



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ARK CAT SANCTUARY RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® TO HELP MORE HOMELESS CATS FIND HOMES IN NORTHERN ARIZONA

ARK CAT SANCTUARY'S GOAL IS TO FIND HOMES FOR 650+ CATS IN 2022

FLAGSTAFF, AZ – January 6, 2022 – Ark Cat Sanctuary has received a \$50,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](#) to help prepare more shelter cats in Northern Arizona for adoption and ensure they are ready to find loving homes. This grant will help the Ark to provide spay/neuter surgeries, vaccines, and microchips and will pay for staffing at our Flagstaff PetSmart adoption center, supporting our efforts to help shelter cats find homes.

In and around Flagstaff the cat population is on the rise. Climate change is at work here, creating longer kitten seasons than animal welfare workers have ever seen. During the COVID pandemic in 2020 many municipal shelters stopped taking in cats and prioritized the more dangerous problem of stray dogs, so cats were left outside to reproduce. At the same time, low-cost spay/neuter clinics closed their services to the general public. Reproduction was unchecked in many places, including rural areas in Northern Arizona where the Ark works with several shelters and rescues.

Ark Cat Sanctuary plans to use funding from this grant to obtain spay/neuter services from outside the Flagstaff area where affordable services are more available. This funding will also enable the Ark to provide adoption support personnel during late afternoon/evening hours when many people come in to adopt from PetSmart.

“We are extremely grateful for this grant from PetSmart Charities and for our ten-year partnership with the Flagstaff PetSmart store, through which we have saved thousands of cats,” said Susan Marue, Executive Director of Ark Cat Sanctuary. “This funding will help us to reach one of our fundamental goals, which is to find homes for cats that otherwise wouldn’t have a chance. It will enable us to say ‘Yes’ more times when we are asked for help. We don’t like to say ‘No’ to helping cats due to lack of resources.”

“Some five million animals find their way to shelters each year, said Heidi Fulcher, Adoption Grants Manager at PetSmart Charities. “As an organization dedicated to promoting the human animal bond, we’re thrilled to support local partners such as the ARK Cat Sanctuary. Together, we can help adoptable pets receive vital care, along with the best chance of finding loving homes, which builds healthier families and communities.”

For more information about the Ark’s vision and services, please visit our website at www.arkcatsanctuary.org or you can find us on Facebook at [@arkcatsanctuary](#).

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About Ark Cat Sanctuary

Ark Cat Sanctuary is a 24/7/365 no-kill and largely cage-free operation dedicated to the rescue, care, and placement of cats and kittens that are in "at-risk" situations. We answer calls for help from shelters, rescue groups, and the public. We are located on 10 acres in the midst of the Kaibab National Forest, 35 miles northwest of Flagstaff, AZ.

Most of our cats come from high-risk situations in northern Arizona, and we partner with shelters and rescues on reservation lands around Flagstaff. We are getting more and more requests for help from people in other parts of Arizona who have been turned away by municipal shelters that are now operating in a managed-admission model. Our most critical operation is the medical rehabilitation of sick or injured cats that we receive. We bring these cats to the Ark and nurse them back to health so they can be adopted into loving forever homes.

At the Ark, the cats live in habitat environments with access to both indoor and outdoor spaces. The outdoor spaces are safely fenced and landscaped to support the cats' natural activities. We use cages only for medical purposes and for the safety of mom cats with small nursing kittens. The cats are grouped by age, temperament, food requirements, and health conditions.

The Ark is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. People from all walks of life volunteer and contribute both financially and physically to running the shelter. We welcome the opportunity to speak to school children, church groups, or other social organizations to teach them about cats and about humanely dealing with the problem of cat overpopulation. We try to get other people directly involved in dealing with this problem through proper care of their own cats, and through spay/neuter education.

About PetSmart Charities®

[PetSmart Charities](https://www.petsmartcharities.org) 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 nearly 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, while shopping at 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 \$475 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 for the past 17 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of rated charities. To learn more visit www.petsmartcharities.org.

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