



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) Receives \$50,000 PEDIGREE Foundation Grant to Expand Foster Program and Support Dogs with Behavioral Challenges

New York City, NY — May 9, 2024 — In 2023, over 5,000 homeless dogs found their way into the care of Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC). With adoption rates on the decline and dogs spending extended periods in shelters, ACC is pioneering new strategies to expedite placements and ensure the well-being of its in-shelter dogs. Recognizing the critical role of fostering in this endeavor, ACC is thrilled to announce the receipt of a \$50,000 grant from PEDIGREE Foundation. This grant will launch a groundbreaking program dedicated to supporting dogs in foster care, particularly those with behavioral challenges.

"Fostering is an essential component of our mission to end animal homelessness in NYC," stated Ellen Curtis, ACC's Chief Programs Officer. "However, dogs with behavioral issues often face longer wait times for placement due to a lack of experienced fosters. This grant from PEDIGREE Foundation will enable us to address this gap by providing specialized training and support to foster caregivers."

ACC's foster program plays a pivotal role in providing a safe and nurturing environment for dogs in transition. However, dogs with behavioral challenges, such as fearfulness or aggression, require extra attention and expertise



ACC is currently hiring a Canine Behavior and Outreach Foster Trainer as part of the new program. This position will be based at the new state of the art Animal Care Center in Ridgewood, Queens. For more information, visit nycacc.org/careers

"With the generous support of PEDIGREE Foundation, we can expand our foster network and provide invaluable resources to caregivers, ultimately improving the quality of life for these dogs and increasing their chances of adoption success," said Tara Mercado, ACC's Director of Operations.

The grant from PEDIGREE Foundation will facilitate the development of specialized training programs for foster caregivers, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to address behavioral challenges effectively. Additionally, the funds will support initiatives to raise awareness about fostering

and promote the benefits of opening one's home to a shelter dog in need.

ACC's collaboration with PEDIGREE Foundation exemplifies a shared commitment to improving the lives of shelter animals and strengthening communities.

Program Hiring: Canine Behavior and Outreach Foster Trainer

The Behavior Outreach Foster Trainer is a member of the Canine Behavior Team who focuses primarily on creating training plans and running daily behavior modification sessions for ACC foster dogs. This role will also be designing and providing low-stress handling training to staff, volunteers, fosters, and adopters to learn how to gently modify challenging behaviors. ACC uses only force-free, reward-based training methods. For more information and to apply for the role, visit: <https://www.nycacc.org/careers/>

About Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC)

Founded in 1995, Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to end animal homelessness in New York City. As the only open-admission shelter serving New York City, ACC provides a haven for thousands of homeless, abandoned, and neglected animals each year, regardless of age, breed, or medical condition.

With a team of compassionate staff and volunteers, ACC offers a comprehensive range of services, including adoption, fostering, veterinary care, behavior training, and community outreach. Founded on the principles of compassion, integrity, and respect for all living creatures, ACC strives to create a more compassionate and humane society by raising awareness about animal welfare issues and providing resources to support pet owners and communities.

For more information about Animal Care Centers of NYC and how you can get involved, visit www.nycacc.org.

About PEDIGREE Foundation

We believe every dog deserves a loving, forever home. PEDIGREE Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to help end pet homelessness. Nearly 3.1 million dogs end up in shelters and rescues every year, and nearly half never find a home. The foundation was established in 2008 by Mars Petcare, maker of PEDIGREE® food for dogs, to help increase dog adoption rates. We've awarded more than 6,200 grants and \$12 million to U.S. shelters and rescues that help dogs in need. Since launching our Canadian grant program in 2022, we have provided \$200k CAD to local shelters and rescues in need across Canada, as well as \$20k CAD in Disaster Relief. At PEDIGREE Foundation, we're working toward a day when all dogs are safe, secure, cared for, fed well and loved. See how you can help at PedigreeFoundation.org.

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