



**NORTHERN LIGHTS**  
REGIONAL HUMANE SOCIETY



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **NORTHERN LIGHTS REGIONAL HUMANE SOCIETY TO HELP FOX LAKE, RAINBOW LAKE and CHATEH WITH DISASTER RESPONSE WITH HELP OF \$8,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES OF CANADA™**

**June 17, 2023— HIGH LEVEL, ALBERTA** – In the wake of ravaging wildfires throughout northwestern Alberta that had a devastating impact on people and their pets, the Northern Lights Regional Humane Society, with the help of an \$8,000.00 grant from [PetSmart Charities of Canada](#), mobilized to provide rescue, relief, and recovery efforts.

Approximately 26 animals were brought to the Northern Lights Regional Humane to be housed while evacuated from their community. This included animals brought in by families with nowhere for their pets to stay and some found in the affected areas by first responders. With hundreds of animals still remaining in the affected communities, the Northern Lights Regional Humane Society provided the communities with crates to move animals to safety, bowls and pallets of food.

#### *Diesel's Story:*

*When the wildfire swept through Diesel's community at an unpredictable speed, he was on his own to find safety and security. That was until the amazing firefighters found him. When they found Diesel, he was in an upright barrel with a liquid and grime mixture of diesel, oil, dirt, and whatever else was mixed in. Diesel was covered, matted, and hungry, and his skin was burning from the filth he stood, sat, and lay in. Firefighters removed Diesel from the barrel, cleaned him up the best they could, gave him some food, and called for help.*

*Diesel and his rescuers took a 152km car ride to safety at NLRHS where he was immediately taken to the vet and given a haircut and bath. The vets administered medicine to help heal wounds on the back of Diesel's front legs and belly from possible fire or chemical burns.*



*Figure 1 Diesel when he first arrived at NLRHS covered in oil, dirt and mats.*



Figure 2 Diesel cleaned up and in his foster home.

*Diesel has since moved into a foster home with a wonderful family. Within a couple of days, he started to relax and realized he was in a safe place. Diesel loves to follow his foster family around the house and steal the cat's favourite lawn chair outside. With thanks to the First Responders, Diesel's tail wags once again.*

Disaster response grants made by PetSmart Charities of Canada aim to keep people and pets staying together during crises when they need each other most, but we realize that circumstances mean that can't always happen. When people suffer during natural disasters, their pets suffer too. Pets, too, have urgent needs for shelter, medical care, nutritious food, and social support.

"From the beginning of the wildfire evacuations, NLRHS has been involved. Regular intake was closed so we could use the remaining space to help wildfire evacuees," said Amanda Ebert, Chair of Northern Lights Regional Humane Society. "NLRHS became a point of contact to provide food for the animals and help with supplies, including crates and bowls. The staff has worked, and continues, to work tirelessly to support and care for the animals. Our team strived to feed the animals that couldn't feed themselves; our doors are open to all evacuees, easing some of the burdens of not only feeding but housing their animals while they were displaced."

"When disaster strikes, pets and people need each other even more," said Kate Atema, director of community grant initiatives at PetSmart Charities of Canada. "Unfortunately, unpredictable events sometimes leave pets in harm's way, but we're grateful for the first responders and partners who understand that disaster affect pets too – it's when they need help more than ever. We're happy to support Northern Lights Regional Humane Society as they support the communities impacted by the wildfires.

Community members can find out more information about Northern Lights Regional Humane Society by visiting:

- Website: [www.northernlightshumanesociety.ca](http://www.northernlightshumanesociety.ca)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/northernlightsregionalhumanesociety](https://www.facebook.com/northernlightsregionalhumanesociety)
- Instagram: @shelter.nlrhs

### **About Northern Lights Regional Humane Society**

Northern Lights Regional Humane Society is a registered charity in northern Alberta. Our mission is to protect and prevent cruelty to animals. We strive to provide owner-surrendered and homeless animals with medical attention, food, and shelter while attempting to place them in permanent and loving homes.

### **About PetSmart Charities of Canada™**

[PetSmart Charities of Canada](http://www.petsmartcharities.ca) is committed to making the world a better place for pets and all who love them. Through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart® stores nationwide,

PetSmart Charities of Canada helps thousands of pets connect with loving families each year. PetSmart Charities of Canada also provides grant funding to support organizations that advocate and care for the well-being of all pets and their families. Our grants and efforts connect pets with loving homes through adoption, improve access to affordable veterinary care and support families in times of crisis with access to food, shelter, and emergency relief. Thousands of generous supporters help pets in need each year by donating to PetSmart Charities of Canada directly at [PetSmartCharities.ca](http://PetSmartCharities.ca), while shopping at [PetSmart.ca](http://PetSmart.ca), and by using the PIN pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart stores. PetSmart Charities of Canada efficiently uses more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as the leading funder of animal welfare in Canada, granting more than \$25 million since its inception in 1999. Independent from PetSmart LLC, PetSmart Charities of Canada is a registered Canadian charity. To learn more, visit [www.PetSmartCharities.ca](http://www.PetSmartCharities.ca).

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