



FRIENDS FOR ANIMALS OF METRO DETROIT
16121 Reckinger Rd., Dearborn, MI 48126
metrodetroitanimals.org
313-943-2697

**FRIENDS FOR ANIMALS OF METRO DETROIT ANNOUNCES UNLEASHED,
A REIMAGINED VERSION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S
SIGNATURE FUNDRAISING EVENT**

One night. Immersive Experiences. Countless Second Chances.

Dearborn, MICH. September 15, 2026 – Unleashed, presented by MaryAnn Wright and Bob Sayles, offers a new take on the traditional fundraising gala Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit (FAMD) has hosted for more than 25 years. **FAMD invites the public to join them for their new event, Unleashed, Saturday, October 10 from 6 – 11:30 p.m. at the Henry, Autograph Collection, located at Fairlane Plaza, 300 Town Center Dr. in Dearborn.** The organization is excited to welcome Dearborn resident Amaya Kuznicki as the event's emcee. Kuznicki is a news reporter for WDIV-TV (Local 4) and its digital platform, ClickOnDetroit, and serves as the station's Dearborn Community Correspondent.

Last year, the animal welfare organization's former event, Black Tie and Tails, was voted Best Gala in HOUR Detroit Magazine's Best of Detroit 2025 and had become, over the decades, one of the most unique and well-attended animal welfare events in Southeast Michigan, garnering a crowd of over 200 attendees. Unleashed will continue to provide FAMD with critical funds needed to advance their mission as animal advocates and save all healthy and treatable animals in their care. Additional sponsors of the event include: Lynne and Al Kammerer, Vet of Lincoln Park & Affiliated Veterinary Emergency Service and Urgent Care, Elaine Greene and Laurie Buhr, Tina and



Steven Pitsillos, Fred Johns and Dennis O'Grady, Julie Walker and Jeremy Chapman, Premier Pet Supply, and Ghafari Associates, LLC.

"Unleashed is an important part of how we bring our mission to life. It gives our community an opportunity to come together for animals who need care, protection and a second chance. Every dollar raised helps us provide the resources and lifesaving services these animals need, while every person who joins us becomes part of the work to strengthen the human-animal bond and create a more compassionate community," said Cory Keller, President and CEO, Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit.

This year, FAMD brings their mission to nurture the bond between animals, people, and community to life in a whole new way: by letting the evening "off the leash." Attendees are encouraged to roam, discover and connect in an interactive and reimagined event setting. There will be opportunities to dance at a silent disco or out on the dance floor; visit a jazz martini lounge sponsored by Tito's Handmade Vodka, featuring the Henry Ford Jazz Big Band; or sip bubbly in the Bubbles & Bow Wow Boutique, which will feature official merchandise for sale, auctions and adoptable dogs! The organization invites attendees to come dressed in upscale attire with a sense of creative adventure. Unleashed plans to be more than an event; it aims to be an experience that provides a lifeline for homeless and stray animals across the community, serving as a powerful reminder of what is possible when people come together for a shared purpose.



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Beyond creating an unforgettable experience for guests, every dollar raised helps transform the lives of more than 2,500 animals in need each year. This critical funding supports animals from the moment they arrive at the shelter until they find loving homes, providing medical treatment, behavioral enrichment, nutritious food, daily care, adoption services, and community programs that strengthen our community and improve the lives of animals in need.

Individual tickets are \$275 with options to reserve a table of eight. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Nova Zorok at 313.943.2697 ext. 1019 or nzorok@metroetroitanimals.org and visit: <https://www.metroetroitanimals.org/event/unleashed/>

Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit is a 501c3 organization and is located at 16121 Reckinger in Dearborn. Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit 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 support and care for 2,500 animals each year. <https://www.metroetroitanimals.org>

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