



Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit and City of Dearborn Reach Agreement

*Landmark agreement goes above and beyond to ensure sterilization
occurs for all Dearborn's strays and surrenders*

DEARBORN. June 28, 2024—An agreement was reached today between the City of Dearborn and Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit (FAMD), making Dearborn one of the most animal-friendly cities in the country. At the center of the agreement is the realization that sterilization of stray and surrendered animals is essential for the health of the animals and the community.

Dearborn Mayor Abdullah H. Hammoud, acknowledged the benefit of the new deal to the City, stating, “This agreement is a win for all of Dearborn, and establishes a robust model for other communities to follow. The safe sheltering and care that FAMD provides to the animals of our community is crucial. I am proud that our new agreement allows us to grow our partnership together and ensure that all animals in our care are placed in happy, healthy, and safe homes.”

The terms agreed to are \$279.55 per dog and \$248.75 per cat to cover the legally required four-day hold for Dearborn animals in the shelter. This includes a 65% City/35% FAMD sharing of sterilization costs. In addition, the City of Dearborn will pay \$82 for other species, and \$10/day (after the 4-day hold) for cruelty cases with no animal intake cap in the agreement. This four-year contract, expiring in 2028 includes a 3% CPI increase per year.

“Friends for Animals is relieved to have reached a fair agreement with the City of Dearborn,” said Cory Keller, president and CEO, Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit. “We will not only continue to provide animal control services for the community, and ensure stray animals find their way to a safe place, but we are also excited to move forward and strengthen our relationship as partners to build an even better community for Dearborn and beyond.”

The average cost per animal stay is \$900, with stays averaging 20 days.

Dearborn City Council President Michael T. Sareini joined in celebrating the agreement, stating, “As responsible stewards of our taxpayer dollars, I am delighted that the City and its Council have struck a sensible, updated deal for the shelter so that its staff and volunteers can continue their vital service sheltering and providing all necessary medical services to unhoused animals in our community. This agreement also contains mechanisms to strengthen our relationship with FAMD, improve collaboration and communication, and bolster its fundraising activities.”

Some of the landmark additions to the contract include a liaison structure that will meet bi-monthly to focus on improved communication, collaborating on animal welfare issues such as pet identification campaigns, community drives, expanding the Feed Fido program, as well as non-animal related purchasing.

FAMD will also begin issuing and collect fees for dog licenses, with the fees collected being returned to the City.

About Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit

FAMD is a 501c3 organization and is located at 16121 Reckinger in Dearborn. Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit is dedicated to the rescue, protection, and adoption of companion animals in need, while inspiring the human-animal bond. Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit (FAMD) 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, FAMD 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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