



Operation Kindness launches new Lifesaving Partnerships team to save more dogs and cats in Texas shelters

The team is being funded by a generous grant from Best Friends Animal Society.

CARROLLTON, TX (March 22, 2023) — Operation Kindness has launched a new Lifesaving Partnerships team within their Community Initiatives program. The new team will work with shelter partners in North Texas to save the lives of more shelter pets.

The Lifesaving Partnerships team will be funded by a peer mentorship grant from Best Friends Animal Society. The grant will provide Operation Kindness with \$1 million over the next three years.

The team, consisting of one veterinarian and two vet technicians, will work with eight key shelter partners in the region. The ultimate goal is to raise the live release rate for dogs and cats to 90% and assist 3,000 additional shelter pets in the first year.

For each shelter, Operation Kindness' Lifesaving Partnerships team will evaluate operations and the support that is needed most. Types of support offered include establishing medical protocols, providing veterinary support, assisting with data input and output, creating community outreach and intake diversion programs, assessing foster, adoption, volunteer and other programs and much more.

Due to the high number of pets dying in Texas shelters, Best Friends Animal Society identified Texas a top priority state to support with resources to increase the number of dogs and cats saved.

"Best Friends' goal is to help every shelter in the country get to a 90% save rate by 2025. But we can't do it alone," said Best Friends Animal Society CEO Julie Castle. "So, we are excited to partner with a great organization like Operation Kindness who has already been tremendously successful in their own community and to help them create an even bigger impact. This partnership has the potential to expand the lifesaving goals of both Best Friends and Operation Kindness across the entire Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex."

This support will create long-term, sustainable lifesaving strategies that partner shelters can continue to build upon to maximize the number of lives saved.

Dr. Kim Heinefield will serve as Operation Kindness' new Lifesaving Partnerships Veterinarian. Dr. Heinefield is a Texas native who graduated from Texas A&M University. After college, she moved to DFW and began her career in private practice. In 2015, Dr. Heinefield began working for the SPCA of Texas where she provided low-cost services to communities in need. Since then, she has worked for many low-cost vaccine and surgery clinics, as well as local shelters.

"I am looking forward to being part of such a caring, hard-working group as the Community Initiatives team," Dr. Heinefield said. "Supporting pet owners and providing services to underserved animal shelters will greatly improve the lives of so many animals. I am thankful to Operation Kindness for this opportunity!"

Operation Kindness' Chief Community Initiative Officer Meredith Jones said the organization is excited for the opportunity to team up with Best Friends Animal Society on this new initiative.

"Best Friends Animal Society and Operation Kindness share the same commitment to making the world a kinder and more compassionate place for both animals and people," Jones said, "We appreciate Best Friends Animal Society's significant support and confidence in our Lifesaving Partnerships program, and we look forward to working with our partners to create sustainable lifesaving strategies for under-resourced and overcrowded shelters that increase the number of dogs and cats saved in Texas."

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About Operation Kindness

Operation Kindness, a 501(c)(3) non-profit animal welfare organization, operates a lifesaving animal shelter and programs to assist people and pets. Founded in 1976, Operation Kindness is a pioneer in Texas for assisting animals in need of veterinary care companionship, and most of all, a home.

In addition to pet adoptions and lifesaving medical care, Operation Kindness' programs provide foster care for vulnerable animals, behavior and training support for pet parents, affordable veterinary services for community pets, a pet food pantry and volunteer opportunities. To learn more about Operation Kindness, please visit their website at www.operationkindness.org.

About Best Friends Animal Society

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters by 2025. Founded in 1984, Best Friends is a pioneer in the no-kill movement and has helped reduce the number of animals killed in shelters from an estimated 17 million per year to around 355,000. Best Friends runs lifesaving programs across the country, as well as the nation's largest no-kill animal sanctuary. Working collaboratively with a network of more than 4,100 animal welfare and shelter partners, and community members nationwide, Best Friends is working to Save Them All®. For more information, visit bestfriends.org

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