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News

# Saturday's Bless the Pets marks World Animal Day

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

DEARBORN — Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, in partnership with The Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter, is hosting its third annual Bless the Pets Fair on Saturday.

This celebration of fur, fins, and feathers is held in conjunction with World Animal Day. The date in October was chosen because it is also the Feast of Francis of Assisi, a saint renowned for his love of all creatures. World Animal Day has grown to encompass all kinds of animal life and is now widely celebrated around the world.

The Bless the Pets celebration will take place at Cherry Hill Presbyterian, located at 24110 Cherry Hill, in Dearborn, and will run from noon until 3 p.m.

The animal blessing will take place at 2p.m., immediately after opening remarks by Mayor Jack O'Reilly, and should last approximately 45 minutes.

Pets of all sizes and shapes are invited – from dogs, cats, and birds, to lizards, rabbits, fish, and guinea pigs. All pets must be on leashes or securely contained in cages or carriers.

The event is free to the public, and each pet will receive a special blessing card to commemorate the day.

Attendees, however, will be encouraged to remember those animals who are not so blessed and who wait patiently for families at the Dearborn Animal Shelter. Donated items from the shelter's wish list will be collected prior to the blessing. Donations are especially needed at this time since the shelter continues to experience an overflow of kittens.

There will be plenty of activities before the blessing to entertain both pets and pet parents. Enjoy a picnic with your pet by purchasing a hot dog lunch; try your paw at the mini agility course and various doggie games; get pet questions answered by Dearborn Animal Shelter trainers; or, visit with adoptable dogs from the Dearborn Animal Shelter.

There will also be family fun provided by Happy the Clown and shopping at the Friends pet

boutique. In addition, the Friends will be holding contests for the largest pet, smallest pet, and most exotic pet being blessed.

World Animal Day celebrations will continue into the evening.

After a 15-year hiatus, Sunglasses After Dark, a popular Dearborn-based band, is reuniting for a 1-night-only benefit for the Dearborn Animal Shelter. The show starts at 8 p.m., and will take place at the Dearborn Elk's, located at 25000 Michigan Ave.

Tickets are \$15 pre-show; \$20 at the door, and may be purchased at the Elk's or from the shelter.

For more information about Bless the Pets or Sunglasses After Dark Reunion Show, please call the Dearborn Animal Shelter at (313) 943-2697 or visit the Friends' Web site at [www.dearbornanimals.org](http://www.dearbornanimals.org). All donations and proceeds from both events will benefit the animals cared for at the shelter, which is located at 2661 Greenfield Road in Dearborn.

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