

For Immediate Release  
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## **Berkley Dog Contributes His Life Savings of \$250.08 to Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit; Jake Project Seeks 100-Plus Matching Donations**

- Jake Project aims to raise at least \$25,008 to help fund construction of a new animal intake, medical care and education center at Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit in Dearborn
- Believed to be the first of its kind, The Jake Project campaign is being initially funded and led by a dog
- Jake Truett's special skill, finding money on the ground, has funded his life savings of \$250.08

**BERKLEY, Mich.** — Jake Truett, a black and tan dachshund born in mid-Michigan around 2005, has a unique skill: The 10-pound dog has a nose for cash.

Jake made his unusual talent — this uncanny knack for finding money on the ground around Berkley — known on his very first walk in his new hometown in June 2009. That first time out, Jake spotted 8 cents on the sidewalk. His next walk yielded 35 cents. His biggest haul came just weeks after he arrived: \$17 in cash found on the sidewalk in front of the Berkley Public Library. In total, Jake has sniffed out \$103 in bills and \$147 in coins.

Now, Jake is donating his life savings — \$250.08 and growing with each walk — to Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit, one of Southeast Michigan's most respected animal welfare organizations. The gift kicks off The Jake Project, a campaign that aims to turn that initial \$250.08 into at least \$25,008. The funds will be used to help fund FAMD's new animal intake, medical care and education center. To reach that goal, The Jake Project will need at least 100 matching donations of \$250.08.

Jake chose Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit for three reasons:

1. The organization is an excellent steward of its funds. 86 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to caring for animals. You can be sure that the money donated will be used for its intended purpose — to build a new intake, medical care and education facility that will help homeless animals find their forever homes faster.
2. Each year, the Friends care for more than 2,500 animals — including dogs, cats, birds, reptiles and the occasional farm animal. For more than 20 years, the Friends have saved 100 percent of all adoptable animals — regardless of health or other issues, no matter how long it takes. Dogs and cats arriving at the FAMD facility in Dearborn are spayed and neutered and given all their shots. Their behavior and personality is evaluated by trained professionals to ensure the proper match is made between families and pets.
3. FAMD's mission is far broader than helping homeless animals. The organization offers numerous community outreach programs, such as Reading to Rover, which pairs children

struggling with reading, with volunteers and a dog in a quiet, nonjudgmental setting. Other programs include Pets for Vets, which matches shelter dogs and military veterans, and Pet Food Pantry that provides low-income families with food for their animals.

FAMD is currently raising the final \$3.5 million to complete construction of its new intake facility. Jake aims to make helping fund this project his legacy.

Facts about Jake Truett:

**Hometown:** Berkley, Michigan

**Age:** 15

**Amount Truett is donating:** \$250.08

**How Jake Truett obtained his fortune:** Since the day he arrived in Berkley, June 21, 2009, Jake has demonstrated an uncanny knack for finding money on the ground during his daily walks around the city. His family has collected every coin and every bill Jake has discovered since 2009 and kept these funds in a wooden box called Jake's Bank.

**Describe The Jake Project:** This is a fundraising drive — perhaps the first in Southeast Michigan history — where a dog actually donates his own money to an animal shelter. The Jake Project aims to raise at least \$25,008 to help fund a new animal intake facility at Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit, located in Dearborn.

**Jake's Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/donate/352821836059694/>

**About Jake:** Jake is a smooth-haired black and tan dachshund who lives in Berkley with his family, including his younger sister Daisy, whom he adores. When Dairy Delight opens each season, Jake and Daisy love going there for a special treat.