



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PETCO FOUNDATION HONORS LOCAL WOMAN DETERMINED TO SAVE ANIMAL LIVES IN PUERTO RICO FOLLOWING HURRICANE MARIA AND 2020 EARTHQUAKES**

*PUERTO RICAN RESIDENT, GLORIA MARTI, AMONG UNSUNG HEROES CELEBRATED BY PETCO FOUNDATION AND VICTORIA STILWELL POSITIVELY IN VIDEO SERIES*



**San Juan, Puerto Rico (May 4, 2020)** — Gloria Marti, president of [Save A Sato](#), is among the finalists for the Petco Foundation’s national Unsung Hero award. The Petco Foundation and Victoria Stilwell are honoring five Unsung Heroes for their extraordinary, lifesaving efforts on behalf of animals with a \$10,000 grant award for their animal welfare organization. One honoree will be awarded the national Unsung Hero award by Petco Foundation and earn an additional \$50,000 to support their lifesaving work. Animal lovers across the nation will select the national awardee through popular vote. [Watch Marti’s story and vote.](#)

Marti, and her team at Save A Sato, have served the community for over 25 years. But after recent hurricanes and earthquakes devastated Puerto Rico, Gloria’s unparalleled commitment to save pets left behind means she is often working non-stop with limited resources to care for the many pets in need.

“Gloria is a remarkable woman, and the pillar of this foundation,” said Frank Polanco, volunteer at Save A Sato. “Gloria’s dream is to have a facility more suitable to continue her lifesaving operations. She deserves everything in the world because she is dedicated, passionate, and her mission is to help all the animals.”

The Unsung Hero honorees go above and beyond saving animals. They are local heroes who share the Petco Foundation’s goal to create a lifesaving nation and their inspiring stories prove the difference that one person can make toward creating a better

world for pets.

“There are heroes in every community who dedicate their lives to helping animals and are true lifesaving champions,” said Susanne Kogut, president of the Petco Foundation. “Honoring these extraordinary people and telling their stories is our way of saying, ‘thank you.’ And perhaps these stories will inspire others to be heroes too.”

Victoria Stilwell traveled across the country documenting the incredible work of these heroes in a series of videos that can be viewed at [petcofoundation.org/unsunghero](https://petcofoundation.org/unsunghero).

“Seeing firsthand the incredible work being done by these incredible, yet humble, people in their communities was truly inspiring,” said Victoria Stilwell. “It was a tremendous honor capturing on tape the spirit and passion of what they do every day, and I’m very excited for a wider audience to witness their amazing work via the Unsung Heroes video series.”

All heartwarming Unsung Hero stories are available to view at [petcofoundation.org/unsunghero](https://petcofoundation.org/unsunghero). The public can also tune in to the [Petco Foundation’s Facebook LIVE](#) on Friday, May 8 at 1:30 PM CST for a discussion with Victoria Stilwell and all five Unsung Heroes. Unsung Hero voting will close on May 15, 2020 at noon CST.

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#### **About Save a Sato**

Save A Sato is a non-profit organization dedicated to easing the suffering of Puerto Rico’s homeless and abused animals. "Sato" is slang for street dog. We rescue Satos from the streets and beaches, give them medical care, food and shelter, and plenty of love. When they are healthy, we send them to one of our shelter partners for adoption into loving homes. To learn more, visit [saveasato.org](https://saveasato.org).

#### **About the Petco Foundation**

At the Petco Foundation, we believe that every animal deserves to live its best life. Since 1999, we’ve invested more than \$260 million in lifesaving animal welfare work to make that happen. With our more than 4,000 animal welfare partners, we inspire and empower communities to make a difference by investing in adoption and medical care programs, spay and neuter services, pet cancer research, service and therapy animals, and numerous other lifesaving initiatives. Through our Think Adoption First program, we partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we’ve helped more than 6.5 million pets find their new loving families, and we’re just getting started. Visit [petcofoundation.org](https://petcofoundation.org) to learn more about how you can get involved.

#### **About Victoria Stilwell**

Victoria Stilwell is a world-renowned dog trainer best known as the star of the international hit TV series *It’s Me or the Dog*. Having filmed over 110 episodes since 2005, Stilwell reaches audiences in over 100 countries with her philosophy of positive training methods. Stilwell is a best-selling author who appears frequently in the media and is widely recognized as a leader in the field of animal behavior. A passionate advocate for positive dog training methods, Stilwell is the Editor-in-Chief of [Positively.com](https://positively.com) and Positively TV, the founder of the [Victoria Stilwell Academy for Dog](#)

[Training & Behavior](#), and the CEO of Victoria Stilwell Positively Dog Training – the world’s premier global network of positive reinforcement dog trainers. The recipient of multiple awards, Stilwell is committed to helping the cause of animal rescue and rehabilitation and is heavily involved with organizations around the world to increase awareness of puppy mills, dogfighting, animal abuse, pet overpopulation, dog bite prevention and other animal-related causes, but she is best known as a champion for force-free positive reinforcement dog training methods. She is a National Ambassador for the RSPCA and the Soidog Foundation and serves on the Advisory Boards of RedRover, DogTV, Dognition, W-Underdogs and Canine Assistants.

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