



Maddie's  
Fund

Michelson  
Found Animals



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **National Animal Welfare Leaders and Funders Issue Position Statement on the Importance of Sharing Key Data**

**Oct. 4, 2018**—Eight of the nation’s largest and most influential animal welfare organizations and foundations recently convened to create a position statement on the importance of transparency and sharing key data as defined by [Shelter Animals Count](#). The joint position statement is being made publicly available to provide a better understanding of accountability expectations for organizations that take stray and homeless pets into their care. It is also intended to help guide shelter protocols and inform the future of the industry.

Together, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®, Best Friends Animal Society, Michelson Found Animals Foundation, the Humane Society of the United States, Maddie’s Fund®, PetSmart Charities®, Petco Foundation and WaterShed Animal Fund contribute more than \$100 million annually to animal welfare and provide for the care of millions of pets each year.

The issuing of this position statement marks a shared commitment among the eight renowned animal welfare organizations to lead by example and work together to save and enhance the lives of animals across the country. The position statement reads as follows:

*“As national leaders and funders of animal welfare in North America, we believe that organizations should be transparent about the number of animals that come under their care, and the outcome for all of those animals. That is why we support the public availability of key data (the basic data matrix as defined by Shelter Animals Count), from all animal welfare agencies and nonprofits, both publicly and privately funded and whether or not they provide government animal control services or humane law enforcement.”*

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### **About the ASPCA®**

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) was the first animal welfare organization in North America and continues to serve as the nation's leading voice for animals. More than two million supporters strong, the ASPCA is committed to its mission of providing effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, the ASPCA is a national leader in the areas of anti-cruelty, community outreach and animal health services. For more information, please visit [www.ASPCA.org](http://www.ASPCA.org), and be sure to follow the ASPCA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

### **About Best Friends Animal Society**

[Best Friends Animal Society](#) is a leading national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters. In addition to running lifesaving programs in partnership with more than 2,400 animal welfare groups across the country, Best Friends has regional centers in New York City, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Salt Lake City, and operates the nation's largest no-kill sanctuary for companion animals. Founded in 1984, Best Friends has helped reduce the number of animals killed in shelters nationwide from 17 million per year to about 1.5 million. Determined to get that number to zero by the year 2025, Best Friends and its nationwide network of members and partners are working to Save Them All®.

To become a fan of Best Friends on Facebook, go to [Facebook.com/bestfriendsanimalsociety](https://Facebook.com/bestfriendsanimalsociety). Follow Best Friends on Twitter ([@BestFriends](#)) and Instagram ([@BestFriendsAnimalSociety](#))

### **About the Humane Society of the United States**

The Humane Society of the United States is the [most effective](#) animal protection organization, as rated by our peers. For more than 60 years, we have celebrated the protection of all animals and confronted all forms of cruelty. We and our affiliates are the nation's largest provider of [hands-on services](#) for animals, caring for more than 100,000 animals each year, and we prevent cruelty to millions more through our [advocacy campaigns](#). Read about our more than 60 years of [transformational change](#) for animals and people at [HumaneSociety.org](http://HumaneSociety.org). [Subscribe](#) to Kitty Block's blog, [A Humane Nation](#). Follow The HSUS Media Relations department on [Twitter](#).

### **About Maddie's Fund**

[Maddie's Fund](#)® is a family foundation created in 1994 by Workday® co-founder Dave Duffield and his wife, Cheryl, who have endowed the Foundation with more than \$300 million. Since then, the Foundation has awarded more than \$225.7 million in grants toward increased community lifesaving, shelter management leadership, shelter medicine education, and foster care across the U.S. The Duffields named Maddie's Fund after their Miniature Schnauzer Maddie, who always made them laugh and gave them much joy. Maddie was with Dave and Cheryl for ten years and continues to inspire them today.

Maddie's Fund is the fulfillment of a [promise](#) to an inspirational dog, investing its resources to create a no-kill nation where every dog and cat is guaranteed a healthy home or habitat. #ThanksToMaddie.

### **About Michelson Found Animals Foundation**

Michelson Found Animals Foundation is a leading animal welfare non-profit organization committed to keeping pets safe at home with the pet parents who love them. With a mission of Saving Pets, Enriching Lives, Found Animals is advancing the health and safety of pets through the first free, national microchip registry, solutions-based programs addressing pet adoption, microchipping, low-cost spay neuter services and grants for research into non-surgical spay and neuter methods. The foundation provides educational resources for pet parents and support for a variety of animal welfare organizations and is also supporting start up innovation in the pet care industry with the Leap Venture Studio. Generously funded by Dr. Gary Michelson and Alya Michelson, Found Animals has helped more than 1.5 million pets since it was founded in 2005.

Follow our progress online at [www.FoundAnimals.org](http://www.FoundAnimals.org), or via social media at [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#)

### **About the Petco Foundation**

At the Petco Foundation, we believe that every animal deserves to live its best life. Since 1999, we've invested more than \$200 million in lifesaving animal welfare work to make that happen. With our more than 4,000 animal

welfare partners, we inspire and empower communities to make a difference by investing in adoption and medical care programs, spay and neuter services, pet cancer research, service and therapy animals, and numerous other life-saving initiatives. Through our Think Adoption First program, we partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we've helped more than 5.5 million pets find their new loving families, and we're just getting started. Visit [www.petcofoundation.org](http://www.petcofoundation.org) to learn more about how you can get involved.

### **About PetSmart Charities**

PetSmart Charities, Inc. is committed to finding lifelong, loving homes for all pets by supporting programs and thought leadership that bring people and pets together. Through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart® stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities helps to find forever homes and families for more than 500,000 shelter pets each year. PetSmart Charities also provides grant funding to nonprofits aligned with its mission under four key areas of support: Preventing Pet Homelessness; Helping Shelter Pets Thrive; Supporting the Bond Between People and Pets and Providing Emergency Relief and Disaster Support. Each year, millions of generous PetSmart shoppers help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities using the PIN pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities efficiently uses more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, granting almost \$340 million since its inception in 1994. Independent from PetSmart Inc., PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization that has received the Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, a third-party organization that reports on the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of nonprofits, for the past 15 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of charities rated by this organization. To learn more visit [www.petsmartcharities.org](http://www.petsmartcharities.org).

Follow PetSmart Charities on Twitter: [@PetSmartCharITs](https://twitter.com/PetSmartCharITs)

Find PetSmart Charities on Facebook: [Facebook.com/PetSmartCharities](https://Facebook.com/PetSmartCharities)

See PetSmart Charities on YouTube: [YouTube.com/PetSmartCharitiesInc](https://YouTube.com/PetSmartCharitiesInc)

### **About WaterShed Animal Fund**

The WaterShed Animal Fund is a private, separate entity within the Arnall Family Foundation. With an independent staff and strategic plan, they are dedicated to supporting innovative programs exemplary institutions and individuals to better lives of companion animals. The fund supports organizations with shared interest that demonstrate competency, transparency and problem solving. To learn more visit [www.watershedanimalfund.org](http://www.watershedanimalfund.org)

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