

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Humane Canada's Announces PetSmart Charities® of Canada as the 2019 Canadian Violence Link Conference's Presenting Sponsor

OTTAWA – October XX, 2019 – Humane Canada is thrilled to announce [PetSmart Charities of Canada](#) as the presenting sponsor for the 2019 [Canadian Violence Link Conference](#).

"This conference, only the second of its type, brings experts from across the country together in Toronto to examine the link between violence against humans and violence against animals," says Barbara Cartwright, CEO, Humane Canada. "We are pleased that PetSmart Charities of Canada, and its long history of community impact, has returned to support this important work."

"As one of the leading funders of animal welfare in Canada, we are proud to sponsor the Canadian Violence Link Conference," says Deborah Turcott, acting president of PetSmart Charities of Canada. "We believe this work is vital to helping end violence against both animals and people, and we look forward to supporting this highly collaborative event."

About the Canadian Violence Link Conference

Humane Canada's Canadian Violence Link Conference takes place at the Chelsea Hotel in Toronto on November 20-22. This conference highlights the latest research and promising new practices to advance the criminal justice and social service response to the violence link. It brings together the field's leading experts in the areas of law, enforcement, veterinary medicine, behaviour, interpersonal violence and social services.

More than 200 Professionals to Attend

Professionals from across Canada attend this conference to examine how law enforcement, social services, community organizations, government and policy makers, animal welfare organizations and veterinarians can work together to prevent and address violence. When we pool this expertise, it leads to powerful insights and more effective strategies to end violence against people and animals.

About the Violence Link

We often think of violence against animals and violence against people as separate, but there is a proven link between the two. This can manifest in many ways, including a pet being harmed or killed after a woman leaves an abusive relationship or a serial killer who practices their abuse on animals before moving on to human beings. Over the last decade, this mutual vulnerability to violence has come to be known as the **violence link**. We now know that not only does animal abuse co-occur with human abuse, but it can predict future violence against human beings. In fact, animal abuse is more clearly correlated to family violence than mental illness, drinking or drug abuse (Source: Dealing with Animal Abuse to Alleviate Family Violence. Zorza, Joan. Family & Intimate Partner Violence Quarterly. Spring 2010. Vol. 2 Issue 4, page 345). We can no longer deny the violence link, and this conference seeks to find ways to improve our response to abuse of both people and animals in Canada.

About PetSmart Charities® of Canada:

PetSmart® Charities of Canada is committed to finding lifelong, loving homes for all pets by supporting programs and thought leadership that bring people and pets together. Each year, more than 500,000 generous PetSmart shoppers help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities of Canada using the PIN pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities of Canada efficiently uses more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as a leading funder of animal welfare in Canada, granting more than \$19 million since its inception in 1999. PetSmart Charities of Canada is a registered Canadian charity, a member of Imagine Canada and is independent from the PetSmart business in Canada. To learn more visit www.petsmartcharities.ca

About Humane Canada

Humane Canada convenes Canada's largest animal welfare community, representing 52 humane societies and SPCAs across Canada. As Canada's voice for animal welfare, we drive positive, progressive change to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection and promote the humane treatment of all animals. We explore how law enforcement, social services, community organizations and animal welfare organizations can more effectively work together to address preventable violence in communities across Canada.

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