



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Petco Foundation Invests in Lifesaving Work of Memphis Animal Services

Grant of \$60,000 will extend efforts to save more animal lives in Memphis



L to R: Petco Store Leader, Jim Tomassi, and Memphis Animal Services Director, Alexis Pugh.

Memphis, Tenn. (Oct. 10, 2018) – Memphis Animal Services announced it has been awarded a \$60,000 grant from the Petco Foundation to support its efforts to find homes for heartworm-positive dogs.

Memphis Animal Services (MAS) is the only open-admission shelter in the city of Memphis and unincorporated Shelby County. MAS has maintained an 88 percent save rate over the past year, compared to 10 years ago when only 19 percent of the animals were saved. MAS has implemented a number of programming aimed at life-saving over the past two years under director Alexis Pugh,

and they have avoided euthanizing for space in the categories of cats, small dogs, and puppies for more than a year. The one category where they consistently struggle is large adult dogs.

The Petco Foundation investment will help to target some of the most vulnerable dogs in that at-risk category of large adult dogs: heartworm-positive dogs. Approximately half of the adult dogs at MAS test positive for heartworms, which is extremely expensive and often cost-prohibitive for a public adopter to treat. MAS will use the Petco Foundation’s investment to include heartworm treatment in the adoption fee, and the shelter believes this program will help save more heartworm-positive dogs.

“We are so proud and grateful that the Petco Foundation has considered us worthy of their investment and trust,” said Alexis Pugh, Memphis Animal Services Director. “We thank this generous organization for allowing us to direct their grant wherever we think it’s most needed, which in this case is toward saving heartworm-positive dogs.”

For more information about Memphis Animal Services, visit www.memphisanimalservices.com. For more on the Petco Foundation, visit www.petcofoundation.org or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by using the hashtag #PetcoFamily.

###

About Memphis Animal Services

Memphis Animal Services offers a wide range of services including the sheltering of lost and homeless animals, pet adoption and placement, spay/neuter programs, handling of animal control complaints & bite cases, dog licensing, cruelty investigations, humane education, and more. For more information, visit www.memphisanimalservices.com, call 901-636-1416, or visit the facility at 2350 Appling City Cove.

About the Petco Foundation

At the Petco Foundation, we believe that every animal deserves to live its best life. Since 1999, we've invested more than \$200 million in lifesaving animal welfare work to make that happen. With our more than 4,000 animal welfare partners, we inspire and empower communities to make a difference by investing in adoption and medical care programs, spay and neuter services, pet cancer research, service and therapy animals, and numerous other lifesaving initiatives. Through our Think Adoption First program, we partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we've helped more than 5.5 million pets find their new loving families, and we're just getting started. Visit petcofoundation.org to learn more about how you can get involved.