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For Immediate Release

A “Paw”-sitive Start to 2018 at Dorchester Paws

Dorchester Paws announces \$50,000 PetSmart Charities grant award and other shelter updates

Summerville, SC – After receiving a \$50,000 grant, decreasing the shelter euthanasia rate and continuing facility improvements, 2018 looks bright for Dorchester Paws, Dorchester County’s only open-admission animal shelter.

Dorchester Paws was awarded a \$50,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](#) for spay/neuter surgeries.

“Each animal adopted from Dorchester Paws is spay/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and given preventatives for fleas and heartworm; this standard is not cheap. To receive \$50,000 solely earmarked for spay/neuter gives us the opportunity to focus on other priorities, such as heartworm treatment and funding a public spay/neuter clinic in Dorchester County,” states Kim Almstedt, Executive Director of Dorchester Paws. “We want to thank PetSmart Charities for this incredible grant and are looking forward to the opportunities it will afford us in 2018,” Almstedt states.

During 2017, Dorchester Paws made great strides towards ending unnecessary euthanasia. The shelter’s total intake for the year was approximately 3,200 animals. The shelter was able to decrease the euthanasia numbers by nearly 50 percent. Only 3 percent of the total dog intake at Dorchester Paws were euthanized, which is significantly lower than the state average of 17 percent.

“In 2017, we did not euthanize for time, space or money,” said Almstedt. “Since joining the [No Kill South Carolina](#) initiative in 2016, we have more resources across the entire state and have gained valuable contacts and rescue help.”

The shelter is continuing the facility improvements begun last September when the campus underwent its massive renovation. As part of this revitalization, the [Summerville Artist Guild](#) painted two murals at Dorchester Paws. One is located in the dog courtyard and the second in the cat hallway. These artists also painted a fence in the parking lot for adopters to take pictures with their new pets. Sherwin Williams donated paint for the project.



“Dorothy, from the *The Wizard of Oz* states it perfectly: ‘there’s no place like home.’ We took this famous line and created a picturesque setting where all dogs and cats are in their fur-ever homes. There is a yellow brick road to guide you to our adoptable animals and even an Emerald City backdrop to remind you every animal is looking for their Emerald City forever home. These one-of-a-kind murals are special to say the least and we are extremely grateful to the Summerville Artist Guild for volunteering their time and talent to turn a vision into a masterpiece,” Almstedt said.

To thank the [Summerville Artist Guild](#), Dorchester Paws is holding a reception at the shelter located at 136 Four Paws Lane on Wednesday, January 17 at 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend. The shelter will be open for special hours from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. for adoptions and is also having a \$25 adoption special for all adult animals on January 17 only.

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Established in 1972, Dorchester Paws is the only open-admission shelter in Dorchester County serving all the lost, abandoned and abused dogs and cats. Dorchester Paws is committed to instilling humane principles into society through the prevention of cruelty to animals and taking every animal that comes to the shelter on the journey from victim to victory.