

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Vote to Help Macon County Animal Services Earn Up to \$25K from the Petco Foundation**

*Adopter's story can help Macon County Animal Services earn up to \$25,000 from the Petco Foundation*

**Franklin, NC (Dec 1st, 2020)**— Macon County Animal Services adopter's story about how their pet has changed their life was selected as one of 50 national winners this year by the [Petco Foundation](#) in its annual [Holiday Wishes campaign](#). Now Macon County Animal Services has the opportunity to earn up to \$25,000, but they need the community's support. From now through Dec. 16, noon CST, the public can vote for Macon County Animal Services' winning Holiday Wishes story in the People's Choice competition at [petcofoundation.org/vote](#).

"We encourage our community of animal lovers to vote for our story! If 2020 has shown us anything it's that pets change our lives for the better. Your vote can help us earn lifesaving funds so we can bring more pets in need together with loving families," said Jimmy Villiard, Administrator at Macon County Animal Services.

**Top 5 People's Choice vote recipients will receive:**

- One (1) First Place: \$25,000
- Two (2) Second Place Winners: \$10,000 each
- Two (2) Third Place Winners: \$5,000 each

**The deadline to vote is December 16, 2020, noon CST.** Winners will be announced late December. To view all 50 finalist stories and vote for a favorite, visit [petcofoundation.org/vote](#).

**Finalist Story Background:**

Shawna Pollak's heartwarming story about how her adopted dog, Franklin, was selected by the Petco Foundation as one of 50 national Holiday Wishes winners from thousands of submissions to help Macon County Animal Services earn lifesaving funds. Shawna first met Franklin while driving over the mountain heading into Macon County, when he ran out in front of her car. Shawna called Macon County Animal Services, who took in the dog to try to locate their owner; when no owner was found, and Franklin was available for adoption, Shawna knew she had to have him. A few weeks later, Shawna was volunteering at her local hospital in their COVID unit which did not have adequate PPE. She made the difficult decision to isolate from her household, leaving her alone and with a history of depression. Without the comfort that Franklin was able to provide her, Shawna said she was on the verge of a downward spiral, but Franklin was there to make it better.

Since 2013, more than 20,000 adopters from across the country have shared how their pets have changed their lives to help make more than \$5.8 million in Holiday Wishes come true for animal welfare organizations that make these adoption matches possible. For more information about the Petco Foundation Holiday Wishes campaign, visit [petcofoundation.org/holidaywishes](#) and join the conversation on social media using **#HolidayWishes**.

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**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 \$290 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 lifesaving initiatives. We also partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we've helped more than 6.5 million pets find their new loving families, and we're just getting started. Visit [petcofoundation.org](#) to learn more about how you can get involved.