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National Nonprofit Petco Love Invests in the Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter to Save and Improve the Lives of Pet Ferrets in Western Washington State

Everett, WA, May, 2023 – Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter, is set to receive a \$4000.00 grant investment from national nonprofit Petco Love in support of their lifesaving work for animals in Western Washington State.

Petco Love is a national nonprofit leading change for pets by harnessing the power of love to make communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since its founding in 1999, Petco Love has invested \$350 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. And Petco Love helps find loving homes for pets in partnership with Petco and more than 4,000 organizations — like ours — across North America, with 6.7 million pets adopted and counting.

"Our investment in the Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter is part of more than \$15M in investments recently announced by Petco Love to power local organizations across the country as part of our commitment to create a future in which no pet is unnecessarily euthanized," said Susanne Kogut, president of Petco Love. "Our local investments are only part of our strategy to empower animal lovers to drive lifesaving change right alongside us. We recently launched Petco Love Lost, a national lost and found database that uses pet image technology to simplify the search for lost pets."

"This grant from PetCo Love will enable us to continue to provide quality care including medical care for all the surrendered and abandoned pet ferrets that come to us. It means that we will be able to replace caging and other husbandry needs, and to provide needed medical care and surgery, particularly for the geriatric ferrets. We are a no-kill shelter, and give every ferret the best quality of life possible. This grant will greatly help us to do that", said Dr. Cathy Johnson-Delaney, one of the founders and currently Secretary on the Board of Directors.

The Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter (WFRS) is a nonprofit organization that exists to ensure the safety and well-being of all ferrets that are turned over to us. We care for abandoned, displaced, lost, or surrendered ferrets until they are adopted, or die within our shelter or at a loving foster home. We provide the ferrets an enriched and loving home, and excellent veterinary medical care. We serve primarily Western Washington and the Puget Sound basin, but also take ferrets from anywhere in the Pacific Northwest, and help to adopt out ferrets through a network of caring individuals. In 1997, the Washington Ferret Association was formed, and established a rescue facility within the year as the Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter. We are one of the oldest and largest ferret rescues in North America. We have pioneered effective shelter health programs, including development of a treatment for canine distemper. We have assisted with a number of clinical projects to further veterinary knowledge and needs of ferrets. Most years, over 400 ferrets are cared for by the WFRS, and completely with a volunteer staff.

For more information about the Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter, visit www.washingtonferret.org or our Facebook page: Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter. Learn more about Petco Love here: petcolove.org.

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About The Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter

Our mission is to ensure the safety and the well-being of ferrets that have been turned over to us. We are here to take care of the abandoned, outcast, displaced and forsaken ferrets until they are adopted or until they die. We are considered the oldest and largest ferret rescue in the U.S with operation starting in 1997.

It is a sad fact that not all ferrets that are obtained from pet stores or breeders, will remain in the same family for their lifetime. Allergies, landlords, financial problems, neglect, sickness are just a few reasons why people place their ferrets in shelters and rescues. Most animal shelters are not equipped to care for ferrets. Owners that have to give up their ferrets may be faced with euthanasia or in worst case scenario, turning the ferret loose. Our domestic ferret does not survive in the wild environment. We offer the alternative for owners that must relinquish their pets.

Washington Ferret Rescue is a non-profit, educational resource for the public to teach about the ferret, as well as working as a rescue and operating a ferret-only animal shelter. It relies completely on sponsors, donations, grants, volunteers and contributions from the public.

About Petco Love

Petco Love is a life-changing nonprofit organization that makes communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since our founding in 1999 as the Petco Foundation, we've empowered animal welfare organizations by investing \$350 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. We've helped find loving homes for more than 6.7 million pets in partnership with Petco and organizations nationwide.

Our love for pets drives us to lead with innovation, creating tools animal lovers need to reunite lost pets, and lead with passion, inspiring and mobilizing communities and our more than 4,000 animal welfare

partners to drive lifesaving change alongside us. Join us. Visit <u>petcolove.org</u> or follow on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u> to be part of the lifesaving work we lead every day.