April 2023 enabled Woods to accept and provide Adoption Veterinary Care for 42 more animals during the final months of the fiscal year, which closed on June 30, 2023.

Among those helped was Gracie, a young spaniel-mix transferred from a shelter partner in Fresno, who came to Woods with her eight newborn puppies. The litter and mother received foster and medical support for several weeks in addition to spay or neuter surgeries, health exams, vaccinations, microchips, and any other needed treatments, which enabled the organization to rapidly place the animals into wonderful homes in the local

community once the puppies were old enough.

Woods says that rising costs of supplies and equipment in recent months made the average cost of this routine Adoption Veterinary Care rise to \$349.62 per animal in fiscal year 22-23, with even higher costs predicted for the current 23-24 fiscal year.

"We are so grateful for the generous support and partnership of Petco Love. In fiscal year 2022-2023, when we saw a dramatic increase in puppies, local surrender requests, and transport needs from over-crowded local and regional partner shelters, we were able to transfer 1,200 animals, accept 1,677 surrenders, and



place 2,793 dogs and cats into loving homes," said Emily L'Heureux, CEO of Woods Humane Society. "Without the generous support of grants like these, we would not be able to do this life-saving work."

**Petco Love** is a national nonprofit leading change for pets by harnessing the power of love to make communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since its founding in 1999, Petco Love has invested \$350 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. And Petco Love helps find loving homes

for pets in partnership with Petco and more than 4,000 organizations — like Woods — across North America, with 6.7 million pets adopted and counting.

"Our investment in Woods Humane Society is part of more than \$15M in investments recently announced by Petco Love to power local organizations across the country as part of our commitment to create a future in which no pet is unnecessarily euthanized," said Susanne Kogut, president of Petco Love. "Our local investments are only part of our strategy to empower animal lovers to drive lifesaving change right alongside us. We recently launched <a href="Petco Love Lost">Petco Love Lost</a>, a national lost and found database that uses patented image-recognition technology to simplify the search for lost pets."

Woods Humane Society, a nonprofit dog and cat adoption center serving the San Luis Obispo County community, is supported solely by donations, grants, bequests, fundraising events, and fees for services. Working closely with partner shelters across the state, and with individuals who are no longer able to care for their pets, the nonprofit provides shelter, veterinary care, and adoption services for more than 3,000 cats and dogs each year at its facilities in San Luis Obispo and Atascadero. As part of its commitment to managing pet populations, its medical team performs 5,000 spay/neuter surgeries each year.

For more information about Woods Humane Society, visit <u>WoodsHumane.org</u>. Learn more about Petco Love here: <u>petcolove.org</u>.

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## **About Woods Humane Society**

Founded in 1955, Woods Humane Society is a privately funded, non-profit, animal sheltering and welfare organization that annually places up to 3,000 dogs and cats into loving homes. All animals are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped prior to being placed for adoption. Visit woodshumane.org to view available animals, donate, or learn more.

Contact Woods Humane Society SLO, located at 875 Oklahoma Avenue in San Luis Obispo, at (805) 543-9316, or Woods Humane Society North County, located at 2300 Ramona Road in Atascadero, at (805) 466-5403.

## **About Petco Love**

Petco Love is a life-changing nonprofit organization that makes communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since our founding in 1999 as the Petco Foundation, we've empowered animal welfare organizations by investing \$350 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. We've helped find loving homes for more than 6.7 million pets in partnership with Petco and organizations nationwide.

Our love for pets drives us to lead with innovation, creating tools animal lovers need to reunite lost pets, and lead with passion, inspiring and mobilizing communities and our more than 4,000 animal welfare partners to drive lifesaving change alongside us. Join us. Visit <u>petcolove.org</u> or follow on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u> to be part of the lifesaving work we lead every day.