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## National Nonprofit Petco Love Invests in Animal Alliance of East Kentucky to Help Increase Access to Veterinary Care for Pets in Eastern Kentucky

**Paintsville, KY (July 14, 2026) –** Animal Alliance of East Kentucky is set to receive a $500 grant investment from national nonprofit Petco Love in support of their lifesaving work for pets in Eastern Kentucky – throughout Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, and Martin counties.

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 nearly $441 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 more than 7.1 million pets adopted and counting.

The investment in Animal Alliance of East Kentucky is part of more than $1.2M in grants recently announced by Petco Love for nearly 200 spay/neuter clinics and other low-cost veterinary care providers to help increase access to veterinary care for pets in their communities. The lifesaving investments are also being granted to reduce economic euthanasia, and the surrender of pets to shelters when families are not able to afford needed veterinary treatment.

“Petco Love knows pets are family and we strive to take care of them the best we can, though the reality is not everyone has equal access to veterinary care as many pet parents face difficult financial times,” said Chelsea Staley, President of Petco Love. “That’s why we are proud to support our partner animal welfare organizations in providing helpful services in their communities, so we can keep pets and their families together.”

“Every spay and neuter surgery represents a healthier pet and one more family receiving the support they need to care for their pet," said Cassie Picklesimer, Vice President, AAEKY. “Petco Love's investment is more than financial assistance—it is an investment in the well-being of our communities across Eastern Kentucky. Their partnership allows Animal Alliance of East Kentucky to expand access to affordable veterinary care, reduce pet overpopulation, and improve the lives of both pets and the people who love them. We are deeply grateful for Petco Love's commitment to helping us create lasting change where it is needed most.”

As part of Petco Love's mission to make pet families healthier and increase access to veterinary care, through its *Vaccinated and Loved* campaign, Petco Love reached a significant milestone of distributing four million free pet vaccines for family pets in February 2026. The campaign was launched in 2021, encouraging Petco Love animal welfare partners to host free vaccine clinics.

Animal Alliance of East Kentucky is a nonprofit organization that that provides spay and neuter services for pets in Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, and Martin counties in Eastern Kentucky since 2017. Our mission is to provide services to our low-income community residents who cannot otherwise afford these lifesaving surgeries. Animal Alliance of East Kentucky promotes the importance of spay and neuter for our companion pets - and humane treatment awareness for all animals in our communities. Since our inception we have spayed and neutered over 2,500 pets, averaging about 270 pets per year.

Each year we host a Woofstock Music Event where local musicians support our mission by entertaining over 125 attendees. Dinner, auction items, and raffles help to support our efforts. For more information about Animal Alliance of East Kentucky, visit aaeky.org. Learn more about Petco Love here: petcolove.org.

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**About Animal Alliance of East Kentucky**
AAEKY is a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of companion animals throughout Eastern Kentucky. Through affordable spay and neuter initiatives, community education, rescue partnerships, and advocacy for responsible pet ownership, the organization works to reduce pet overpopulation and create healthier, safer communities for both animals and the people who care for them. Animal Alliance of East Kentucky believes every pet deserves the opportunity to live a healthy, loved, and valued life.

**About Petco Love**
Petco Love is a life-changing nonprofit organization that makes communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since 1999, we've empowered more than 4,000 animal welfare partners to drive lifesaving change alongside us – investing nearly $441 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. We've helped find loving homes for more than 7.1 million pets in partnership with Petco and organizations nationwide. Our love for pets drives us to lead with innovation, creating Petco Love Lost to reunite lost pets with their families. Visit Petco Love and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and TikTok.