



The Bridge Clinic

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE BRIDGE CLINIC, INC. RECEIVES \$1,100,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBLE VETERINARY CARE

November 2023— Bensalem, PA – Fifty million pets in the U.S. experience a lack of access to even basic veterinary care. Rising costs and other barriers mean these pets struggle to access services such as spay/neuter procedures, vaccinations and critical medical and preventative care. With as many as 70% of households now including pets, this issue affects families in nearly every community.

PetSmart Charities has committed \$100 million over the next five years toward improving access to veterinary care. The “Accelerator” low-cost veterinary care grant program is a key part of this effort. These grants support the expansion of low-cost veterinary care by funding growth and operations for up to four years for nonprofit clinics looking to expand their services, serve their communities better and inspire other veterinary providers by sharing their experiences.

The grant made to *The Bridge Clinic* in the amount of \$1,100,000 disbursed over the next three years will support the expansion of operations and community accessibility. The anticipated impact on local pets and families includes partnering with *The Bridge Clinic* in Philadelphia with [The Cat Collaborative](#) as they head up efforts toward more community engagement and address issues with cat overpopulation in the City.

“Phase 1 of the grant was instrumental in building a brand new full-service, nonprofit veterinary clinic in Philadelphia,” said Chase Miller, Director of Operations and Outreach for *The Bridge Clinic*. “Phase 2 will expand that work even further by connecting more pets and their families to quality, affordable veterinary care in the City!”

Overwhelmingly, people consider their pets important members of the family. Pets make a significant impact on the health and wellness of the people they love. This grant will enable more families to get the preventative and standard care that ensures their pets thrive at home and stay out of shelters.

“Our veterinary system is in crisis,” said Kate Atema, director of community grants and initiatives at PetSmart Charities. “Rising costs are putting standard veterinary care out of reach for as much as 50% of pet-owning families. We need innovative solutions that make veterinary care affordable for the families in every community who want the best for their four-legged companions but struggle to meet the cost of vet care. We’re inspired by the incredible work *The Bridge Clinic* is doing to create solutions that will build strong families and a healthy community.”

The Bridge Clinic (TBC) has served about 11,500 pets in Philadelphia and Bensalem this 2023. Established in 2012, *TBC* strives to ensure that every pet receives the quality, full-service care they need for affordable rates.

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About The Bridge Clinic

The Bridge Clinic, a PetSmart Charities grantee, has two locations (Bensalem and Philadelphia, PA) and is on a mission to bridge the gap to provide quality, full-service veterinary care to enrich the community and keep pets with the families who love them. Follow on social @thebridgeclinic and www.thebridgeclinic.org. Telephone: 215-639-3333.

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 400,000 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 \$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.

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