

February 20, 2019

Petco Foundation  
Attn: Susanne Kogut  
654 Richard Hills Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78245

Dear Ms. Kogut:

Creating a better world for animals, and the people who love them, is a mission the Petco Foundation believes in wholeheartedly. Your Foundation is a leader in animal welfare and one of the nation's largest funders of animal lifesaving causes. As such, you seek to support organizations that share this lifesaving goal—organizations that are determined to save as many lives as possible with your investment. I am the owner of Mayte's Rescue, and we are such an organization. We are a non-profit (501)c3 animal rescue committed to finding forever homes for every animal we take in. I am writing to inform you of a new animal shelter that I am in the process of opening in Las Vegas, NV to help care for abandoned dogs rescued from Puerto Rico. Until then, we rely on fosters and donors who help board and vet these wonderful creatures.

Since 2017's Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, we have been helping to find forever homes for the many stray dogs on the Island. We are committed to finding suitable homes for these innocents. Even before Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico had a stray dog crisis created by animal abandonment from its' poor economy, no-kill shelters (a good thing), and lack of spaying or neutering of the animals. The crisis is so bad now that Puerto Rico has been called "Dead Dog Island". The exact number of homeless dogs on the Island is unknown, but a documentary entitled "100,000" about the plight tells it all. Many dogs pass away from starvation, disease, and gunshot wounds, while others are purposely killed rather than rescued.

We have identified a process to rescue these abandoned dogs in Puerto Rico. It begins with logging and identifying the animals in Puerto Rico. Once logged, our coordinator will check in on the dogs, giving them food and medicine daily until space opens-up for them to be taken into shelters in Puerto Rico. Once a dog is taken to the shelter it will receive a full check-up. This will help the veterinarian determine what, if any, medication or care is required for the dog to return to full health. In addition to a check-up, the dogs are spayed, neutered, and vaccinated. When a dog is well enough to travel, our volunteers in Puerto Rico will help prepare the dogs to fly to Las Vegas. Upon arrival, the dogs will be received by our team of volunteers who transport the dogs to our new shelter.

As you can see, a solution to take care of these many abandoned dogs is a huge undertaking. I am in the beginning stages of creating the new shelter to house and rehabilitate these wonderful dogs. My goal is to take in as many strays from Puerto Rico as our new shelter can handle. We not only need to house these rescues, but also make sure they receive continued vet assistance and food supplies. Additionally, a staff of at least three part-time workers is necessary to properly run the new rescue. Equipment for the animals, such as pens, food bowls, and cleaning supplies will also be needed.

Funds for securing the building we find to house the dogs is our foremost concern. We are currently seeking out locations for the rescue site. A grant from the Petco Foundation would help us secure a permanent location, in a timely fashion, so we can quickly assist with the crisis in Puerto Rico. Mayte's Rescue is seeking a grant of \$10,000 from the Petco Foundation to quickly secure a space for our new rescue facility in Las Vegas, NV.

Mayte's Rescue has been helping animals for many years. I formed Mayte's Rescue in 2013 when I saw a disturbing image of a trash can filled with euthanized animals. I started as a one-person organization taking in animals from family and friends who could no longer care for them. Since then, my rescue has grown into a nation-wide force, rescuing dogs around the country. Currently, Mayte's Rescue can bring in up to 40+ dogs to safety on a monthly basis. As you know, it takes a great deal of revenue to vet, board, foster, and care for our animal friends until a forever home is found. I am committed to growing my rescue so that every dog we find can experience the love of a forever home. Please refer to my website for more detailed information about the rescue work we have done thus far: [maytesrescue.com](http://maytesrescue.com).

I look forward to receiving your reply to submit a full grant proposal to the Petco Foundation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Feel free to contact me at [rescue@mayte.com](mailto:rescue@mayte.com) with any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Mayte Garcia  
Owner, Mayte's Rescue

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