



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Local Shelters Partner with Petco Love and Dog Is My CoPilot to Air Transport 90 Shelter Pets to Loving Homes

Petco Love Invests \$750,000 to Help Dog Is My CoPilot Transport Pets in Need Across Western
United States for Adoption

**DALLAS (June 5, 2021)** --- Petco Love, a national nonprofit working to lead and inspire change for animals, partnered with Dog Is My CoPilot and DFW shelters for a lifesaving shelter pet transport on Saturday, June 5. Ninety dogs and cats were airlifted from Dallas-Fort Worth to shelters in Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Wyoming to be adopted into loving homes. The flight also celebrated a \$750,000 grant investment from Petco Love to support Dog Is My CoPilot's ongoing lifesaving work and their volunteer pilot program.

As shelters across the country reopen to the public and ease restrictions after COVID-19, the number of pets entering shelters is beginning to normalize to pre-pandemic levels and will likely continue to rise due to expected summer increases of kittens. Transporting animals is a lifesaving solution to move at-risk animals to areas with higher adoption demand.

"As part of Petco Love's commitment to create a future in which no pet faces preventable euthanasia, we're proud to invest in Dog Is My CoPilot's lifesaving work and come together with shelters across the country to help pets in need get an increased chance at adoption," said Susanne Kogut, President of Petco Love. "As we kick off National Foster a Pet Month this June, this transport is yet another way we're working together to save pet lives and make communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier."

"We are beyond grateful to continue to grow and strengthen our partnership with Petco Love," said Dr. Peter E. Rork, Chief Pilot and Founder of Dog Is My CoPilot. "With Petco Love's support, we've been able to considerably scale up our lifesaving efforts. This investment affirms our work and motivates us to continue to grow our partnerships with animal shelters and adoption centers, saving lives by the thousands!"

#### **Transport Details:**

**Shelters sending animals** (Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas): Archangel Animal Network, Dallas Animal Services, Fort Worth Animal Care & Control, Cody's Friends Rescue, Erath County Humane, Dallas Pets Alive

Shelters receiving animals: Humane Society of Utah (UT), Ruff Patch Rescue (UT), Paws for Life (UT), Larimer Humane Society (CO), Animal Friends Alliance (CO), Mile High Canine Rescue (CO), Green Heart Rescue (ID), Aska's Animals Foundation (ID), Teton Valley Community Animal Shelter (ID), Paws of Jackson Hole (WY), Animal Adoption Center (WY)

Flight Path: Departure: Addison Airport, Atlantic Aviation (TX)

Stop 1: Fort Collins, Loveland Jet Center (CO)
Stop 2: South Valley Regional Airport (UT)

**Arrival**: Driggs-Reed Memorial Airport (ID)

To learn more about Petco Love, visit <u>petcolove.org</u>. For more on Dog Is My CoPilot, visit <u>dogcopilot.org</u>. For adoption information, please contact the receiving animal welfare organizations directly.

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### **About Petco Love** (Formerly Petco Foundation)

Petco Love is a nonprofit changing lives by making communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since our founding in 1999 as the Petco Foundation, we've empowered animal welfare organizations by investing \$300 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. We've helped find loving homes for more than 6.5 million pets in partnership with Petco and organizations nationwide. Today, our love for pets drives us to lead with innovation, creating tools animal lovers need to reunite lost pets, and lead with passion, inspiring and mobilizing communities and our more than 4,000 animal welfare partners to drive lifesaving change alongside us. Is love calling you? Visit petcolove.org or follow at Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn to be part of the lifesaving work we're leading every day.

## **About Dog Is My CoPilot**

Dog Is My CoPilot is a nonprofit that transports at-risk animals from overcrowded shelters to adoption centers in other geographic regions where loving families are waiting. Peter E. Rork, M.D., an orthopedic surgeon and lifelong pilot, and Judy Zimet, Esq., a lawyer in Arizona, founded the organization in 2012 with the goal of saving as many animals' lives as possible. Our transportation service is key to saving adoptable animals. By flying dogs and cats out of areas where they are at risk of euthanasia due to overpopulation, animals find a forever family, and more shelter space is made available for homeless animals. We provide our services at no cost to our partners and an average rescue flight carries about 75 animals on board each rescue mission. We work with municipal animal shelters and nonprofit animal rescue organizations to coordinate rescue flights. We work collaboratively with city shelters and local animal welfare organizations in fifteen western states to coordinate transports. Our team of VOLUNTEER pilots donate thousands of hours flying so that our air transport services are provided at no cost to our partners. Since 2012, we have helped save the lives of over 17,000 dogs and cats with our transport flights.

### **CONTACT:**

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