



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Great Plains SPCA Announces 2026 Pickleball for Pets Tournament and Community Partnership Event with Museum at Prairie Fire**

Merriam, KS, Great Plains SPCA is bringing the community together this spring for two dynamic events that combine fun, philanthropy, and a shared commitment to making a difference for pets and people across the region.

The organization's signature spring fundraiser, **Pickleball for Pets**, will take place on **Sunday, May 3, 2026**, at Chicken N Pickle in Overland Park. Presented by **The Quinn Foundation** and **Tito's Handmade Vodka**, this high-energy tournament invites participants to grab a paddle and play with purpose, all in support of the more than 7,000 pets Great Plains SPCA cares for each year.

Attendees can expect a lively morning filled with friendly competition, brunch, cocktails, and meaningful impact. Event highlights include:

- A pickleball tournament for all skill levels
- Brunch and handcrafted Tito's cocktails
- A custom event t-shirt
- A silent auction and raffle featuring exciting prizes
- Opportunities to connect with fellow animal lovers

"Pickleball for Pets is a joyful way to bring people together for a cause that matters," said Hathaway Maranda, Vice President of Philanthropy and Engagement at Great Plains SPCA. "Every match played helps provide critical care, shelter, and second chances for pets in our community."

In addition to the May tournament, Great Plains SPCA is proud to partner with KC Urban Advantage for a special **community awareness event on April 17, 2026**, at the Museum at Prairie Fire.

This collaborative evening will feature drinks, appetizers, a silent auction, and a raffle, all designed to raise awareness and support for the vital work both organizations do in the communities they serve. The event offers a unique opportunity to engage with supporters, learn more about local impact, and celebrate the power of partnership.

“Together with KC Urban Advantage, we are creating meaningful moments of connection and education,” Maranda added. “These partnerships strengthen our ability to serve both people and pets in deeper, more impactful ways.”

Both events are open to the public, with proceeds directly supporting Great Plains SPCA’s mission to provide lifesaving care, compassionate shelter, and loving homes for animals in need.

Spots for Pickleball for Pets are limited and expected to sell out. Registration and additional event details can be found at [www.greatplainsspca.org](http://www.greatplainsspca.org)

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### **About Great Plains SPCA**

Great Plains SPCA (GP) is the highest rated animal shelter in the Kansas City area serving 500,000 residents and 7,000 community pets annually. GP works to save, protect and improve the lives of animals, while strengthening the relationship between pets and their human companions by providing humane sheltering, adoptions, community outreach and behavior training. GP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, please visit [www.greatplainsspca.org](http://www.greatplainsspca.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).