



Paw Prints

FRIENDS FOR THE DEARBORN ANIMAL SHELTER • TAKE US TO HEART! • SPRING 2016

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We appreciate your support of Friends events! View our complete calendar at DearbornAnimals.org.

SAT MAY 14 11th annual Mutt Strut & Pet Expo Ford Field Park, Dearborn. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Get details at DearbornMuttStrut.com.

FRI JUN 3 10th annual Megan's Dreams Golf Outing Dearborn Hills Golf Course, 1300 S. Telegraph Rd. Noon shotgun start. Register at megansdreams.org.

SAT JUL 30 6th annual Abrahams' Open House for Hope's Heroes 510 Crescent Dr., Dearborn. 5–9 p.m. Community BBQ to benefit shelter animals with extraordinary medical needs.

SAT AUG 13 11th annual Bowl-4-Animal Rescue Sponsored by Aleta Sill's Bowling World and professional bowlers Aleta Sill and Michelle Mullen. Country Lanes, 30250 W. 9 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. 7 p.m.

FRI OCT 28 16th annual Black Tie & Tails Gala benefit: dinner, auctions, adoptable animals, and more! The Dearborn Inn, 20301 Oakwood Blvd. 7 p.m. – midnight.



Reciprocal rescue

The Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter's 11th annual Mutt Strut & Pet Expo (see details at left and on page 5) benefits rescued animals like our spokes-dog, Finley. During his stay at the shelter, Finley caught the eye of a college student, Colleen, who was looking for a service dog. Colleen lives with a psychiatric disability (general anxiety disorder) that causes severe, unpredictable panic attacks — and Finley has made all the difference. As she tells it, "Before Finley, I had to leave class when I had panic attacks and was not able to calm down for anywhere from an hour to an entire afternoon. With Finley's help, I've been able to juggle a full credit load, my social life, an internship, a small business, and a research position. For me, that's life-changing. Finley is part of me, and I never knew I could love anything as much as I love him."

Join us for Mutt Strut on May 14 and help us change the lives not only of the animals we rescue but also of the people who adopt them! Pledge a Strutter or start your own online pledge-raising page at DearbornMuttStrut.com. •

COME SEE US!

Dearborn Animal Shelter

2661 Greenfield Road
Dearborn, Michigan 48120
313.943.2697 • fax 313.943.2262
friends@DearbornAnimals.org
DearbornAnimals.org

Adoption hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday

11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed Sundays

The Dearborn Animal Shelter is located about one mile south of Michigan Avenue (one-half mile south of Rotunda) on the west side of Greenfield.

Board of directors

Board Chair MaryAnn Wright

President Laurie Buhr

Treasurer & Financial Director

Sophie Bozek

Medical Director Cheryl Good, DVM

Secretary Sue Ringey

Directors Lisa Bahash, Tom Clark,

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City Liaison Cpl. Michael Nelson,

Dearborn Police Department

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Friends For The
Dearborn Animal Shelter

Carhartt works hard for animals

Carhartt is known for rugged workwear that can stand up to even the toughest jobs, and its clothes — and employees — are living up to that standard!

Carhartt is the official outfitter of our Pit Crew, volunteers specially trained to enrich the lives of our shelter dogs. The company donated jeans, hoodies, T-shirts, and sweat-shirts to keep our 12 core Pit Crew folks protected in all weather.

Last June, 15 Carhartt employees volunteered at the shelter for the company's first-ever Day of Giving. We were in the midst of a major



Pit Crew member Kari Zureki (left) with a Carhartt volunteer and pup Darci

administrative move, which required hoisting office equipment, organizing supplies, and deep cleaning surfaces. Our Carhartt friends rolled up their sleeves and got to work, and later spent some quality time with our pups. Many thanks to everyone at this Dearborn-based company for their continued support! •

Working Cat program pays off

Healthy cats that aren't social enough to be house pets are getting a new lease on life through our free Working Cat program. Vetted and spayed/neutered, these felines are ideal for keeping barns and workplaces free of pests.

Since 2013, Sheila and Mark Shechter have hired eight of our kitties — Iggy (pictured), Tulip, Jazzy-Mae, Luna, Boo, Ivy, Milo, and Prada — for their 14-acre



farm near Howell. Says Sheila: "The cats keep the barn rid of wildlife that may come in to live in the hay and get into the horse feed. The cats have plenty to do and never wander far. At dusk we ring a goat bell, and they all come running to eat a wet meal we prepare for them. The cats, horses, and dogs all get along. We have a perfect colony, and we are thrilled with each of them."

Looking to hire a working cat or two? Call Heather Mehi at 313.943.2697, Ext. 3550. •

Vet clinics rise to the Challenge, raise \$38K for our new building

Congratulations to Dearborn Family Pet Care for raising the most funds (\$8,335) in last fall's Veterinary Challenge! Seventeen clinics took part in this friendly competition to support our "Building a Home with Heart" capital campaign, collecting more than \$38,400 for our new Animal Adoption & Education Center! Many thanks to each clinic and to our Veterinary Challenge sponsor — Royal Canin USA — who contributed \$2,500 to the fundraiser.

