



Press Release:  
**SICSA Wellness Center Offering  
FREE Veterinary Clinics**  
For Immediate Release

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## SICSA Wellness Center offering FREE Community Veterinary Clinics



The SICSA Wellness Center is offering the fourth community veterinary wellness clinic on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. The program, which started in late 2020, received an initial grant through [PetSmart Charities](#). Since then, Sinclair Community College's Registered Veterinary Technician program, Petco Love, Merck, PNC, and Patterson Veterinary also signed up to support the clinics in 2021. The Levin Foundation and Dayton Rotary have already agreed to help with additional clinics in 2022.

The clinics are limited to cats and dogs, with each animal receiving a nose to tail assessment by a licensed veterinarian. Vaccinations, flea control, and even medications for some conditions are also provided that day. For additional needs, SICSA offers follow-up services at their center in Washington Township. To date, those additional services have included spays and neuters, mass removals, radiographs, dentals, and more – all based upon income and on a sliding fee. In the first three clinics, 241 animals were seen, with 66 of them receiving follow-up services at SICSA. In addition to veterinary care, SICSA's Help Center team is also on-site, providing information and resources such as food and critical pet supplies.

"The response for the services has been tremendous," reports SICSA Director of Veterinary Services and Animal Care Joyce Voss D.V.M, Ph.D. "These pets are part of families and support systems. There are senior citizens who will feed their pets before themselves. Veterans whose animals provide critical emotional support. People with disabilities who cannot afford ongoing veterinary care. Whatever the need for the family, SICSA knows wellness is an important part of caring for their pet, and one which if ignored, can be costly – both physically and monetarily," concludes Voss.

The clinics are held across the Dayton region, and in areas which have been identified by community partners as most "in need." The first three clinics took place at the Be Hope Immigration Center and the Lakewood Apartments in Dayton, and the Gateway Cathedral in Trotwood. The fourth clinic will take place at AMVETS Post 24 on Leo Street. AMVETS was chosen, not only because of its location, but in honor of Veterans Day.

"Access to quality, affordable vet care is out of reach for many," said Kelly Balthazor, Senior Community Grants Manager at PetSmart Charities. "We're proud to support these efforts to deliver services that keep pets, families and communities healthier, and thankful to the team at SICSA for their forward-thinking initiative."



Due to the vast need for the services, **appointments for the clinics are required in advance and fill up quickly.** Those unable to get into a clinic can be placed on a waiting list. SICSA is hoping to provide eight additional clinics in 2022. "Not unlike human medical care, veterinary services can be expensive," stated SICSA President & CEO Nora Vondrell. "A family's ability to pay should not be a barrier to basic wellness care for their beloved pet. As such, SICSA is committed to seeking partners willing to provide in-kind and financial support to allows us to continue offering these critical services to the pets of the families in need," concluded Vondrell. To learn more about SICSA's program and services, visit [www.sicsa.org](http://www.sicsa.org) or call (937) 294-6505.

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Originated in 1974, SICSA Pet Adoption & Wellness Center was created as an alternative to the traditional animal welfare system with a mission of improving the lives of stray animals and promoting pet adoption. Annually, SICSA places over 2,000 dogs and cats, performs over 4,000 spay/neuter surgeries. In June of 2019, SICSA acquired a pet food business known as Pet Wants Dayton, the proceeds of which directly benefit the organization. Repeatedly awarded the Platinum Seal by Guide Star, and 4 stars by Charity Navigator, the organization runs a Pet Adoption and Wellness Center in Washington Township at 8172 Washington Church Road. The center is open to the public for those interested in adopting a companion animal. For more information about SICSA, please visit [www.SICSA.org](http://www.SICSA.org).