



SFC Virginia Animal Rescue Receives \$40,000 Grant from PetSmart Charities® to Prepare More Pets for Adoption During National Adoption Week

Fredericksburg, VA – March 19, 2026 – Thanks to a \$40,000 Adoption Prep grant from PetSmart Charities®, SFC Virginia Animal Rescue will help more pets in the Fredericksburg region get healthy, adoption-ready, and into loving homes. The grant will support National Adoption Week events at local PetSmart stores taking place March 23–29, 2026.

Each year, millions of pets enter shelters across the United States, placing significant strain on local animal welfare organizations. SFC Virginia Animal Rescue works closely with rural and underserved shelters across Virginia, which continue to face overcrowding and limited resources. Through its foster-based model and strong in-store adoption partnerships, SFC Virginia has helped place over 10,000 animals into homes since 2019 and continues to expand its impact each year.

Funding from PetSmart Charities will support SFC Virginia’s adoption events and preparation efforts, including staffing, volunteer training, and essential supplies that help pets successfully transition into adoptive homes. These efforts ensure that more pets are not only available for adoption, but are well-prepared for life with their new families.

“Support from PetSmart Charities allows us to expand our adoption events, strengthen our volunteer program, and ultimately place more animals into loving homes,” said Ryan Barker, Executive Director of SFC Virginia Animal Rescue. “As a foster-based rescue, our PetSmart events are critical to connecting our animals with adopters, and this funding helps us increase both our reach and our impact in the community.”

“Our animal welfare partners in local communities are determined to keep pace with the need, and deserve support,” said Aimee Gilbreath, president of PetSmart Charities. “We’re proud to work alongside SFC Virginia Animal Rescue and appreciate the critical steps they take to advocate for the animals that come through their doors in need of love, safety, care and nutrition. Please consider supporting their lifesaving work through volunteering, fostering, adopting, or by donating.”

PetSmart Charities National Adoption Week is a special time when local PetSmart stores host adoptable pets and connect them with families. Staff and volunteers will be available to introduce pets, answer questions, and help adopters get started with the products and services they need for a successful transition.

WHEN/WHERE:

Adoptable pets will be available at the following times and PetSmart locations:

PetSmart Stafford Marketplace
1160 Stafford Marketplace, Stafford, VA

- Tuesday, March 24: 3–5 PM
- Thursday, March 26: 3–5 PM
- Saturday, March 28: 12–4 PM

PetSmart Central Park
1421 Carl D Silver Pkwy, Fredericksburg, VA

- Wednesday, March 25: 4–6 PM
- Friday, March 27: 4–6 PM
- Sunday, March 29: 1–4 PM

For more information about adoptable pets, fostering, or volunteering, visit www.sfcva.org or follow SFC Virginia Animal Rescue (@squishyfacecrewva) on social media.

About SFC Virginia Animal Rescue

SFC Virginia Animal Rescue is a foster-based rescue headquartered in Spotsylvania, VA, dedicated to saving dogs and cats from rural and underserved shelters across the Commonwealth. Since its founding in 2019, SFC Virginia has rescued over 11,500 animals and placed more than 10,700 into adoptive homes. The organization provides quality medical care, foster-based rehabilitation, and adoption placement while working to strengthen Virginia’s animal welfare system and support continued high lifesaving rates statewide.

About PetSmart Charities®

PetSmart Charities 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 U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities has helped more than 11 million pets find loving homes. PetSmart Charities also provides grant funding to local animal welfare organizations that advocate and care for the well-being of all pets and their families. This critical support fuels adoption, access to veterinary care, pet hunger and disaster response programs that make a meaningful impact in local communities. Each year, millions of generous supporters help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities directly at PetSmartCharities.org, while shopping at PetSmart.com, and by using the PIN pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart® stores.

PetSmart Charities efficiently uses more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its mission, granting more than \$600 million since 1994. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, PetSmart Charities has received a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator consecutively since 2003.

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