



# Greenville County Animal Care

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*Helping People Help Animals*

**Date:** May 20, 2026

**From:** Shelly Simmons, CAWA, Director, Animal Care & Control Division

**To:** Ruth Parris, Budget Director

**Subject:** **Approval Request – Best Friends Animal Society Return to Home Grant**

Greenville County Animal Care has been awarded a \$750 grant from Best Friends Animal Society as part of its Return-to-Home Challenge. The grant will support Greenville County Animal Care's field-based Return-to-Home efforts, where Animal Control Officers responding to found pet calls work to identify and reunite pets with their owners directly in the community whenever possible. By returning pets home in the field instead of bringing them into the shelter, these efforts help reduce shelter intake, minimize stress on animals, and ease capacity and operational pressures on the shelter.

In addition to the grant funding, Greenville County Animal Care will also receive an in-kind "Mini Field Kit" donation that includes a microchip scanner, PetHub ID tags, found pet door hangers, and flyers to support Return-to-Home outreach and reunification efforts in the field.

This grant does not require any matching funds from the County. I respectfully request the Finance Committee's approval to accept and appropriate these funds in accordance with the grant guidelines.

Sincerely,

*Shelly Simmons, CAWA*  
*Director, Greenville County Animal Care & Control*

**Simmons, Shelly**

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**From:** John Graves <gravesj@bestfriends.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026 7:30 AM  
**To:** Simmons, Shelly  
**Subject:** Return to Home Challenge

CAUTION: This email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello Shelly!

I hope you and your team are doing well! Our lovely Network team has put together a return to home toolkit and has selected several organizations to receive a RTH field kit and the chance at a small grant. You are one of those organizations! This toolkit is designed to give shelters some extra resources and tricks for increasing lost animals' chances at getting home with less shelter impact.

Details and the sign-up form can be found below. If you all would like to participate, just fill out the form so you can receive your field kit, and we will happily support you in how best to use the tools and implement new RTH strategies!

*Participating organizations are eligible for a **\$750 grant** to support their Return-to-Home work. We'll also be sending you a **mini-field kit** that includes a microchip scanner, PetHub ID tags, found pet door hangers and flyers to help you get started.*

*As you prepare, please make sure your monthly data is up to date in Shelter Pet Data Alliance (SPDA). In SPDA, return-to-home (RTH) data is combined into one number, but we strongly recommend tracking **RTH in-field** and **RTH in-shelter** separately on your end. This will help you better understand how your new practices are impacting each area.*

[Visit our website](#) for more information and resources. [And please fill out this form to confirm your participation.](#)

Feel free to reach out with any questions!

John Graves  
East Regional Manager  
Best Friends Animal Society  
435 635 0955  
[bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org)



[Sometimes you can't say it in an email, set up a meeting with me here!](#)