

### **Petco Love Grant Narrative**

The Broward County Animal Care Division (ACD) is grateful to have the opportunity to apply for the "Lifesaving Impact" grant offered by Petco Love. We are dedicated to improving the lives of animals in our community and providing them with the love, care, and support they need to thrive. This grant will play a pivotal role in enabling us to expand our efforts and significantly reduce the number of animals entering our shelter while increasing overall life-saving measures in our community.

Pet ownership brings immeasurable joy and companionship, but it also comes with financial responsibilities that can often become a significant strain for many pet owners. The costs of pet food, vaccinations, microchipping, veterinary care, and training can quickly add up, especially for those with limited financial resources. Additionally, pet deposits required by landlords can pose a major obstacle for families seeking pet-friendly housing. This financial burden often leads to difficult decisions, and some pet owners may feel compelled to surrender their beloved companions to shelters as a last resort. The "Lifesaving Impact" grant provided by Petco Love will play a pivotal role in alleviating this financial strain. By offering free pet food, vaccinations, microchipping, behavior training, and assistance with pet deposits, the grant will enable pet owners in our community to provide the best care for their pets without the worry of the financial obstacles that exist for most.

- By providing pet food, we aim to alleviate the financial burden felt by Pet Owners and help them keep their beloved pets at home where they belong. We plan to partner with Meals on Wheels to deliver pet food to customers they are already tending to.
- To increase pet retention and reduce the number of strays, we will offer free microchipping and vaccinations for pets in our community. Microchipping will ensure lost pets can be reunited with their families quickly, while vaccinations will protect animals from preventable diseases and reduce the strain on our shelter's resources. We will host Free microchip days at our in-house clinic and offer free popup clinics with microchips and vaccinations in low-income or underserved areas. Last month, we held a free microchip event in which 96 microchips were given away.
- We believe that proper training is crucial in preventing behavioral issues that often lead to pet relinquishment. With the grant's support, we will organize free behavior training sessions for pet owners, focusing on positive reinforcement techniques and addressing common behavioral challenges. We will partner with GoodPup to offer scholarships and behavioral training resources which will be made available upon adoption.
- Through our dedicated outreach team, we will actively engage with local neighborhoods to promote responsible pet ownership, adoption awareness, and the services we offer. By reaching out directly to residents, we hope to encourage adoption and dispel misconceptions about shelter animals.

- We plan to organize regular adoption events at offsite venues, showcasing the lovable pets in our care. In addition, we will provide adoption assistance to potential pet owners, guiding them through the process and ensuring they find the perfect companion for their lifestyle.
- Moving into pet-friendly housing can be challenging for many families due to expensive pet deposits. With this grant, we will establish a program geared towards assisting new large dog adopters, while also incentivizing housing providers in our community.

**Impact:**

This comprehensive support will not only strengthen the bond between pets and their owners but also significantly reduce the number of animals entering shelters due to financial hardships. Ultimately, the grant will make a profoundly positive impact by keeping families together, reducing surrender rates, and fostering a more compassionate and responsible pet-loving community.

**Conclusion:**

We firmly believe that this grant from Petco Love will enable us to make a remarkable difference in the lives of animals and pet owners in our community. By focusing on prevention, community engagement, and support, we are confident that we can increase animal lifesaving and build a more compassionate and responsible community for pets.

Thank you for considering our grant application. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the noble cause that Petco Love stands for. Together, we can create a positive and lasting impact on the lives of animals and the people who love them.

**Recognition**

Upon receipt of the requested grant funds, ACD will issue a press release regarding the funding received from Petco Love and how the grant will be used. The information also will be posted on our Facebook page as well as the ACD and Broward County websites.