



For Immediate Release

## **FOCUS ON FERALS RECEIVES \$20,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® TO HELP MORE HOMELESS PETS FIND HOMES**

**MALONE, NY – March 1, 2022** – FOCUS ON FERALS INC has received a \$20,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](#) to help prepare additional homeless cats from Malone and surrounding area for adoption.

Overpopulation of stray and homeless cats is a major concern in Franklin County and Focus on Ferals (FOF) is committed to spaying/neutering every rescued cat and kitten that comes through the door. In 2021 nearly 625 cats and kittens were rescued — a 33% increase over 2020. Before finding loving homes, all were spayed/neutered, micro chipped, and vetted. This grant funding will not only help FOF to increase the stray/homeless intake into the Shelter and prepare them in a timely manner but will also help many injured/ill felines get the care they need before being adopted into stable, loving homes. FOF works with the PetSmart Charities Adoption Center in Plattsburgh, NY, as one of the primary adoption venues. PetSmart has enabled us to expand the pool of adopters to include not only northeastern New York, but Vermont as well.

“We are very grateful to be a recipient of this grant from PetSmart Charities which will improve the lives of many homeless cats in our community. The grant funds will be used to prepare more cats for adoption with spay/neuters, micro-chipping, vaccination, and other testing before they are adopted,” said Rebecca Vaincourt, Executive Director of Focus on Ferals Inc.

FOF believes every cat deserves a chance at a “forever” home. This grant will also help cats like Courtney, AKA Chirpy, remain with Focus on Ferals until they are placed in a loving forever home. Courtney was a long-term rescue kitty who came to FOF at **the age** of 2 years old. She was a lovable little kitty who just wanted as much attention as she could get. It was difficult to find the perfect home for her because she had a sensitive tummy and required a special diet, so she was overlooked many times for adoption. Courtney waited patiently for 2 1/2 years. In 2021 she found her “forever” home, where she is now receiving all the attention, cuddles and love she wants. Her new mom says that Courtney and their dog, Millie, became best friends from the first day they met, and Courtney is definitely a loved family member!

“Cats and kittens bring so much love into a home,” said Heidi Fulcher, Adoption Grants Manager at PetSmart Charities, US - East. “For friendly adult cats that get mixed in with a feral colony, adoption is a good option as are colony kittens who can easily be socialized; both make great additions to a family. We’re thankful for the important work FOF is doing to help to ensure the health needs are met of these adoptable cats and kittens.”

Focus on Ferals Inc. is thankful for the generous donation from PetSmart Charities, so more homeless cats in our community will have the opportunity to have a loving home.

Please contact Focus on Ferals by email at [savinglives@focusferalstoday.com](mailto:savinglives@focusferalstoday.com) to request more information about our organization. Or visit our website at [www.focusferalstoday.com](http://www.focusferalstoday.com)

### **ABOUT FOCUS ON FERALS, INC.**

Focus on Ferals was organized to help the many abandoned and stray cats in the area. We formed our non-profit organization to provide sensible solutions to saving homeless cats, and finding them forever homes. We've consistently grown since our beginning, all thanks to the helping hands of the community! Our amazing volunteers are committed to helping cats. We take our convictions and turn them into action. We focus on making the maximum positive effort for homeless cats. Our members and volunteers provide the momentum that helps make a positive change. Using data driven models, we provide solutions that make a long-lasting difference. Before a rescued cat is adopted, they are spayed/neutered, tested, vaccinated, treated for parasites and are micro chipped. Focus on Ferals Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization and a GuideStar member, which is a third-party organization that reports on the accountability and transparency of nonprofits. We are also registered with NYS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS: REGISTERED RESCUE NO. RR039

### **About PetSmart Charities®**

PetSmart Charities is committed to making the world a better place for pets and all who love them. Through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart® stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities helps up to 600,000 pets connect with loving families each year. PetSmart Charities also provides grant funding to support organizations that advocate and care for the well-being of all pets and their families. Our grants and efforts connect pets with loving homes through adoption, improve access to affordable veterinary care and support families in times of crisis with access to food, shelter and emergency relief. Each year, millions of generous supporters help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities directly at [PetSmartCharities.org](http://PetSmartCharities.org), while shopping at [PetSmart.com](http://PetSmart.com), and by 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 more than \$500 million since its inception in 1994. Independent from PetSmart LLC, PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization that has received the Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator for the past 18 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of rated charities. To learn more visit [www.petsmartcharities.org](http://www.petsmartcharities.org).

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