Nestle Purina Contributes $550,000 to Stray Rescue

Nestle Purina PetCare Company today announced it is contributing $550,000 to Stray Rescue, a St. Louis not-for-profit organization, to support the opening of its Companion Animal Center on Pine Street. The Nestle Purina contribution will help Stray Rescue make critical improvements needed as it begins to accept dogs from St. Louis City's soon-to-close Animal Control facility on Gasconade.

Stray Rescue and the St. Louis City's Department of Health will begin transferring dogs from the Gasconade facility to Stray Rescue's Companion Animal Center today. The Gasconade facility, built in the 1940s, is closing at the end of August because of inadequate health and safety conditions.

Nestle Purina's contribution will help Stray Rescue purchase an HVAC system for its 17,000-square-foot building; complete the purchase of needed veterinary equipment; and complete construction on both a reception area and a visiting room where potential adopters can spend time with a pet.

"Nestle Purina is pleased to make this contribution in recognition of Stray Rescue's tireless efforts to make a difference for homeless pets," said Terry Block, President, Nestle Purina Pet Food-North America. "With the first dogs arriving today, and the building only roughly completed, it was clear that Stray Rescue needed help quickly to take care of the dogs, and later cats, that would be transferred from Gasconade. Nestle Purina recognizes that Stray Rescue will continue to promote collaboration among the animal welfare groups in the St. Louis region, which should increase foster homes and adoptions; provide more low-cost spay and neuter options to reduce the number of homeless pets entering our community shelters; and provide increased education on responsible pet ownership."

"I am beyond thrilled with this contribution from Nestle Purina," said Randy Grim, Founder of Stray Rescue. "This is a natural fit, and I feel we are not alone anymore, with Purina's support. This is a new day, with a new hope and a new vision. The train has left the station, and I invite everyone to climb aboard and join us as we are on our way to making St. Louis the pet friendliest city."

Said Block: "Nestle Purina joins Stray Rescue and the City Health Department in issuing a call to action to other businesses and individuals in the community to help Stray Rescue raise the additional $500,000 it needs to complete the Pine Street building as it takes on the new and important role of providing key animal care and control services to the City of St. Louis."

Nestle Purina PetCare promotes responsible pet care, community involvement and the positive bond between people and their pets. A premiere global manufacturer of pet products, Nestle Purina PetCare is part of Swiss-based Nestle S.A., the world's largest food company.

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