



## **The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA Teams Up with BISSELL Pet Foundation to “Empty the Shelters”**

*Pets will be available for adoption for \$25 from October 1-15th during the nation’s largest funded adoption event*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (September 29, 2023)** — With animal shelters across the nation facing an overcrowding crisis, thousands of highly adoptable pets are waiting for their second chances. The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is proud to partner with [BISSELL Pet Foundation](#), a national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending pet homelessness, for its Fall National “Empty the Shelters.” From Oct. 1 - 15, BISSELL Pet Foundation will sponsor reduced adoption fees of \$50 or less at more than 345 shelters in 42 states.

During the event, the adoption fee for adult dogs and cats at the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA will be reduced to just \$25. All animals included in the event will be spayed or neutered, up to date on vaccines, and microchipped.

BISSELL Pet Foundation’s “Empty the Shelters” event is the largest funded adoption event in the country. With a goal of encouraging more families to choose adoption, this lifesaving effort has helped more than 190,000 pets find loving homes since 2016. As BISSELL Pet Foundation’s largest program, a total of 687 animal welfare organizations in 49 states and Canada have participated throughout the years. During BISSELL Pet Foundation’s “Empty the Shelters” quarterly national events, an average of 1,225 shelter pets are adopted each day.

"Our nation’s animal shelters are facing an overcrowding crisis unlike anything we have experienced in more than a decade. The devastating increase in owner surrenders and stray intakes has left tens of thousands of socialized, house-trained, and leash-trained pets desperate to find a home," said Cathy Bissell, Founder of BISSELL Pet Foundation. "Our Fall National ‘Empty the Shelters’ will support the adoption of thousands of pets across the country, helping shelters in this critical time. Opening your home to a shelter pet saves a life and creates space to give another pet a chance."

"We’re excited for this opportunity to offer reduced adoption fees to members of the community who are ready to welcome a new pet into their lives," said Sue Friedman, Interim Executive Director at the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA. "We are looking forward to finding homes for many of the homeless animals in our care."

Adoption is a lifetime commitment. BISSELL Pet Foundation and the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA urge families to do their research about the pet they are interested in adopting, as well as adoption requirements. For more information on adopting or donating to “Empty the Shelters,” visit [www.bissellpetfoundation.org/empty-the-shelters](http://www.bissellpetfoundation.org/empty-the-shelters) as well as <https://casppca.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, 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 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 Homecare, Inc., where every purchase

saves pets. To learn more, visit [www.bissellpetfoundation.org](http://www.bissellpetfoundation.org).

**About the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA:**

The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is proud to have maintained the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County as life-saving communities for thousands of animals in the region. The mission of the SPCA is to advance the compassionate treatment of animals by providing sheltering, medical care and behavioral services for dogs and cats; promoting permanent, caring homes; and furthering education and outreach to place healthy animals in caring homes.

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**Media Contact:**

Brittany Schlacter | Bissell Pet Foundation | Marketing & PR Specialist | [brittany.schlacter@bissell.com](mailto:brittany.schlacter@bissell.com) | 616.600.9470

Sierra Stevens | Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA | Social Media and Marketing Specialist | [sstevens@caspca.org](mailto:sstevens@caspca.org) | 434.973.5959 x 302