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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council on Aging Partners with the Humane Society of Central Oregon to Expand Pet Pals Program and Launches Food Fur All Fundraiser

New partnership brings clinics and in-home veterinary care to Meals on Wheels clients

Dr. Misty Doornek, HSCO Veterinary Outreach Director, provides in-home veterinary services for Meals on Wheels clients.

Bend, OR - September 17, 2025 - The Council on Aging of Central Oregon (CoA) is teaming up with the Humane Society of Central Oregon (HSCO) to expand its Pet Pals Program while launching its annual Food Fur All fundraiser to sustain and grow these

services. Through this partnership, Meals on Wheels clients in Madras and Prineville now receive in-home veterinary visits. Across Central Oregon, Meals on Wheels clients can also take part in HSCO's wellness clinics, with help from CoA for scheduling, transportation, and financial support.

Since the partnership began earlier this year, 15 in-home visits have been completed, assisting 21 animals with exams, vaccinations, and preventative care. "This partnership helps keep pets with their people," said Dr. Misty Doornek, Veterinary Outreach Director at the Humane Society of Central Oregon. "By bringing critical veterinary care directly to older adults, especially those in rural areas who might go without, we safeguard the health of beloved animals and the companionship that means so much to their families."

Demand for Pet Pals continues to rise. Over the past year, the program has seen a 40% increase in clients, now supporting 163 clients and 242 pets. At the same time, funding has dropped 32%, with veterinary services hit hardest by these cuts. Without preventative care, minor health issues can quickly become emergencies, putting both pets and their owners at risk.

The Food Fur All fundraiser will help maintain veterinary care for Meals on Wheels clients and keep free clinics and in-home visits available. Any additional funds will go directly toward food and supplies to help pets stay healthy and cared for at home.

"Pets are like family for many of our Meals on Wheels clients, and these in-home visits make a real difference for homebound older adults," said Cassie Regimbal, Executive Director at the Council on Aging of Central Oregon. "By keeping these pets healthy, we help protect the bond between them and their owners while providing comfort and peace of mind every day. We are asking the community to help make a real difference in the lives of older adults and their furry family members."

How to Help:
Community members can support Pet Pals by donating directly at www.councilonaging.org/donate or sending a check to 1036 NE 5th Street, Bend, OR 97701. Please make a note that this is for Pet Pals. Supporters can also buy items from the organization's Amazon Wishlist: https://a.co/ieLuoOB

About the Council on Aging of Central Oregon
Since 1975, the Council on Aging of Central Oregon (CoA) has served as the designated Area Agency on Aging for Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties, offering adults

aged 60 and older and their loved ones a range of support services. CoA advocates for, empowers, and guides older adults and their loved ones to live with independence and well-being. To find out more about the Council on Aging of Central Oregon, visit www.councilonaging.org or call (541) 678-5483.

About the Humane Society of Central Oregon

The Humane Society of Central Oregon (HSCO) has served the region since 1961, matching thousands of animals with loving homes each year. HSCO strengthens the community through adoption services, lost-and-found support, humane education, and hands-on outreach. From free and low-cost veterinary care to the HOPE Pet Food Bank, and now in-home visits for older adults, HSCO helps keep pets healthy and where they belong: with the families who love them. Visit www.hsco.org or call 541-382-3537.

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