



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ANOVA RECEIVES \$22,000 GRANT FROM PETSMA® CHARITIES OF CANADA TO HELP LAUNCH PET FRIENDLY SHELTER IN LONDON, ONTARIO

London, ON (November 25, 2019) – Anova has received a \$22,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities of Canada](#), to help keep more women-identified people experiencing gender based violence and their pets safer in London.

As the face of family changes over the years, what remains constant is the role pets play in our lives. Many people consider their pets family members and it can be challenging to find resources when facing life changes and issues such as homelessness or fleeing gender based violence in search of a safe-haven. Pet parents in these and other at-risk situations often determine they have no options beyond surrendering their beloved pet to a local shelter or staying in an unsafe home.

With this grant, Anova will help preserve the bond between pets and their people by offering spaces in their Clarke Road shelter for women-identified people to access shelter space while keeping their pets with them during their stay. Anova hopes to support close to 100 families through shelter stays and a fostering program over the next year.

“What we know to be true is that women with pets can find themselves staying longer in violent situations because they fear for their pets and what will happen if they leave without them. This is an unacceptable barrier to keeping survivors of gender based violence safe and Anova, in partnership with PetSmart Charities of Canada, PAWS, and the East Village Animal Hospital is committed to breaking down those barriers,” said Jessie Rodger, Executive Director of Anova.

“The human-animal bond is important and it is critical that services like Anova’s be available to offer assistance to all members of the family,” said Dani LaGiglia, regional relationship manager, PetSmart Charities of Canada. “At PetSmart Charities of Canada, we’re proud to support organizations that keep people and their pets together as they escape abuse and find safety.”

Since 1999, through its partnership with more than 220 humane societies, SPCAs and pet rescues across Canada, PetSmart Charities of Canada has helped more than 300,000 pets to find loving homes via its in-store adoption program in over 140 PetSmart[®] stores. The leading funder of animal welfare has also donated more than \$19 million to improve access to veterinary care, to positively impact communities, to connect people and pets and to help preserve families through initiatives like this with Anova.

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About Anova

Anova provides services to London-Middlesex to address gender based violence, including counselling, crisis support, shelter and education and advocacy. Our vision is an inclusive world of shared power where everyone lives freely without fear of violence.

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About PetSmart Charities® of Canada

[PetSmart® Charities of Canada](#) is committed to finding lifelong, loving homes for all pets by supporting programs and thought leadership that bring people and pets together. Each year, more than 500,000 generous PetSmart shoppers help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities of Canada using the PIN pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities of Canada efficiently uses more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as a leading funder of animal welfare in Canada, granting more than \$19 million since its inception in 1999. PetSmart Charities of Canada is a registered Canadian charity, a member of Imagine Canada and is independent from the PetSmart business in Canada. To learn more visit [www.petsmartcharities.ca](#)

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