



BISSELL PET FOUNDATION®  
Until every pet has a home.

**Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit** Joins BISSELL Pet Foundation to Celebrate 10 Years of Empty the Shelters®  
with Reduced Adoption Fees Nationwide  
*335+ shelters nationwide reduce adoption fees and find loving homes for pets*

**DEARBORN, MI — April 30, 2026**, BISSELL Pet Foundation, a national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending pet homelessness, is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its signature Empty the Shelters® event with a nationwide reduced-fee adoption effort from May 1–17, 2026.

**Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit** is proud to participate in this nationwide event, joining more than 335 shelters across 39 states to help pets find loving homes. During the event, BISSELL Pet Foundation will sponsor reduced adoption fees of \$70 or less for cats and dogs, making it more affordable to welcome a new pet into the family. All pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped.

- Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit will participate May 1–17 at the MaryAnn Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center, located at 16121 Reckinger Road, Dearborn, MI 48126, offering \$50 adoption fees for adult dogs, six months old and up, and \$25 adoption fees for cats and kittens. Visit [metrodetroitanimals.org](http://metrodetroitanimals.org) for details, adoptable pets, and event hours.
- The media are invited to reach out to schedule interviews and/or b-roll capture opportunities with staff or volunteers.

“Ten years ago, Empty the Shelters® began with a simple goal—to bring awareness to the incredible cats and dogs in shelters,” said Cathy Bissell, Founder of BISSELL Pet Foundation. “Today, it has grown into a national effort that has helped nearly 400,000 pets find families. Those adoptions have opened space for other pets to enter shelters, provided relief for shelter teams, and created the heartwarming joy that only adoption can bring. This impact has all been possible thanks to the commitment of shelters, adopters, donors and supporters across the country. As we celebrate 10 years, we encourage everyone to consider adoption and help more pets find the homes they deserve. It’s never too late to make a difference.”

Friends for Animals has been involved with BISSELL Pet Foundation's "Empty the Shelters" for a couple years now and the shelter loves to participate more than once a year. May 1 - May 15, 2025, the organization adopted out 67 cats and 21 dogs. Between July 5 - July 19 last year, 105 cats and 29 dogs were adopted.

**Empty the Shelters** is the nation’s largest funded adoption event and has helped nearly **400,000 pets** find homes across the U.S. and Canada since its inception in 2016. Sponsored by **BISSELL Pet Foundation**, the program works with hundreds of animal welfare organizations to reduce adoption fees and make pet adoption accessible to more families. All pets available through participating shelters are **spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped**. Each shelter determines its own adoption process—prospective adopters are encouraged to contact shelters directly for details.

**About BISSELL Pet Foundation:**

BISSELL Pet Foundation is a charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to help reduce the number of animals in shelters through pet adoption, spay/neuter, vaccinations, microchipping and emergency support. Founded in 2011 by Cathy Bissell, BPF is an extension of her long-standing love for animals and commitment to their welfare. BPF has since partnered with more than 6,025 shelters and rescues across the U.S. and Canada to help pets find loving homes. The foundation is supported by generous donors and BISSELL Inc. where every purchase saves pets. To learn more, visit [www.bissellpetfoundation.org](http://www.bissellpetfoundation.org).

**About Friends for Animals:**

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 was founded in 1996 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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