

PURINA AND REDROVER AWARD 30TH PURPLE LEASH PROJECT GRANT TO SUPPORT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS AND THEIR PETS

Five New Grants Will Benefit Shelters in Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Ohio, Virginia, and Pennsylvania

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 8, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Purina and the nonprofit RedRover have awarded five Purple Leash Project grants to help local domestic violence shelters make pet-friendly transformations. The latest grant recipients include The Spring in Tulsa County, Oklahoma; Sojourner House in Providence County, Rhode Island; Services to Abused Families in Culpeper County, Virginia; Family Violence Prevention Center of Greene County Inc in Greene County, Ohio and YWCA of Bradford in McKean County, Pennsylvania. Funding will provide pet-friendly upgrades and resources to survivors and their pets at each shelter, including outdoor pet play yards, kennels, supplies and veterinary care.

Through the Purple Leash Project, Purina and RedRover are working to create more pet-friendly shelters and provide more resources so that survivors with pets can escape abuse and heal together. Currently only 15% of domestic violence shelters in the United States allow pets and almost half of abuse survivors (48%) will delay leaving their abuser if they can't take their pet with them into a shelter.

"The Purple Leash Project is focused on easing a survivor's decision to leave abuse," said Nina Leigh Krueger, CEO and President of Purina. "Knowing that there are resources available to them and their four-legged family members aides in their decision to leave. By working together with RedRover, we've helped to provide more than 33,000 safe nights for domestic abuse survivors and their pets with much more work to be done."

With this latest round of funding, 30 grants totaling more than \$500,000 have now been gifted to domestic violence shelters across the US by Purina. Since the Purple Leash Project was founded in 2019, Purina has provided more than \$1 million in funding and is working together with RedRover toward a goal of helping to ensure that at least 25% of domestic violence shelters are pet-friendly by 2025.

Each domestic violence shelter will use the Purple Leash Project grants to fund projects and services unique to the needs of their location:

- **Family Violence Prevention Center of Greene County Inc in Green County, Ohio** will receive \$46,055 to build on-site kennels and create an outdoor fenced-in play area, remaining funds will go toward pet supplies, laundry supplies and air purifiers for bedrooms and their indoor dog room.
- **Sojourner House in Providence County, Rhode Island** will receive \$21,800 to house pets at one of their three shelters and foster care through the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA). Remaining funds will be allocated for veterinary care, food, pet deposits and transportation.
- **YWCA of Bradford in McKean County, Pennsylvania** will receive \$19,000 to create a separate building on the property to house pets so that their owners can be close and care for them, all while accommodating survivors who may be allergic to dogs or cats.
- **The Spring in Tulsa County, Oklahoma** will receive \$10,000 to build kennels, a visitation area, and an outdoor play area, the remaining funds will go toward a new HVAC system.
- **Services to Abused Families in Culpeper County, Virginia** will receive \$7,950 to renovate the barn on the property to house dogs and cats and create a bathing station for the pets to stay clean and sanitary during their stay.

"We are so grateful for Purina, RedRover and the Purple Leash Project for providing funds that allow us to build a safe haven for animals whose owners are fleeing a domestic violence situation," said Shelley Adams,

build a safe haven for animals whose owners are fleeing a domestic violence situation," said Shelley Alcorn, Program Director of the YWCA of Bradford. "We often hear of abusers threatening to harm pets if a survivor chooses to leave. Now, we can ensure the safety of survivors and their animals. Our program team is very excited to begin this adventure as our community can vastly benefit from these resources."

To learn more about the Purple Leash Project, donate or sign up for ongoing updates, visit www.PurpleLeashProject.com.

If you know someone who is being abused and ready to leave with their pet, they can find information on pet-friendly shelters in their area at www.SafePlaceForPets.org.

About Purina

Nestlé Purina PetCare creates richer lives for pets and the people who love them. Founded in 1894, Purina has helped dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives by offering scientifically based nutritional innovations. Purina manufactures some of the world's most trusted and popular pet care products, including Purina ONE, Pro Plan, Fancy Feast and Tidy Cats. Our more than 8,700 U.S. associates take pride in our trusted pet food, treat and litter brands that feed 51 million dogs and 65 million cats every year. More than 500 Purina scientists, veterinarians, and pet care experts ensure our commitment to unsurpassed quality and nutrition.

Purina promotes responsible pet care through our scientific research, our products and our support for pet-related organizations. Over the past five years, Purina has contributed more than \$150 million towards organizations that bring, and keep, people and pets together, as well as those that help our communities and environment thrive.

Purina is part of Nestlé, a global leader in Nutrition, Health and Wellness. For more information, visit purina.com or [subscribe here](#) to get the latest Purina news.

About RedRover

Since 1987, RedRover has focused on bringing animals out of crisis and strengthening the human-animal bond through emergency sheltering, disaster relief services, financial assistance, and education. To learn how RedRover is creating a more compassionate world, visit RedRover.org.

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