
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FRIENDS FOR ANIMALS OF METRO DETROIT ANNOUNCES LOWER ENTRY FEES, MORE DETAILS, FOR FIRST ANNUAL “PAWCHELLA” THREE-DAY FESTIVAL

Dearborn, MI. May 21, 2024 – Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit’s PAWCHELLA, presented by Rande and David Wright, is a three-day festival, June 21 – 23, celebrating the human-animal bond, while raising funds for over 2,500 animals cared for by Friends for Animals each year. The festival will be held outside the MaryAnn Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center, located at 16121 Reckinger Rd. in Dearborn. There will be something fun for everyone: contests and activities for dogs and their humans, face-painting and strolling magic for kids, six bands in two days, shopping, raffles and so much more!

Friday, June 21, the adoption center transforms into an outdoor concert venue for the “Artists Unleashed” Concert, presented by MaryAnn Wright and Bob Sayles. Doors are at 6:45 p.m.; and Nashville-based opening act, Trey Taylor, goes on at 7:30 p.m.; followed by songwriter Darcy Moran; Lester., fronted by Celeste Jones, part of the Friends for Animals medical team; and headliner, Danny VanZandt.



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16121 Reckinger Rd., Dearborn, MI 48126

metrodetroitanimals.org

Enjoy the Bottoms Up N' More mobile bar, four bands and the Kona Ice, Chokes Grille and Bakri Coffee trucks.

Saturday, June 22, partake in family fun, including a pack walk with your pup from 9 – 10 a.m., Bakri Coffee, What's Up Dawg?, Street Scoops, Cooking with Nada K., and Paco's Tacos food trucks; two more bands, West of Windsor returns for the early time slots, while local party band Sunglasses After Dark closes out the afternoon; contests, featuring Michigan State Representative Erin Byrnes and Dearborn Council Member Kamal Alsawafy as judges; raffles; and exhibitors. WHFR Henry Ford College radio will be running a live stream all weekend from the event.

There will be a corn hole benefit fundraiser tournament with upper and lower divisions, starting at 1 p.m., with registration at noon for \$50 per team.

You can also try your hand at dunking Council Member Alsawafy, and other local heroes, such as Silvio Davis, in the fundraising dunk tank.

Make sure to be prepared to sign up for this year's contests at registration, which will include:

- Best Costume
- Best Look A-like
- Best/Most Unique Trick
- Best Talking/Howling
- Longest/Shortest Tail

Finally on Sunday, June 23, meet animals looking for homes, as Friends for Animals partners with Michigan Humane, Detroit Animal Care and Control, Bottle Babies Rescue of Plymouth, and Bark Nation of Ferndale to showcase the life-saving work done by local rescues. Enjoy more vendors and a bake sale on the final day of the festival. This event will be free and open to the public.

Get involved by either buying tickets or fundraising to earn your entry and swag!



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- Friday Concert General Admission: \$25 at the door
 - Saturday Street Fair General Admission: \$10 at the door
 - Sunday Adopt-a-Thon: Free Admission
 - VIP: \$50 (t-shirt and admission to all days)
 - Rockstar: \$150 (t-shirt, sweatshirt, and admission to all days)
 - Superstar: \$250 (t-shirt, sweatshirt, honor or memorial sign, and admission to all days)

Make a bigger impact by setting up a fundraising page. Visit <https://givebutter.com/pawchella> to set a goal, create a team, and get friends, co-workers, and family involved. Help us reach our goal of raising \$100,000 to continue caring for homeless animals. Be part of something special at PAWCHELLA!

Enter the PAWCHELLA cash raffle for \$10 per ticket, sponsored by Premier Pet Supply, with five chances to win a \$500 Premier Pet Supply gift card! The drawing will be held at 2 p.m.

More than 800 pet lovers have joined the former Mutt Strut annual fundraiser in year's past, and this year for the first PAWCHELLA, the organization hopes to see attendance numbers double.

To register, fundraise or learn more, visit pawchella2024.org.

There is still time to become a sponsor or exhibitor for or an exhibitor at the first annual PAWCHELLA.

For more information, to speak with someone about sponsorship opportunities, or to be one of our exhibitors, contact Nova Zorok, events and communications manager, at nzorok@MetroDetroitAnimals.org or [313.943.2697 ext. 1019](tel:313.943.2697).

Proceeds from this event will go toward Friends for Animals' General Operations Fund, dedicated to providing our animals with the best medical care, food and love possible until their time of adoption.



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Friends for Animals is a 501c3 organization and is located at 16121 Reckinger in Dearborn. Friends for Animals is dedicated to the rescue, protection, and adoption of companion animals in need, while inspiring the human-animal bond. Friends for Animals was founded in 1993 by volunteers who believed that homeless animals in our region deserve a second chance at life. Building on our strong sense of animal welfare, Friends for Animals has grown in the past 30 years to an organization of great impact in the companion animal welfare community. The organization helps find homes for approximately 2,500 dogs and cats each year.

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Friends for Animals Media Contact: Nova Zorok, 313.520.7188, 313.943.2697 ext. 1019
nzorok@metrodetroitanimals.org