



FRIENDS FOR ANIMALS OF METRO DETROIT TO MOVE ALL OPERATIONS UNDER ONE ROOF

Animal welfare organization in Dearborn to leave old city shelter on Greenfield for new MaryAnn Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center

DEARBORN, MICH. January 29, 2024 – After 30 years of operation, nonprofit organization Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit will vacate its Greenfield Administrative and Animal Services intake facility on February 5 and move all operations to the soon-to-be-completed Reckinger Road location. The final stretch of a project that has been in the works for over a decade, will finally see an entire staff united at one location.

The original facility is no longer suitable for the organization's animals and team. Partnering with Neumann/Smith Architecture of Southfield, Friends for Animals has been developing this 20,000-square-foot center in two phases.

Phase One of the campaign was completed in September 2018, with \$5.1 million in donations, as well as a donation of land from the City of Dearborn. It involved adding 10,000 square feet to a former Amtrak station on Reckinger Road, near the city's Civil Services Plaza. This shelter now houses dogs and cats waiting for their forever homes.

In 2023, Phase Two was split into Phase 2A and 2B due to the increased costs from inflation and supply chain issues. Phase 2A added 6,500 square feet to the Reckinger Road facility and allows the shelter team to move operations completely from the current overcrowded and antiquated space on Greenfield. Included in this phase is a completely renovated Amtrak station that will be the home for the intake and animal services wing of the center. This phase also included healthy holding for cats, and a brand new kennel space to hold healthy dogs.

The final phase (2B), which will begin soon, will include 3,500 square feet and adds evaluation and grooming space, puppy and kitten nurseries, and a community educational space.

"This expansion has been a long time coming. Literally decades in the making. Our staff, volunteers, and board of directors are ecstatic over this next historic and life-changing chapter. This center and bringing all of our operations under one roof means we can help more people and animals. We are now in our

final phase of finishing this center and allowing us to embrace our full potential. I am excited to truly utilize this facility to really work for the communities we serve. I want it to become a hub for hope for people and their pets. However, we still need donations to finish this final phase of the project. This organization was and is built on the foundation of our supporters and community. We need that support now more than ever," said President and CEO Cory Keller.

Other new features include medical separation between healthy and sick animals, dedicated space for pre-adoption counseling and get-acquainted meetings, and a room to host outreach and enrichment programs for all ages.

To help complete fundraising to finish the final phase of the facility, please visit <https://www.metrodetroitanimals.org>

Friends for Animals is a 501c3 organization and is located at 16121 Reckinger in Dearborn. Friends for Animals is dedicated to the rescue, protection, and adoption of companion animals in need, while inspiring the human-animal bond. Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit was founded in 1993 by volunteers who believed that homeless animals in our region deserve a second chance at life. Building on our strong sense of animal welfare, Friends for Animals has grown in the past 30 years to an organization of great impact in the companion animal welfare community. The organization helps find homes for approximately 2,500 dogs and cats each year.

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