**YOUR LOGO HERE**

**Animal** **Shelters Across the Country Ask the Public for Help**

***YOUR SHELTER NAME****, BISSELL Pet Foundation and shelters across the country come together with urgent plea for adopters and fosters*

**LOCATION** (DATE) – Shelters nationwide are in crisis with overcrowding and other significant obstacles, prompting a national call to action for help. Due to increased owner surrenders, short staffing, a national shortage of shelter veterinarians, and slowing adoptions for larger dogs, shelters are struggling and need our help. BISSELL Pet Foundation, along with **YOUR SHELTER** **NAME** and other animal welfare organizations across the country, are coming together to support the country's animal shelters, both open admission and private, to get the word out that adoption and fostering are especially critical at this moment.

In addition, the community can help shelters by getting lost pets home. If you find a pet, check the area to see if anyone can identify them. Most pets found wandering have a home nearby. Consider taking the pet to a veterinarian or shelter to scan for a microchip. When possible, bring the pet home for 48 hours while searching for the owner rather than taking the pet to the shelter. Use social media and neighborhood networks to inform the community that you have found a pet.

**ADD SECTION ABOUT YOUR CURRENT OVERCROWDING, SHELTER CONCERNS, INTAKE NUMBERS**

**QUOTE FROM YOUR SHETLER**

Numerous factors across the country make this a challenging time for animal shelters. These include:

* According to the [Shelter Animals Count database](https://www.shelteranimalscount.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Q2-Report.pdf), animal shelters are overrun with stray or owner-surrendered pets this year, leading to spiking post-pandemic euthanasia rates across the country.
* Pets are waiting longer to be adopted in shelters than in five years.
* Pet owners are being forced to give up their pets due to housing instability and financial struggles.
* Like other industries, animal adoption agencies are facing widespread staffing challenges, and many organizations lack the needed staff to accommodate all their animals.
* The national shortage of veterinarians has impacted access to spay/neuter in shelters, slowing pet adoptions and other critical access to care.

“There are so many issues that are impacting animal welfare organizations across the country, and shelters are in dire need of support,” said Cathy Bissell, Founder of BISSELL Pet Foundation. “We understand the shelters are struggling and hope to provide some relief through this collaborative call for help with other national organizations.”

Without the public’s help, healthy, adoptable pets will face euthanasia in animal shelters. The community’s actions can make all the difference, including the following tips:

1. **Adopt**. Adopting helps open space at the shelter and provides a safe, loving environment for the animal.
2. **Foster**. Fostering a pet will free up a kennel space for another pet who urgently needs one. In many places, moms with puppies/kittens, orphaned babies, pets recovering from injury or illness, and long-stay pets urgently need foster homes.
3. **Help get lost pets back home**. When finding a friendly, healthy lost pet, file a found report, get it scanned for a microchip at a local vet, hold the pet for at least 48 hours, and try to get it home without coming to the shelter. When Good Samaritans help get lost pets home, it keeps the shelter population manageable.

For more information about **YOUR SHELTER NAME**, please visit **YOUR WEBSITE.**

**About**[**BISSELL Pet Foundation**](http://www.bissellpetfoundation.org/)**:**

BISSELL Pet Foundation is a charitable 501©(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to help reduce the number of animals in shelters through pet adoption, spay/neuter programs, vaccinations, microchipping and crisis and disaster response. Founded in 2011 by Cathy Bissell, BPF is an extension of her long-standing love for animals and commitment to their welfare. BPF has since partnered with more than 6,000 shelters and rescues across the U.S. and Canada to help pets find loving homes. The foundation is supported by generous donors and BISSELL Inc. where every purchase saves pets. To learn more and donate, visit [www.bissellpetfoundation.org.](http://www.bissellpetfoundation.org/)

For more information on BISSELL Pet Foundation and the efforts to curb the national shelter crisis, visit [www.BISSELLPetFoundation.org](http://www.BISSELLPetFoundation.org) and follow on social media including Facebook [www.facebook.com/BISSELLPets](http://www.facebook.com/BISSELLPets) and on Instagram at @BISSELLPets.

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