



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

**WITH A NEW \$20,000 GRANT FROM PETSMA™RT CHARITIES[®] OF CANADA,
CALGARY SENIORS' RESOURCE SOCIETY IS HELPING TO KEEP PEOPLE AND PETS TOGETHER**
*During Healthy Aging Month, PetSmart Charities of Canada Provides Funding
to Help Seniors Care for Pets During Challenging Times*

Sept. 17, 2018— Calgary, AB – Calgary Seniors' Resource Society (CSRS) recently received a \$20,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities of Canada](#), one of the nation's leading funders of animal welfare and the human-animal bond. Designated to support CSRS's Pet Assist program, the grant will help keep more seniors and their companion pets together.

When seniors are experiencing life changes or challenges such as mobility issues or health concerns, having a pet can add an extra layer of complexity and concern. Seniors in these situations often feel they have no other option but to surrender their pets to a local animal welfare organization—even though they are reluctant to give up the companionship, unconditional love and support a pet brings to their lives.

With the help of this new grant, CSRS is committed to offering solutions to help pets stay within their loving homes and families. Pet Assist is a program run by CSRS that provides volunteer pet support for low income, home-bound or isolated seniors. This might include help with a pet's weight management, providing exercise and enrichment through pet visits, monitoring the administration of medication and providing support during and after veterinary appointments.

"Pet Assist helps seniors with their pet care needs, so they can focus on their own health and wellness while also resting easy that their faithful furry friend will stay by their side as long as possible," said Lori Paine, executive director, Calgary Seniors' Resource Society.

"At PetSmart Charities of Canada, we believe that seniors, like all of us, benefit from the companionship, sense of purpose and unconditional love a pet can bring to their lives," said David Haworth, DVM, Ph.D. and president of PetSmart Charities of Canada. "That's why we're committed to providing grants to organizations that share this belief, and are creating ways to help seniors to care for and keep their pets close, even when facing life or health challenges of their own."

Pet retention is just one of PetSmart Charities of Canada's seven grant categories. Funding from PetSmart Charities of Canada supports animal welfare organizations and registered charities committed to reducing pet homelessness and enhancing the human-animal bond. For more information, visit www.PetSmartCharities.ca.

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About Calgary Seniors

[Calgary Seniors' Resource Society](#) has been caring for low-income, isolated seniors since 1995. Our mandate is to provide a depth of support that creates meaningful and effective change in the overall well-being and quality of life of vulnerable seniors in our city. What makes us so unique is that we effectively combine social work/outreach with volunteer programs, free of charge, ensuring that over 3,000 of our communities' less-fortunate seniors are supported appropriately each year. Seniors matter. They are a vibrant and diverse part of our community. The seniors we work with are some of our communities' most vulnerable. They are low income, have mobility and other health issues, and many have no family or support systems in place. They are isolated and often lonely. No seniors should be alone, without support.

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. Through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart® stores across Canada, PetSmart Charities of Canada helps to find forever homes and families for more than 25,000 shelter pets each year. PetSmart Charities of Canada also provides grant funding to registered Canadian charities aligned with its mission under four key areas of support: Preventing Pet Homelessness; Helping Shelter Pets Thrive; Supporting the Bond Between People and Pets and Providing Emergency Relief and Disaster Support. 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 \$14 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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