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MERCY CRUSADE SPAY & NEUTER AND WELLNESS CLINIC RECEIVES \$48,160 FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® TO BOOST SPAY AND NEUTER EFFORTS IN OXNARD, VENTURA COUNTY

*March 9, 2018*

***Mercy Crusade is excited to announce it received \$48,160 from PetSmart Charities, the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, to boost spay and neuter efforts in Ventura County!***

The support of PetSmart Charities, the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, will enable Mercy Crusade to expand our efforts for low-cost spay and neuter services, and to reach families that can't otherwise afford services. Mercy Crusade Spay & Neuter Program has been in operation since 2001 and it is the only affordable non-profit spay, neuter veterinary clinic in a service area with approximately 70,000 active households in the client base. The Wellness Clinic which opened in 2011 has been a highly successful complement to our services. Overall, households represent about 150,765 pets assisted through Mercy Crusade in Ventura County. This project will significantly improve our capacity to facilitate positive

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interactions between residents and animals, and it would have a positive influence upon the health of the community. There are minimal resources available to those working diligently to help their companion animals and rescue animals. There remains a high need in the areas of public awareness/education about the importance of spaying, neutering, and medical care to extend life for pets in the areas we serve. Mercy Crusade Spay, Neuter and Wellness Clinic provides services to the City of Oxnard, which includes two naval bases: Port Hueneme and Point Mugu. Additionally, we serve the growing communities of Simi Valley, Moorpark, Santa Paula, Piru, Fillmore and Camarillo.

We are extremely grateful for this grant, as we have worked for years to spay and neuter animals within the greater Ventura County community servicing companion pets that need an affordable outlet to extend the life of their pets and prevent pet overpopulation.

Not only is Mercy Crusade Spay & Neuter and Wellness Clinic making spay and neuter services accessible, they are striving to educate members of the community on its benefits and how it can ultimately decrease unplanned litters and prevent pet homelessness in the area," said Jenny Aho, regional relationship manager at PetSmart Charities. "By doing so, they have proven to be a true advocate for local pets in need." PetSmart Charities aims to proactively prevent pet homelessness through increased spay and neuter efforts. PetSmart Charities has helped facilitate over 1.7 million spay and neuter surgeries in the U.S. since 2009, and partnerships with organizations like Mercy Crusade will complement our hard work in preventing pet overpopulation

For more information on the spay/neuter program, visit Mercy Crusade at [www.dogcatfix.com](http://www.dogcatfix.com), Facebook, email [vcspayneuter@aol.com](mailto:vcspayneuter@aol.com) or call (805) 278-4433.

## ***About Mercy Crusade Spay & Neuter and Wellness Clinic***

*Mercy Crusade's mission is to end pet overpopulation by raising public awareness of the severe companion animal overpopulation problem in our community, the United States, and the world. It is our desire to promote spay and neuter surgery as the primary means of addressing companion animal overpopulation. This mission includes the provision of affordable medical care for all pets.*

## ***About PetSmart Charities®***

*PetSmart Charities, Inc. is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to find lifelong, loving homes for all pets by supporting programs and thought leadership that bring people and pets together. In addition to finding homes for almost 500,000 shelter pets each year through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities provides funding to non-profits aligned with its mission through four key areas of grant support: Preventing Pet Homelessness; Helping Shelter Pets Thrive; Supporting the Bond Between People and Pets; and Emergency Relief and Disaster Support.*

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*Each year, millions of generous PetSmart shoppers help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities using the pin pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities efficiently uses 90 cents of every dollar donated and has become the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, donating about \$300 million to date. PetSmart Charities, a 501(c)(3) organization, has received the Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, an independent organization that reports on the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of nonprofits, for the past 14 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of charities rated by this organization. To learn more visit: [www.petsmartcharities.org](http://www.petsmartcharities.org).*

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