



**GENESEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 11, 2017

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EMPTY THE SHELTER EVENT

This Saturday, October 14, 2017, Genesee County Animal Control is participating in a nation-wide EMPTY THE SHELTER event. Thanks to a generous donation from the BISSELL Pet Foundation (BPF), all adoption fees will be waived for this event. Families that adopt on October 14th will only be required to pay licensing fees for their pet. BPF will thank families for choosing adoption by providing a leash for dogs, a collar for cats and valuable wellness information and coupons for new pet owners.

"This is a great opportunity to provide a forever home for one of the animals that we currently have in the shelter," said Paul Wallace, Director of Genesee County Animal Control. "These animals deserve a loving family to take care of them."

In order to qualify, you must fill out a pre-screening application by 6 PM on October 11th. They are available at the following link:

http://www.gc4me.com/departments/animal_control/empty_the_shelters_fall_2017.php

Or by calling the shelter directly at 810-762-1660.

Approximately 2.7 million pets nationwide are euthanized yearly because they are unable to find homes. EMPTY THE SHELTERS combats this problem by increasing adoption rates. From previous ETS events, 96.6% of adopters reported pets remained in their new homes 6-15 months later; 52% of adopters were first-time adopters; 99.4% of adopters have already or plan to recommend adoption to their friends/family.

"Michigan has served as a model for EMPTY THE SHELTERS," remarked Cathy Bissell, Founder of BISSELL Pet Foundation. "Shelters in other states are seeing what we can accomplish and we have been fortunate to hold this event in nine states this year. We are

hoping to expand our efforts into more areas around the country, but we can't do this without the help of our generous supporters."

About BISSELL Pet Foundation

BISSELL Pet Foundation is a charitable 501(c) (3) non-profit organization with a mission to help reduce the number of animals in shelters and to support organizations dedicated to the humane care and treatment of animals through pet adoption, spay/neuter programs, microchipping and foster care. Founded in 2011 by Cathy Bissell, BISSELL Pet Foundation is an extension of her long-standing love for animals and commitment to their welfare. The foundation is supported by BISSELL Homecare, Inc., a 141-year-old Grand Rapids-based floor care appliance brand in its fourth generation of family leadership.

About Genesee County Animal Control

Genesee County Animal Control is a no kill shelter. Currently in the midst of a multi-million dollar renovation and expansion, Genesee County Animal Control has experienced a dramatic turn-around in the last 2 years. Averaging nearly 250 animal intakes every month, Genesee County Animal Control has been able to maintain a no-kill rate of 93% this year, up from 89% last year. These successes would not have been possible without the generous support of the residents of Genesee County who passed a county-wide millage to fund these upgrades at Genesee County Animal Control.

Contacts at Genesee County Animal Control:

Paul Wallace, Director
Renea Kennedy, Deputy Director
Amy Warner, Volunteer/Event/Rescue Coordinator

All available at 810-732-1660

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