

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Third Annual “Best in Show – Stories from Beyond the Shelter” Story Contest Now Open for Entries

Your rescue pet does not have email so you must share their story for them! Celebrated author Isabel Allende and KQED’s Dr. Michael Krasny to headline wildly popular benefit event

BERKELEY, Calif. – June 27, 2019 - [Berkeley Humane](#) today announced its third annual storytelling benefit contest and star-studded event featuring international-bestselling and critically acclaimed author Isabel Allende and Dr. Michael Krasny of KQED’s Forum. On this evening they will team up to benefit shelter animals, with proceeds going directly to Berkeley Humane’s lifesaving programs. This year’s “Best in Show – Stories from Beyond the Shelter” event will take place live on stage at the Freight & Salvage Theater on Friday, October 18. The Pet Stories Contest has now launched online and Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society invites everyone to share their pet rescue story. Three contest finalists will be invited to read their short story live on stage, with the winner crowned “Best in Show.”

“Berkeley Humane works tirelessly to connect shelter dogs and cats with loving homes,” said Jeffrey Zerwekh, Executive Director of Berkeley Humane. “Every time this happens a family is changed for the better. We enthusiastically invite you to share your story about how your rescue pet impacted your life.”

Six in ten Americans own a pet. For many people, dogs and cats are part of their daily lives—and they are more than just pets. They make us laugh, keep us warm, serve as an alarm clock in the morning, and warn us of potential danger—or of a squirrel outside the window. They pull at our heartstrings and, most importantly, teach us about unconditional love. Everybody has a standout story about their dog or cat. Berkeley Humane is challenging you to tell yours for a unique opportunity to be featured on stage at “Best in Show – Stories from Beyond the Shelter,” the special live-performance event sharing the stories of animal companions that shape our lives with love.

To enter the Pet Stories Contest, complete the entry form on Berkeley Humane’s website at <https://berkeleyhumane.org/best-in-show> no later than Friday, August 16, 2019.

Tickets to *Best in Show – Stories from Beyond the Shelter* are available from the Freight & Salvage Theater box office. There will be a cocktail reception and a silent auction before the event with all proceeds supporting Berkeley Humane’s life saving mission.

Who: The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society

What: Best in Show – Stories from Beyond the Shelter. A benefit event featuring acclaimed author Isabel Allende and hosted by KQED’s Dr. Michael Krasny

Pet Story Contest – Online submissions are open now (deadline: Friday, August 16, 2019)

When: Friday, October 18, 2019 – contest winner will be awarded “Best in Show” live on stage.

Where: Freight & Salvage Theater in Berkeley, CA

Why: Raise funds to support Berkeley Humane's life-saving mission

How: To learn more, or to purchase tickets for "Best in Show — Stories from Beyond the Shelter" in Berkeley, CA on October 18, please visit: <https://berkeleyhumane.org/best-in-show>

Tweet this: Dogs & cats are more than pets—they're family. Share your rescue pet's story for a chance to share it onstage at @berkeleyhumane's "Best in Show – Stories from Beyond the Shelter" with @isabelallende & @KQEDForum's Michael Krasny. Enter the essay contest: <https://berkeleyhumane.org/best-in-show>

About Berkeley Humane

With its origins dating back to 1895, today Berkeley Humane serves the people and animals of our community by providing life-saving programs for cats and dogs, cultivating compassion, and strengthening the human-animal bond. With the support of a dedicated and talented volunteer and staff team, Berkeley Humane intakes animals from municipals shelters around the Bay Area who are often in need of medical care, improved nutrition, enrichment and lots of love. In 2018, Berkeley Humane conducted over 1,000 adoptions and touched the lives of almost 1,000 additional pets through related services. Learn more at www.berkeleyhumane.org.