



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **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 Vaccinated and Loved Initiative to Provide One Million Additional Free Pet Vaccines, the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA Will Host Vaccine Event on March 9 in the Southwood Community of Charlottesville*

**Charlottesville, VA (March 7, 2024)** – The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA will provide free vaccinations for Southwood Community area pets on Saturday, March 9. The free vaccines are made possible through Petco Love's national vaccination initiative *Vaccinated and Loved*, which is providing one million more free pet vaccines to existing animal welfare partners, including the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA, for family pets in need.

Parvovirus and distemper in dogs and panleukopenia in cats — the most prevalent deadly diseases affecting pets — 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 ensure the health and wellness of our beloved pets and to address this critical need, the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA and Petco Love have partnered to make pet vaccines free and accessible.

Through this national effort, the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA aims to vaccinate 100 pets. 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 Saturday, March 9. 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, SNAO, 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.

"Thanks to Petco Love, we can offer these important vaccine events at no cost to pet owners," said Jasmyn Davila, Clinic Operations Manager 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.”

In November 2023, Petco Love’s *Vaccinated and Loved* initiative reached its goal of distributing [2 million free pet vaccines](#) for family pets and commits an additional 1 million vaccines to make pet families healthier.

For more information about vaccine distribution, contact the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA at [clinic@caspca.org](mailto:clinic@caspca.org). Learn more about Petco Love’s lifesaving impact at [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 life-saving communities for 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 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 \$375 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. We’ve helped find loving homes for more than 6.75 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. Is love calling you? Join us.

Visit [PetcoLove.org](https://PetcoLove.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [Threads](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to be part of the lifesaving work we lead every day.