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**Great Plains SPCA CEO Tam Singer Named 2026 Nonprofit Catalyst –  
Executive Award Recipient**



Merriam, KS — Great Plains SPCA proudly announces that CEO Tam Singer has been named the 2026 recipient of the Nonprofit Catalyst – Executive Award from Nonprofit Connect. **Singer was honored on April 21 at the organization’s annual awards luncheon**, recognizing exceptional nonprofit executives whose leadership drives measurable community impact and transformational growth.

Singer’s leadership has redefined animal welfare in the Kansas City region, pairing strategic discipline with bold, community-centered innovation.

**“This award belongs to our entire organization,” said Singer.** “Every milestone we’ve reached is because of a team that shows up every day with compassion, courage, and a deep commitment to the people and pets we serve.”

**Since becoming CEO, Singer has led a series of landmark achievements:**

- Helped advance the **successful repeal of Overland Park’s 30-year pit bull ban**, which was unanimously overturned by City Council on September 21, 2021, opening the door for safer, more equitable pet ownership across the community
- Tam also helped lead efforts to **modernize Overland Park’s pet ordinance**, expanding household pet limits to better support adoption and foster care, ensuring more pets can move from shelters into homes.
- **Launched the Spay & Neuter Collaborative** as a multi-organization partnership, now evolved into its own independent nonprofit, expanding access to affordable veterinary care across the region
- Supported staff efforts to introduce **Kansas City’s first Día de los Muertos Shelter Pet Ofrenda**, honoring the human-animal bond through culturally meaningful community engagement
- **Reimagined the shelter as a welcoming, public-facing space** by hosting on-site events, including Best in Show, now recognized as a Top Ten Impact Player by *The Independent Magazine*
- Great Plains SPCA offers one of the **most competitive family benefits packages in the region**, including up to six months of paid maternity leave, well beyond the typical 12-week standard.

Singer’s impact extends beyond programs to people. She has built an **all-female senior leadership team** and fostered a diverse staff and board that reflect the community Great Plains SPCA serves. Under her leadership, **the organization has also set a new standard for nonprofit workplaces**, offering competitive pay, free mental health support, and ongoing wellness initiatives, including yoga, weekly pack walks with shelter dogs, and dedicated time for staff to connect with shelter cats.

In recognition of this impact, the **City of Overland Park officially proclaimed March 16 as “Great Plains SPCA Day,”** citing both Singer’s leadership and the organization’s community contributions.

“Tam has built something rare,” said Hathaway Maranda, Vice President of Philanthropy and Engagement. “A culture where accountability and compassion coexist, and where both people and pets thrive. This recognition reflects the real and lasting impact of her leadership.”

For more information, visit [www.greatplainsspca.org](http://www.greatplainsspca.org).

**MEDIA CONTACT:**, Hathaway Maranda, Vice President of Philanthropy and Engagement 913-808-3296, [hmaranda@greatplainsspca.org](mailto:hmaranda@greatplainsspca.org)

## **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](#).