



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Twelve San Francisco Bay Area Animal Shelters Team Up to “Empty the Shelters”

Berkeley Humane Convenes All Twelve Alameda and Contra Costa County Shelters to Participate in National Adopt-a-Thon

BERKELEY, Calif. – May 3, 2019 – [Berkeley Humane](#) today announced that it formed a coalition of all twelve animal shelters in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties that will participate in the BISSELL Pet Foundation’s [Empty the Shelters](#) event tomorrow, May 4. On this day, adoption fees for cats, kittens, dogs and puppies will be reduced to a flat \$25 in hopes of increasing opportunities to match deserving pets with new loving homes and some shelters may provide other benefits to adopters. At Berkeley Humane, more than 60 dogs and cats will be available. All available animals are cleared medically, including vaccinations, spaying or neutering, flea control, worm treatments, and microchipping. Berkeley Humane also provides optional discounted pet insurance and \$250 worth of medical care with partner VCA veterinary hospitals.

“We’re blown away by the commitment of the BISSELL Pet Foundation to lower barriers to adoption,” said Jeffrey Zerwekh, Executive Director of Berkeley Humane. “Our shelter is full of wonderful dogs and cats, puppies, and kittens who are ready and eagerly waiting for loving homes. With kitten season well underway, it’s more important than ever to truly make space available in Bay Area shelters.”

This effort is a part of a national push by over 100 shelters in 20 states, which will add to the over 19,000 animals already adopted as part of other Empty the Shelters events. By participating in the event as a coalition, the Bay Area will be a premier location for adopters looking to find a pet to join their families.

“Our goal with Empty the Shelters is to create more families by finding homes for dogs and cats who just need a second chance,” said Cathy Bissell, Founder of the Bissell Pet Foundation. “The best way to make this happen is by shelters working together to have a real impact, and we are very proud to support the partnership efforts in the San Francisco Bay Area.”

Participating shelters include: Berkeley Humane, Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter, East Bay SPCA, East County Animal Shelter, Contra Costa County Animal Services, Antioch Animal Services, Berkeley Animal Care Services, Valley Animal Center, Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation, Tri-City Animal Shelter, Oakland Animal Services, and Hayward Animal Shelter. Each shelter may be contacted directly for open hours and adoption requirements.

Berkeley Humane is open on Saturday, 11 AM – 5 PM, at 2700 Ninth St. in Berkeley, California.

Learn more about Berkeley Humane programs and events

- [Spay the Bay](#)
- [Empty the Shelters](#)
- [Berkeley Humane Pints for Paws](#)
- [Clear the Shelters](#)

About Berkeley Humane

The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society (Berkeley Humane) has 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 our community and a dedicated, talented team of volunteers and staff, Berkeley Humane transports animals from municipals shelters who are often in need of medical care, improved nutrition, training, and lots of love. In 2018, Berkeley Humane found homes for over 1100 dogs and cats and touched the lives of over 1000 additional pets through our programs and services. Learn more at www.berkeleyhumane.org.

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 BISSELL Homecare, Inc.

For 141 years and counting, Michigan-based BISSELL Homecare, Inc. has developed innovative floor care solutions that make cleaning easier. As the top-selling brand in floor care appliances based on NPD unit sales, BISSELL understands that fuller lives often mean more messes, and that convenient cleaning tools help us embrace life's messier moments. Now in its fourth generation of family leadership, the company supplies households across the globe with vacuums, sweepers, deep-cleaning machines, hard floor cleaners and cleaning formulas. For more on the BISSELL complete line of floor care products, visit www.bissell.com.

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