At its inception in 1987, PetSmart® made the sound decision not to sell dogs or cats, but, rather, to encourage pet adoptions. In 1992, PetSmart began donating space in each store to animal-welfare organizations to help place pets in lifelong, loving homes. These in-store Adoption Centers grew in number when PetSmart Charities® was founded in 1994. Today, due to the overwhelming success of the program, an estimated one homeless pet's life is saved every minute that a PetSmart Charities Adoption Center is open.

Each year, approximately 6-8 million companion pets are abandoned in the United States. A primary reason is homeless-pet overpopulation, caused by the failure of owners to have their pets spayed or neutered. Of those abandoned pets, 3-4 million are euthanized because they do not have homes.

By partnering with more than 2,000 animal welfare agencies in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico, PetSmart and PetSmart Charities' in-store Adoption Centers have saved the lives of nearly 5 million homeless pets.

Since 1994, PetSmart Charities, Inc., an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has funded $165 million in grants and programs benefiting animal-welfare organizations. PetSmart Charities is the largest funder of animal-welfare efforts in North America.

You're going to find great pets at PetSmart Charities Adoption Centers. Pets with mixed heritage benefit from greater genetic diversity. For people looking for a specific breed, local adoption agencies are also likely to have what they seek.

Visit www.petsmartcharities.org to view adoptable pets on PetSmart Charities' online pet adoption locator or to find a PetSmart Charities Adoption Center near you, visit www.petsmart.com and click on the "Store Locator."

PetSmart encourages people who cannot adopt at this time to donate to the cause or volunteer for local animal-welfare organizations to help save the lives of homeless pets.

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