



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Petco Foundation Invests in Lifesaving Work of Bark Avenue Foundation Grant of \$5000.00 will extend efforts to reduce shelter intake in Los Angeles County

Los Angeles, CA (July 2, 2020) – Bark Avenue Foundation announced it has been awarded a \$5000.00 grant investment from the Petco Foundation to help reduce the number of pets entering shelters through Intake Diversion, Spay and Neuter & Community Cat Organizations to create a lifesaving community for animals.

The Petco Foundation investment will be utilized to continue the Unsheltered People and Pet program servicing people with pets experiencing homelessness that are receiving social service assistance through LAFH and PATH and giving much needed pet food, supplies as well as providing spay/neuter, emergency lifesaving veterinary procedures, ESA assessment, etc. The hope would be to continue monthly onsite Pet Wellness clinics as well as the ongoing spay and neuter efforts, which since 2013 and has provided sterilization to over 6,000 animals in need.

“This grant is vital to continue our prevention efforts of reducing the number of pets entering LA shelters. By providing goods, services, resources, and referrals in underserved communities and where there are extremely limited affordable resources, we can help keep people and their pets safely and healthily together. Thanks to the Petco Foundation’s generous financial support, the most vulnerable population where the human animal connection is often crucial to existence can remain intact. Where pets in many cases are a person’s only companion, offering unconditional love, a reason to get up and go on, stay well, walk, etc. The un-housed often feed their pet first and care more about the pet’s wellbeing than their own. By helping these people and pets stay together, and providing spay/neuter, it not only reduces the number of pets living and being born on the streets and entering the animal shelter system, it also helps their people get housed and off the streets.” said Christy Schilling, Bark Avenue Foundation’s Executive Director.

Bark Avenue Foundation is a nonprofit organization that’s purpose is to help keep pets with their loving families and prevent animals from entering shelters. Serving Los Angeles County since 2005, Bark Avenue Foundation has successfully provided lifesaving spay and neuter services and vaccinations to thousands of dogs and cats from LA County’s Downey Animal Care Center service area, with a corresponding reduction in animal intake to the shelter from the serviced zip codes.

For more information about Bark Avenue Foundation, visit www.barkavenuefoundation.org. For more on the Petco Foundation, visit petcofoundation.org and join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) by using the hashtag #PetcoFamily.

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About Bark Avenue Foundation

Bark Avenue Foundation (BAF) is a Los Angeles nonprofit organization dedicated to animal welfare, helping people with pets in the communities that need it most and promoting compassion for all. BAF supports the human animal bond and addresses the pet overpopulation crisis through spay and neuter, community engagement and partnerships and provides free/low cost affordable resources, referrals, goods, supplies and services (such as veterinary care) to pet parents in underserved communities who are low income, at risk and/or experiencing homelessness to keep them safely together. For more information, please visit us at www.barkavenuefoundation.org.

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 \$280 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 6.5 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.