



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **CHIOTS NORDIQUES RECEIVES A \$40,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® OF CANADA TO INCREASE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE VETERINARY CARE IN QUEBEC'S NATIVE COMMUNITIES**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021— Quebec, QC**—Due to cost and to other barriers, pets in under-resourced communities often do not have access to basic veterinary care such as spay and neuter services, vaccinations and other medical and preventive care.

With a \$40,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities of Canada](#), Chiots Nordiques aims to support pets and pet owners in need of these services by providing spay and neuter clinics and dog rehoming services in Quebec's Native communities.

Over half of Quebec's 55 Indigenous communities have no access to veterinary care within 300 km. Chiots Nordiques offers effective, responsible, and professional support to communities wanting to hold sterilization clinics to spay or neuter, vaccinate and deworm animals to improve their wellbeing, reaching more than 1,000 dogs per year.

Providing care assists with dog population management in communities, where the number of free roaming dogs is a real public safety concern. Chiots Nordiques also give a second chance to dogs that are no longer wanted, for whom there are no other options in the community. Sterilization leads to fewer unwanted dogs in the community, while vaccinating and deworming dogs living in close contact with people not only keeps the animals healthier but is an important means of preventing zoonotic diseases, including parasites and deadly illnesses such as rabies.

“For the Cree community of Chisasibi and other communities, Chiots Nordiques is by far one of the factors facilitating the management of the canine population, through annual sterilization clinics. This allows communities to ensure control over the reproductive capacity of the dogs in their communities. The efficiency, professionalism and uniqueness of their services allows us to offer an essential health service to domestic animals and people in the village!” said Catherine Rhéaume-Provost, Coordinator of Chisasibi Animal Rescue and Public Safety.

“We are proud to partner with Chiots Nordiques to make affordable veterinary care accessible to Quebec's Indigenous communities, said Dani LaGiglia, community grants manager at PetSmart Charities of Canada. “This work will not only allow more dogs to remain with the people who love them without the need to travel significant distance for care, but also promote a healthier pet population throughout all communities in the province.”

Since 1999, through its partnership with more than 220 humane societies, SPCAs and pet rescues across Canada, PetSmart Charities of Canada has helped more than 300,000 pets to find loving homes via its in-store adoption program in over 140 PetSmart® stores. The leading funder of animal welfare has also donated more than \$21.7 million to positively impact communities, to connect people and pets, to help

preserve families and to improve access to veterinary care through initiatives like this with Chiots Nordiques.

Since 2012, over 4 500 sterilized dogs and nearly 4 000 dogs have found a new home for life thanks to transfers of dogs from communities to Chiots Nordiques' foster families and partner shelters. To learn more about the non for profit's mission: [www.chiotsnordiques.com/en/mission/](http://www.chiotsnordiques.com/en/mission/)

To organize a sterilization clinic or a dogs' rescue, please use the following email: [info@chiotsnordiques.com](mailto:info@chiotsnordiques.com)

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### **About Chiots Nordiques**

[Chiots Nordiques](http://www.chiotsnordiques.com), a registered charity, offers to communities sustainable and ethical solutions by holding sterilization clinics to promote harmonious cohabitation. The 100 % voluntary team provides professional support to examine, sterilize and deworm animals in need of care. Dog overpopulation in Indigenous communities still causes stray dog problems every year. Since 2012, Chiots Nordiques offers sustainable solutions for the challenges of canine overpopulation in Indigenous communities throughout Quebec. To learn more visit [www.chiotsnordiques.com](http://www.chiotsnordiques.com)

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### **About PetSmart Charities® of Canada**

[PetSmart® Charities of Canada](http://www.petsmartcharities.ca) 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 \$21.7 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](http://www.petsmartcharities.ca)

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