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Remote Area Medical Receives \$136,000 Grant from PetSmart Charities® to Increase Access to Veterinary Care in Knoxville

ROCKFORD, TN (February 8, 2021) – Remote Area Medical - RAM® – a major nonprofit provider of pop-up clinics delivering free, quality dental, vision, medical, and veterinary care to underserved and uninsured individuals – has received a two-year grant from [PetSmart Charities](#) to increase access to affordable veterinary care in Knoxville, TN, in partnership with Young-Williams Animal Center.

Due to cost and other barriers, pets in under-resourced communities often do not have access to basic veterinary care such as spay/neuter services, vaccinations, dental care, and other medical and preventative care. The PetSmart Charities Improving Access to Care Grant was awarded to RAM as part of RAM's *Driving Health for Pets & People into Vulnerable Communities* initiative. The program is set to support hundreds of pets and their families per year in 2021-22 through free, drive-thru veterinary clinics in Knoxville, TN.

“This RAM initiative, in partnership with Young-Williams Animal Center, will help pets and people in need. RAM’s mission to prevent pain and alleviate suffering focuses on the whole family and works to meet the basic healthcare needs for people and pets,” said Amanda Weber, RAM Veterinary Clinic Manager. “This generous grant award from PetSmart Charities will increase our capacity to serve families in Knoxville’s under-served neighborhoods.”

Distemper and rabies vaccines, microchips, and a variety of other minor medical services will be provided for pets in five Knoxville zip codes where a significant number of households live at or below 200% of the poverty level.

The first of these pop-up clinics will be operated at Chilhowee Park on February 20, 2021, and is intended for residents of zip code 37914. Pet parents will be required to pre-register for the event starting February 8 by calling 865-862-5586. Registration will close once all spaces are filled. Spay/neuter surgeries will not be available during these events.

“Young-Williams Animal Center is ecstatic about collaborating with Remote Area Medical to address the needs of pets and pet owners in underserved areas across our community,” says Janet Testerman, CEO of Young-Williams Animal Center. “Together, we can have a greater impact by pooling our vital resources to provide the most animals with the care and services they need.”

Since 1994, through its partnership with nearly 4,000 humane societies, SPCAs, and pet rescues across North America, PetSmart Charities has helped more than 9 million pets to find loving homes via its in-store adoption program in over 1,650 PetSmart® stores. The leading funder of animal welfare has also donated nearly \$430 million, to positively impact communities, to connect people and pets, to help preserve families, and to improve access to veterinary care through initiatives like this with Remote Area Medical – RAM®.

“RAM is leading the charge in a collaborative effort to remove the barriers to affordable veterinary care throughout Knoxville,” said Aimee Gilbreath, President, PetSmart Charities. “This partnership between organizations that serve both pets and people can improve the overall health and wellness of the community by providing preventative care that decreases the overall cost of care for serious illness and emergency care. We are thrilled to support this work that allows pets and people to remain healthy together.”

To learn more about the *Driving Health for Pets & People into Vulnerable Communities* initiative and how to register your pets to receive services, please call 865-862-5586 or email ranimals@ramusa.org beginning February 8, 2021.

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About Remote Area Medical – RAM®: RAM is a major nonprofit organization that operates pop-up clinics delivering free, quality veterinary, dental, vision, and medical services to underserved and uninsured individuals. Since RAM was founded in 1985, more than 173,000 volunteers – comprised of licensed veterinary, dental, vision, and medical professionals, as well as general support staff – have treated more than 863,000 individuals, including more than 68,000 animals, delivering \$174 million worth of free healthcare services. Since 2019, RAM has held clinics in Tennessee, Louisiana, Idaho, California, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Guyana, Haiti, and the Bahamas.

About PetSmart Charities®: [PetSmart Charities, Inc.](http://PetSmartCharities.Inc) 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 the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities helps to find forever homes and families for nearly 600,000 shelter pets each year. PetSmart Charities also provides grant funding to nonprofits aligned with its mission. 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 more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, granting nearly \$430 million since its inception in 1994. Independent from PetSmart Inc., PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization that has received the Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, a third-party organization that reports on the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of nonprofits, for the past 17 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of charities rated by this organization. To learn more visit www.petsmartcharities.org.

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About Young-Williams Animal Center: The vision of Young-Williams Animal Center is “a home for every pet.” It is the municipal shelter of the City of Knoxville and Knox County, and each year takes in more than 9,000 animals. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Young-Williams Animal Center serves the needs of lost, unwanted, abandoned and neglected animals. The center’s mission is to lead the community to end pet homelessness, promote animal welfare and enhance the human-animal bond through the shelter and placement of animals, spay/neuter initiatives and public education of companion animal issues. Young-Williams Animal Center reminds pet owners to spay and neuter their pets. Young-Williams Animal Center’s main facility is located off Sutherland Avenue at 3201 Division Street. For more

information about Young-Williams Animal Center, including hours of operation and COVID-19 policies, call 865-215-6599 or visit <https://www.young-williams.org/>.