 

**\*\*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*\***

**Animal Protective League Selected as One of 25 Petco Love Stories Winners***National Nonprofit Petco Love, in partnership with BOBS® from Skechers®,*

*Chooses 25 Winning Stories from Across the Nation Highlighting Pet Adoption at Animal Welfare Organizations and the Love Between Adopted Pets and Their Pet Parents*

***Animal Protective League Chosen as A*** ***Petco Love Stories Winner,***

***Big Check Celebration Planned for this Saturday, February 8th***

**WHO:** Local pet adopter Amy and her daughter Zuri's heartwarming love story about how their adopted cat, Minni, changed their lives is earning Animal Protective League a lifesaving investment from Petco Love as part of its annual [Petco Love Stories](https://petcolove.org/adopt/love-stories/?utm_medium=print&utm_source=flyer&utm_campaign=adopt-love-stories-celebration&utm_content=regional-release-awo) campaign.

**WHAT:** National nonprofit [Petco Love](https://petcolove.org/?utm_medium=print&utm_source=flyer&utm_campaign=dotorg-love-stories-celebration&utm_content=regional-release-awo), in partnership with BOBS® from Skechers®, awards 25 Petco Love Stories winners and grants a total of $500,000 to winning animal shelters and rescues across the country. The winning adopters submitted their love stories about the adoption of their best friend from their local animal welfare organization. Their inspiring stories of how their adopted pets transformed their lives for the better gave the organization they adopted from a chance to receive a winning grant from Petco Love, inspiring more pet adoptions and empowering animal welfare organizations to save more pet lives.

**Now the winners and their pets are in the spotlight!** **Amy, Zuri, and Minni's story is selected as one of 25 national winners.** At a special celebration, the Animal Protective League will receive a lifesaving investment from Petco Love, in partnership with BOBS® from Skechers®, ranging from $10,000 to $100,000. Amy and Zuri will also receive a pair of BOBS® footwear and a Petco shopping spree.

“Every pet adoption story highlights the incredible impact of love and companionship,” said [Susanne Kogut](https://www.linkedin.com/in/susanne-kogut-5b169923/), President of Petco Love. “Through Petco Love Stories, we aim to honor these exceptional bonds and inspire more individuals to welcome shelter pets into their lives.”

“Skechers has made a difference for shelter pets across North America through our partnership with Petco Love. Since 2019, we’ve donated more than $8.8 million that have helped save and support more than 1.7 million animals in need," said Michael Greenberg, president of Skechers. "Petco Love Stories highlights the beautiful moments behind these connections between pets and their people. We're proud to be part of a movement that changes lives and impacts millions so deeply."

**Background on Winning Story**:

Zuri was only a toddler when her mother, Amy, received the life changing news that her daughter had Type 1 Diabetes. In an effort to find a companion and distraction for Zuri, they went to the Animal Protective League and immediately found their perfect match, Minni. Following soon after Minni's adoption, it was discovered that Minni could sense when Zuri's blood sugar levels were off and would run to her feet to alert Amy and ensure that Zuri got what she needed. “Minni is truly a service cat and everything our family hoped for and much more. She sits with Zuri while she takes a bath, plays gently with her, and is sensitive to her needs. It's not only amazing but further proof that animals love us and care for us just as much as we love and care for them,” said Amy.

**WHEN:** Media invited to cover the celebration on Saturday, February 8th at 11 a.m.
 Media encouraged to arrive by 10:45 a.m.

**WHERE:** Petco: 2721 Veterans Pkwy, Springfield, Illinois, 62704

**MORE:** Media can request interviews with representatives from the Animal Protective League and Petco Love.

**Petco Love Stories Campaign:** Since 2013, more than 25,000 adopters have shared their stories through the Petco Love Stories campaign, with $8 million in grants awarded to animal welfare organizations across the country. These stories highlight the many ways pets adopted from shelters enrich our lives and underscore the importance of pet adoption. For more, visit [petcolove.org/adopt/love-stories/](https://petcolove.org/adopt/love-stories/?utm_medium=print&utm_source=flyer&utm_campaign=adopt-love-stories-celebration&utm_content=regional-release-awo).

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**About the Animal Protective League**

The Animal Protective League is a non-profit 501C(3) organization dedicated to caring for ill, injured and abused homeless animals and coordinating the adoption of those animals by responsible pet owners. For over 60 years, the Animal Protective League has been the voice for animals in Springfield and Sangamon County. APL operates a limited admission animal shelter and a high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic along with comprehensive animal-welfare programs. ​APL's limited admission animal shelter prioritizes intake by sick, injured, abused and abandoned dogs and cats. All animals leave our shelter spayed or neutered, microchipped, and with all age appropriate vaccinations. Over 2,000 deserving dogs and cats are placed in homes every year! APL also has an active group of foster families who provide interim homes until space is available at our shelter. APL's Spay/neuter clinic performs 10,000 spay/neuter surgeries every year. In addition to the public, we work with a dozen other animal shelters, animal control agencies and animal welfare groups in and around Sangamon County to provide affordable surgeries to shelter pets.

