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Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Joins BISSELL Pet Foundation to Bring Holiday Hope to Shelter Pets During Empty the Shelters™ Through Dec. 17

400+ shelters nationwide reduce adoption fees and find loving homes for pets

BISSELL Pet Foundation, a national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending pet homelessness, is bringing holiday hope to homeless pets by prompting a national call for adoption with its Empty the Shelters™ reduced-fee adoption event through Dec. 17. Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS) will participate along with more than 400 shelters in 45 states. To help deserving shelter pets find loving homes, BISSELL Pet Foundation is sponsoring shelters to allow reduced adoption fees of just \$50 per cat or dog during this nationwide event.

- *Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter will participate Dec. 1-17 at the 1001 Rodriguez St. location, offering \$50 adoption fees for dogs and cats of all ages and breeds*
- *The shelter is open every day from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.*
- *Available pets can be seen at the shelter's website www.scanimalshelter.org.*
- *Attached photos are just a few of the beautiful homeless pets available.*

"This is the first time our Shelter has participated in this nationwide effort," said Amber Rowland, General Manager of SCCAS. "On average, only 15% - 20% of people who have pets get them from animal shelters! Events like Empty the Shelters allow us to get the word out to a broader audience, letting them know that they can find a selection of wonderful, healthy companions at their local shelter, and that the low adoption fees include spay or neuter, vaccination, and microchipping, which can be very costly if obtained separately."

“It has been an incredibly challenging year for saving lives, as our nation’s shelters continue to take in more pets than they are adopting out. Tens of thousands of shelter pets—of all breeds, ages, and personalities—are desperately in need of homes,” said Cathy Bissell, Founder of BISSELL Pet Foundation. “Empty the Shelters – Holiday Hope” is more than an adoption event; it’s a lifeline for shelter pets. Please visit your local participating shelter to adopt or foster a pet this holiday season.”

BISSELL Pet Foundation’s Empty the Shelters event is the largest funded adoption event in the country. This lifesaving event began in 2016 with a goal of encouraging more families to choose adoption. More than 300,000 pets have found loving homes since its inception. Empty the Shelters is BISSELL Pet Foundation’s largest program, partnering with 800 animal welfare organizations in 48 states and Canada to reduce adoption fees.

For more information on adopting or donating to Empty the Shelters, visit www.bissellpetfoundation.org/empty-the-shelters and www.scanimalshelter.org

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About BISSELL Pet Foundation:

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, visit www.bissellpetfoundation.org.

About Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

SCCAS is the open-intake animal control shelter for Santa Cruz County, which means it serves as the lost & found for pets as well as an adoption and social safety net agency for the people and pets of Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Scotts Valley, Felton, Capitola and all the communities in the County. It is overseen by a Joint Powers Authority Board and takes in 5,500-6,500 animals per year.