Animal Friends Veterinary Hospital, Canton
 Arbor Pointe Veterinary Hospital and
 Animal Pain Center, Canton
 Caputo Animal Hospital, Dearborn Heights
 Dearborn Family Pet Care
 Dearborn Veterinary Hospital
 Healing Care Animal Hospital, Allen Park
 Lincoln Park Veterinary Hospital and
 Affiliated Veterinary Emergency
 Service, Allen Park
 Midtown Animal Hospital, Trenton

Morrison Animal Hospital, Garden City
 Riverview Animal Hospital
 Southpointe Veterinary Hospital, Allen Park
 St. Julian's Cat Care, Dearborn
 Unleashed Pet Care, Westland
 VetSelect Animal Hospital of Commerce
 Township
 VetSelect Animal Hospital of Dearborn
 VetSelect Animal Hospital of Dearborn
 Heights
 VetSelect Animal Hospital of Novi

Have an idea for your own fundraising challenge to support our new Home with Heart? Contact Development Director Kelle Sisung at 313.303.1770 or ksisung@DearbornAnimals.org.



JIM EDDY

Mamma mia! Big Heart goes to Pasta Pat

Pat D'Ambrosio, founder of Pat's Paws-itively Pasta fundraising dinner, has earned the 2016 Big Heart Award, our top supporter honor. For the past two years, Pat has organized the Columbus Day dinner, donating all the food and cooking everything using his family's secret recipe for sauce and meatballs! The benefit drew 250 people in 2015 and has raised more than \$14,000 to date.

A member and past president of the Exchange Club of Dearborn, Pat initiated a street-collection drive in 2012 in which Exchange Club volunteers station themselves at key Dearborn intersections. Funds support our Mutt Strut & Pet Expo. Each year the total continues to grow, with more than \$10,500 collected to date.

Honoring him with our top supporter award is our humble way of saying *grazie mille* (many thanks), Pat!



Royal Canin USA's Carrie Ramon (left) celebrates with Dearborn Family Pet Care staffers Michelle Hurd, Carly Fagan, Dr. Cheryl Good, and Rebecca Stevenson.

Protection for the future

Charitable gift and estate planning affords you peace of mind and security as you provide for yourself, your loved ones, and your charitable interests. The Friends are grateful to have an amazing Circle of Friends — donors who have formally notified us that they have included us in their will or have established a planned gift through a charitable annuity, life insurance, or retirement plan.

Circle of Friends members Gavin and Kathleen Haag (below, with their beloved Maggie) share why they've included the Friends in their estate planning: "Every day, the staff and volunteers tirelessly give their time, energy, unending love, and compassion to care for all of the animals. We strongly believe in and support [their] extraordinary efforts."

To discuss planned giving opportunities with the Friends, contact Development Director Kelle Sisung at 313.303.1770 or ksisung@DearbornAnimals.org.



ED SRECKY

You brightened lives in 2015!

The Friends marked a successful 2015 thanks to you, our loyal and generous supporters. Without you, we could not do the important work of rescuing animals in need — animals like Shirley (above), the sweet, smart, deaf pup featured in our year-end holiday appeal. Shirley has since found a loving home, and we surpassed our holiday fundraising goal! Here are some of the other successes we achieved last year **thanks to you**:

- **2,469** animals were cared for at the Dearborn Animal Shelter — 1,420 cats + 921 dogs + 128 other species.
- **100%** of all adoptable animals were saved, for the **15th** straight year.
- **100%** of animals adopted from our shelter were fully vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and microchipped for identification.
- **83%** of our animals were placed — that is, adopted, transferred to another rescue group, or returned to their owners. (The national average is 64%, according to the ASPCA.)
- **569** of our animals received the extra care and love they needed thanks to **75** foster homes.
- **582** pets were spayed/neutered and **198** were microchipped through our low-cost community outreach programs.

Our 2015 annual report will be posted to DearbornAnimals.org later this year. Thank you for your continued support! •

Pet Behavior Helpline now open

Are you having difficulty potty-training your pup? Is your cat suddenly refusing to use the litter box? The Friends' free Pet Behavior Helpline may be able to assist! Call 313.355.7553 or email HelpMyDog@DearbornAnimals.org or HelpMyCat@DearbornAnimals.org; we will respond within 48 business hours.

"Behavioral issues" is one of the leading reasons why owners surrender their pets. Our Pet Behavior Helpline is designed to help keep pets "homed" and thus prevent additional unwanted animals in our community. The program is supervised by our certified professional dog trainer, Linda Thomas, LVT, CPDT-KA. •



HAPPY TAILS: RHAPSODY

"I truly did 'Meet [My] Best Friend at the Zoo.' When Rhapsody curled up in my arms, and rested her head on my hand, I was smitten. She has brought a new energy into my life and home. I really feel like she has rescued me too." —Corinne G.

