



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Emily Swecker, Director of Development and Communications, Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA

eswecker@caspca.org

Jennifer Perez, Petco Love

media@petcolove.org

Petco Love and the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA Aim to Stop the Spread of Deadly Preventable Diseases Through Free Pet Vaccination Event

As Part of Petco Love's Initiative to Provide 1 Million Free Pet Vaccines, the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA Will Host a Vaccine Event on April 20 in the Southwood Community of Charlottesville

Charlottesville, VA (April 18, 2023) – The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA will provide free vaccinations for Southwood Community area pets on Thursday, April 20. The free vaccines are made possible through Petco Love's new national vaccination initiative, which is providing 1 million free pet vaccines to its existing animal welfare partners, including the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA for family pets in need.

Parvovirus and distemper in dogs, and panleukopenia in cats, are some of the most prevalent deadly diseases impacting pets that are preventable with a simple vaccine. An estimated 30% of pet parents do not take their pet to a veterinarian annually for preventative care. To address this critical need, the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA and Petco Love are partnering to make pet vaccines free and accessible in an effort to ensure the health and wellness of our beloved pets.

The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA aims to vaccinate 100 pets through this effort. The SPCA's Compassionate Care Vaccination Clinic will be held at Southwood Community Center (387 Hickory St, Charlottesville, VA 22902) from 11 am to 3 pm on Thursday, April 20. It will be first-come, first-served with limited availability. Clients must show proof of public assistance to qualify for care. Examples of public assistance include, but are not limited to, EBT card, proof of disability, Medicaid, SNAP, unemployment, or WIC. Vaccines distributed through the Petco Love initiative will be the DAPPv Canine and HCP Feline vaccines. Microchipping, rabies vaccinations and bordetella vaccinations will also be available at low cost.

"We're grateful to Petco Love for the opportunity to make these important vaccines accessible to

those in our community,” said Emily Swecker, Director of Development and Communications at the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA. “We urge community members to take advantage of this no-cost resource to ensure the health and wellness of our community’s pets.”

“It is heartbreaking when any pet suffers or dies from a disease that could have been prevented. It is further exacerbated when unvaccinated pets come into busy shelter kennels, where these deadly diseases can spread quickly, resulting in multiple deaths, skyrocketing expenses, and hindering saving pet lives,” said Susanne Kogut, Petco Love President. “By creating greater awareness and making this crucial preventative care more accessible to pets not currently receiving these lifesaving vaccines, we can prevent the dangerous spread of disease.”

For more information about vaccine distribution, contact the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA at clinic@caszca.org. To learn more about Petco Love’s lifesaving impact, visit [PetcoLove.org](https://petcolove.org).

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About the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA

The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is proud to have maintained the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County as a No Kill community, providing lifesaving care to thousands of animals in the region. The mission of the SPCA is to advance the compassionate treatment of animals by providing sheltering, medical care and behavioral services for dogs and cats; promoting permanent, caring homes; and furthering education and outreach to place healthy animals in caring homes

About Petco Love

Petco Love is a nonprofit changing lives by making 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 \$300 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. We’ve helped find loving homes for more than 6.5 million pets in partnership with Petco and organizations nationwide. Today, 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. Is love calling you? Visit petcolove.org or follow at [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/petcolove), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/petcolove), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/petcolove) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/petcolove) to be part of the lifesaving work we’re leading every day.