



For Immediate Release
AUGUST 3, 2012

Contact: Megan Caylor Wahl
M Marketing for Family Promise® of Greater Phoenix
602.561.7722 / megan@mmarketingaz.com

**'PET PROMISE' FIRST OF ITS KIND IN AZ TO OFFER
OPPORTUNITY FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES TO KEEP THEIR PETS**
PetSmart® and Family Promise are breaking ground on exemplary shelter for pets

(PHOENIX, Ariz.) – [Family Promise of Greater Phoenix](#), a local not for profit organization that helps homeless families get back on their feet, has teamed up with Phoenix-based [PetSmart Inc.](#) to create Arizona's first emergency shelter for homeless families with pets. Countless pets are surrendered when their families fall on hard times and lose their homes. Homeless shelters have only offered space to people and not their pets-- until now. PetSmart is donating over \$33,000 to Family Promise to create a pet area called **Pet Promise**, complete with yards, crates and kennels as well as free food, spay/neuter services and vaccinations for pets of all kinds.

On August 13, 2012, at 9 a.m., local community officials including the Mayor of Scottsdale W.J. "Jim" Lane, Congressman David Schweikert, PetSmart leaders and Family Promise representatives will be on-hand at the future Pet Promise location, 7221 E. Belleview Street in Scottsdale, for a check presentation and groundbreaking to kick off the project.

"We are so excited to have such an amazing partner like PetSmart. This pet shelter is the first emergency homeless shelter welcoming pets on-site in Arizona allowing our homeless families the option to keep their pets close to them while they work to get back on their feet and become self-sufficient," said Ted Taylor, director of Family Promise. "We anticipate serving 25 families with pets within the next 12 months, and our goal is to achieve a seventy percent success rate of graduating families into sustainable housing with their pets."

Offering pets a home so that they are not separated from their families helps ease the stress of all family members during their housing crises and decreases the number of pets potentially surrendered to already capacity-challenged animal shelters. Keeping their pet eliminates one significant disruption from the family's rapidly changing lives and relieves the sense of abandonment of their beloved pets.

-more-



2-2-2/ PetSmart® and Family Promise® team up for Pet Promise

“Homelessness is such a traumatic event in anyone’s life and to be forced to give away a pet – a member of the family – just magnifies the pain,” said [Joe O’Leary](#), PetSmart’s Executive Vice President of Merchandising, Supply Chain and Marketing. “By partnering with Family Promise, we hope to provide some much-needed comfort and support by helping all members of the family stay together until they get back on their feet.”

Pet Promise is a truly unique service never before offered in Arizona. The facility will be clean, comfortable and cheerful with family pets within a few feet of their loved ones. Through the partnership with PetSmart, Family Promise will convert a two-bedroom apartment into an on-site facility to house the pets. The living room will serve as the greeting room for families to visit with their pet while in the program. The larger bedroom will be converted into dog condo area, while the smaller bedroom will become the cat condo area, with clear doors into each of the condo areas. In addition, Family Promise is adding a dog run so that the dogs have the ability to exercise in a confined and safe area.

Family Promise’s guests, who are housed in a partnering church facility during the evening hours, will be able to visit their pets daily from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Families are responsible for feeding their pets, exercising them daily and cleaning up after them. Family Promise will have part-time staff members to take care of the pets during the hours in which the families are not on site.

About Family Promise

Family Promise of Greater Phoenix operates a family homeless shelter located in Scottsdale and partners with 23 churches and other faith organizations to house families in immediate need of shelter. The organization is one of 174 Family Promise programs throughout the country providing meals, a homelike setting, emotional support and a full range of social, economic, and educational services. Family Promise’s success relies greatly on its network of volunteers and donations from Arizona’s Working Poor Tax Credit. For more information on the program visit www.familypromiseaz.org.

About PetSmart

[PetSmart, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ: PETM) is the largest specialty pet retailer of services and solutions for the lifetime needs of pets. The company employs approximately 50,000 associates and operates more than 1,241 pet stores in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, over 194 in-store [PetSmart® PetsHotel®](#) dog and cat boarding facilities and is a leading online provider of pet supplies and pet care information (<http://www.petsmart.com>). PetSmart provides a broad range of competitively priced pet food and pet



-more-

3-3-3/ PetSmart® and Family Promise® team up for Pet Promise

products; and offers dog training, pet grooming, pet boarding, [PetSmart Doggie Day Camp](#)SM day care services and pet adoption services. Since 1994, [PetSmart Charities, Inc.](#), an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit animal welfare organization and the largest funder of animal welfare efforts in North America, has provided more than \$165 million in grants and programs benefiting animal welfare organizations. Through its in-store pet adoption partnership with PetSmart Charities®, PetSmart has helped save the lives of nearly 5 million pets. Follow PetSmart on Twitter [@PetSmart](#). Find PetSmart on Facebook www.facebook.com/PetSmart. See PetSmart on YouTube: www.YouTube.com/PetSmart.

-END-