



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Petco Foundation invests in Animals 4 Therapy to further develop their trauma support program to help victims of violent crimes

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GOLDEN (January 27, 2017) – Animals 4 Therapy – the organization that provided canine-assisted volunteer services during the Aurora Theater Shooting four-month trial – has been awarded a \$5K grant from the Petco Foundation to further develop its canine-assisted trauma support program to help witnesses and victims during court procedures. This will be the second time that Animals 4 Therapy receives a generous grant from the Petco Foundation.

Animals 4 Therapy is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization, registered as a Charitable Organization in the State of Colorado. The organization is dedicated to promoting the human-animal health connection through animal-assisted therapy and animal-assisted activities. The group represents therapy animal teams volunteering in the Rocky Mountain region, from Colorado to Montana.

This grant was made possible through the Petco Foundation’s annual Helping Heroes fundraising campaign, in partnership with Natural Balance Pet Foods. Each October during the campaign, customers are invited to donate online and in Petco stores across the country to support the life-changing work of service, therapy and working animals.

The Petco Foundation investment will help further develop Animals 4 Therapy’s canine-assisted trauma support certification program for therapy animal teams who will qualify to work with victims during trials. It will be used to train new teams in major cities and create a written guide on the use of therapy dogs during court procedures.

“This grant will help us further develop our training program to support victims through the difficult stage of court proceedings. Our ultimate goal is to help increase the number of therapy teams nationwide who will in turn train local teams,” said Kateri Nelson, executive director.

For more information about Animals 4 Therapy or the Petco Foundation, visit www.animals4therapy.org or www.petcofoundation.org. Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) or by using the hashtag #PetcoFoundation.

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About Animals 4 Therapy

Animals 4 Therapy is a non-profit organization representing a fast growing network of therapy animal teams in the Rocky Mountain region. Since its foundation in 2012, the organization has provided animal-assisted therapy volunteer services to over 100 facilities from veteran hospitals to justice centers, assisted-living facilities, and literacy programs, impacting the lives of thousands of people. The organization's primary goal is to increase access to animal-assisted volunteer services more specifically in the fields of trauma support, memory care, early literacy and other critical needs.

About the Petco Foundation

At the Petco Foundation, we believe that every animal deserves to live its best life. Since 1999, we've invested more than \$175 million in lifesaving animal welfare work to make that happen. With our more than 4,000 animal welfare partners, we inspire and empower communities to make a difference by investing in adoption and medical care programs, spay and neuter services, pet cancer research, service and therapy animals, and numerous other lifesaving initiatives. Through our Think Adoption First program, we partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we've helped more than 5 million pets find their new loving families, and we're just getting started. Visit petcofoundation.org to learn more about how you can get involved.