**YOUR LOGO HERE**

**Animal** **Shelters Across the Country Asking 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 across the country are in crisis with overcrowding and other significant obstacles, prompting a national call-to-action for help. Due to seasonal high-intake, short-staffing, a 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 let the community know 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 [PetPoint](file:///C:\Users\schlacb\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\VX5NX57B\Numerous%20factors%20across%20the%20country%20make%20this%20a%20challenging%20time%20for%20animal%20shelters.%20These%20include:), owner surrenders for cats increased 7.5% and 3.5% for dogs in 2021 compared to 2020.
* Adoption and foster placements have slowed nationally.
* Pet owners are being forced to give up their pets due to housing loss, financial struggle, and other impacts of COVID.
* Like other industries, animal adoption agencies are facing widespread staffing challenges, and many organizations lack the number of needed staff to accommodate all their animals.

“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, and 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. More information about helping pets without bringing them to a local shelter is available on [www.humananimalsupportservices.org](http://www.humananimalsupportservices.org).

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, microchipping and emergency support. 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 5,500 shelters and rescues across the U.S. and Canada to help pets find loving homes. The foundation is supported by generous donors and BISSELL Homecare, Inc where every purchase saves pets.

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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