Join us for our 11th annual Dog Walk and Community-wide Celebration!



Saturday, May 14 • Ford Field Park, Dearborn

Go to DearbornMuttStrut.com for all the details!

Presenting Sponsor: *Best in Show* Dearborn Family Pet Care



ED SERECKY

Vital, valuable volunteers

We love our amazing volunteers, and — we're proud to say — the feeling is mutual! According to a recent Friends volunteer survey:

- **90%** of our volunteers feel they are making a difference in the lives of shelter animals.
- **90%** say they are proud to volunteer here.

Even more impressive, last year **78** active volunteers donated **17,314** hours — the equivalent value of **\$399,433** or **2,164** staff days!

We recognize these hardworking Friends at an annual volunteer party, replete with food, fun, and awards. Kudos to Gavin and Kathleen Haag, recipients of the 2015 Heart & Soul Award, our top volunteer honor! Visit our website to see all the winners.

If you're looking for a rewarding volunteer opportunity, join our team! Learn more at DearbornAnimals.org, or contact Katie Johnson, director of volunteers: 313.943.2697, Ext. 3555, or volunteers@DearbornAnimals.org. •

Thank you for being a Friend to the animals!

The following list reflects in-kind and monetary gifts made between July 1 and December 31, 2015. Gifts received after December 31 will be acknowledged in the next issue of Paw Prints. Due to space limitations, we are only able to publish gifts of \$500 or more. All gifts are listed at DearbornAnimals.org. Please notify us of any corrections to this list by emailing Friends@DearbornAnimals.org or calling Kelle Sisung at 313.303.1770.

Benefactor (\$10,000 & up)

Affiliated Veterinary Emergency Service
& Downriver Veterinary Associates
P.C., Dr. Jeffrey & Lisa Dizik
Aleta Sill's Bowling World Inc.,
Aleta Sill & Michelle Mullen
AVL Michigan Holding Corp.
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Dearborn Family Pet Care,
Dr. Cheryl Good & Mark Good
Michael Emerson
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Michael & Kelly Collins
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Gary & Jewel Feldhus
Michelle Geyer
Ghafari Associates LLC
Greektown Casino



HAPPY TAILS: PAISLEY

"Paisley has added so much fun energy and joy to our home! Thank you for taking her in and getting her to us — we will be forever grateful!" —Catherine D.

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Jim & Nancy Grosfeld
Henkel Corporation
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Kelle Sisung & Edward Orłowski
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Bobby & Karen Thompson
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HAPPY TAILS: HOWARD & SHELDON

“After losing our dog of 11 years, our home was so quiet and empty. We decided to adopt a cat as we were not home enough during the day. Sheldon [right] has been so much fun. He has the best personality. A few weeks later we adopted Howdy, aka Howard, as a playmate for him. He has been such a good kitty, and they get along great! Thank you for giving us our furry family members.” —*Connie G.*

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Circle of Friends: 2015 bequests received

The following donors thoughtfully included the Friends in their estate planning. We humbly thank them and their families.
 Estate of Bruce Harvey Church
 Estate of Peter Flaishans
 Estate of Lupe Gomez
 Robert Isbell Living Trust
 Trust of Frank J. Ozimek & Josephine Ozimek
 Mary H. Schick Trust

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Happy Tails



SCOOBY “When I came across a picture of Scooby on the Internet, I couldn’t help but drive down to the shelter the very next day to check him out. I was fortunate enough to be selected for the adoption. Scooby is the life of the party and is loved by many. My best friend is living proof that there are and always will be dogs around worth rescuing.” —*Devin K.*

TJ “Woodrow came to us as a single foster kitten who needed some TLC. We fell for him immediately, as he reminds us so much of our late Toby, whom we lost to kidney failure. We were quickly calling him ‘TJ’ in honor of Toby, and he fit in so well with our other pets (two dogs, one cat) and our 4-year-old daughter. He has completed our family and filled a void we’d been feeling for a long time. We are so happy that he is ours forever. Many thanks!” —*Jay & Donna H.*



ALLY “We previously shared our home with a lovely little all-black cat for four wonderful years. Sadly we lost him to a congenital heart defect. We decided to bring some much-needed happiness back into our house. Enter Ally! We went to the shelter after seeing her picture on the website. She too was a black kitten, and we decided right then and there that she would come home with us. Wow, she is an active little girl — running, playing, cuddling — and we know our adventure is just beginning! Thanks again to the Dearborn Animal Shelter for introducing us to our newest addition to the family!” —*Lance & Kayelea R.*

Adopted from the Friends? Share your Happy Tails at DearbornAnimals.org/Happy-Tails