**About Petco Love**
Petco Love is a life-changing nonprofit organization that makes communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since our founding in 1999, we’ve empowered animal welfare organizations by investing more than $400 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. We’ve helped find loving homes for nearly 7 million pets in partnership with Petco and organizations nationwide. Our love for pets drives us to lead with innovation, creating tools animal lovers need to reunite lost pets, and lead with passion, inspiring and mobilizing communities and our more than 4,000 animal welfare partners to drive lifesaving change alongside us. Join us. Visit [petcolove.org](https://petcolove.org/?utm_medium=print&utm_source=flyer&utm_campaign=dotorg-love-stories-celebration&utm_content=regional-release-awo) or follow on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/petcolove), [Instagram](http://www.instagram.com/petcolove), [X](http://www.twitter.com/petcolove), and [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com/company/petcolove) to be part of the lifesaving work we lead every day.

**About Skechers U.S.A., Inc.**

Skechers (NYSE:SKX), The Comfort Technology Company® based in Southern California, designs, develops and markets a diverse range of lifestyle and performance footwear, apparel and accessories for men, women and children. The Company’s collections are available in 180 countries and territories through department and specialty stores, and direct to consumers through skechers.com and approximately 5,300 Skechers retail stores. A Fortune 500® company, Skechers manages its international business through a network of wholly-owned subsidiaries, joint venture partners, and distributors. For more information, please visit [about.skechers.com](http://about.skechers.com/) and follow us on [Facebook](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.facebook.com_SKECHERS&d=DwMFaQ&c=bFAhm8rB5vXbGyJn-mWQSZrkEgY9uWkKpuo-JUqRuG4&r=7YnlScpZm833otaujcrJbwd5P_ijc6EXadnWzS2a2Ts&m=H-5XgvDS5mfIfVvgOCbtY-oeQzHUah74rG4hUMEU3uI&s=9qyCIQBlL6UhmU7tf97PwbDM8T_kak2vUncNnRXhpmA&e=), [Instagram](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.instagram.com_skechers_&d=DwMFaQ&c=bFAhm8rB5vXbGyJn-mWQSZrkEgY9uWkKpuo-JUqRuG4&r=7YnlScpZm833otaujcrJbwd5P_ijc6EXadnWzS2a2Ts&m=H-5XgvDS5mfIfVvgOCbtY-oeQzHUah74rG4hUMEU3uI&s=-VdhQ-0P3Yv0NKHcDQxCMTB0C52gyqkqXAs46URuE-c&e=) and [TikTok](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.tiktok.com_-40skechers&d=DwMFaQ&c=bFAhm8rB5vXbGyJn-mWQSZrkEgY9uWkKpuo-JUqRuG4&r=7YnlScpZm833otaujcrJbwd5P_ijc6EXadnWzS2a2Ts&m=H-5XgvDS5mfIfVvgOCbtY-oeQzHUah74rG4hUMEU3uI&s=VKqRQwXBrUqPGUIM9pRArI3sqwpg7ebDdOstgkdbeF8&e=).

**About BOBS® from Skechers®**

BOBS from Skechers’ charitable collection of shoes, apparel and accessories have improved animals’ lives: over the past nine years, Skechers has contributed more than $12 million to help over 2.3 million shelter pets, including saving more than 1.8 million rescued animals in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Japan. It all started in 2011, when Skechers launched a movement to support children impacted by natural disasters and poverty—a cause that has helped the Company donate more than 16 million new pairs of shoes to kids in more than 60 countries worldwide. To learn more about BOBS from Skechers’ commitment to making a difference, visit [BOBSfromSkechers.com](https://cts.businesswire.com/ct/CT?id=smartlink&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.skechers.com%2Fm%2Fbobs-charity%2F&esheet=52379470&newsitemid=20210217005027&lan=en-US&anchor=BOBSfromSkechers.com&index=13&md5=e22a0575053e798373e1f939ae9f807b) and follow the brand on [Facebook](https://cts.businesswire.com/ct/CT?id=smartlink&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FBOBSfromskechers%2F&esheet=52379470&newsitemid=20210217005027&lan=en-US&anchor=Facebook&index=14&md5=4275687eec54294b1594319475887080) and [Instagram](https://cts.businesswire.com/ct/CT?id=smartlink&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.instagram.com%2FBOBS_SKECHERS&esheet=52379470&newsitemid=20210217005027&lan=en-US&anchor=Instagram&index=15&md5=057185837d9180613eb7579aaf8d1333).