



## **Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit Earns \$25,000 from Petco**

- Story submitted by Dearborn Heights Resident Stephanie O’Dell
- Three Detroit-area animal organizations shared \$80K from Petco

DEARBORN. December 14, 2016—Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit (FAMD) earned \$25,000 today from Petco Foundation’s Holiday Wishes Campaign, thanks to a beautiful story written by a Dearborn Heights Mom about her one-year old son with down’s syndrome and his love of their adopted cat, Guinness.

Stephanie O’Dell submitted the entry that detailed the love that her four-year-old cat, Guinness, had for her son, Kellen, even when she was first pregnant. Once he was born, the baby and cat became inseparable. The cat sleeps with her son every night and is his constant companion.

“My life was full before my son was born,” O’Dell wrote in her story. “Since he has arrived, I can’t tell you how much I love watching their relationship grow and flower. They truly are best friends, and I can’t imagine what my son’s life would be without Guinness. I look forward to many, many years of my boys spending time together and learning.”

O’Dell was a volunteer at FAMD with her sister, Michelle, for 12 years before her son was born.

“Stephanie is a great example of how families come together around their animals,” said Elaine Greene, executive director, FAMD said. “We see this so often with the 1,700 animals we help get adopted each year.”

The Petco Foundation’s Holiday Wishes campaign, in partnership with Petco, awarded a total of \$80,000 to three local Detroit-area animal welfare organizations, including Detroit Bully Corps (\$5K), Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit (\$25K), and Refurbished Pets of Southern Michigan(\$50K) at the Detroit Petco store.

The three organizations were selected as a winner from more than 5,000 stories that were submitted by animal adopters across the country, which celebrated how their adopted pets

have changed and enriched their lives. The Petco Foundation selected more than 50 organizations from the pool of 5,000 submissions as winners.

To contribute to the holiday campaign for FAMD, visit [www.metrodetroitanimals.org](http://www.metrodetroitanimals.org).

### **About FAMD**

After 22 years of nurturing more than 47,300 animals, the Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit have embarked on the “Raise the Woof” public phase of their “Building a Home with Heart” capital campaign to construct a new Animal Adoption & Education Center at the site of the former Dearborn Amtrak station on Michigan Avenue. Construction begins this Summer. FAMD is located at 2661 Greenfield Road, Dearborn.

### **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 \$170 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/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 5 million pets find their new loving families, and we’re just getting started. Visit [petcofoundation.org](http://petcofoundation.org) to learn more about how you can get involved.

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