

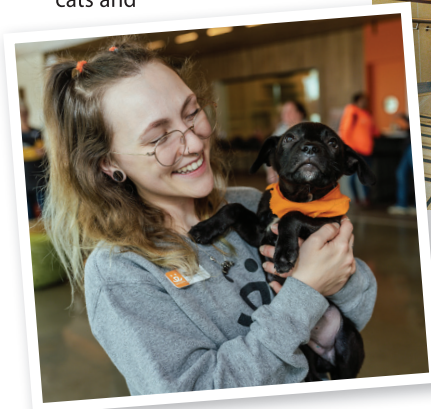
**SPOTLIGHT**

# A Reimagined Shelter

In March, **Best Friends Animal Society** ([bestfriends.org](https://bestfriends.org)) introduced a new animal resource center in Bentonville, Arkansas, that changes the traditional sheltering model as we know it. The Best Friends Pet Resource Center is a first-of-its-kind national destination for animal lovers that showcases adoptable pets in a bright and airy facility that does not use cages or kennels, instead housing them in large open rooms or utilizing their local foster network.

The center serves as a business model for the country intended to elevate and empower communities in saving homeless pets, while also serving as a lifesaving hub for Northwest Arkansas, supporting area shelters and providing long distance transport.

The goal is to end the killing of dogs and cats in U.S. shelters by 2025, and the Pet Resource Center is an important part of this strategy. Last year, 355,000 cats and



dogs were killed in U.S. shelters because they didn't have safe places to call home.

The center offers pets for adoption, while also helping people struggling to keep their existing pets by connecting them with humane and social services, offering on-site resources including a pet food and supplies pantry, veterinary care and train-

ing classes, just to name a few. The center's design is playful, featuring installations from local artists and pet fixtures evoking the Ozarks. With people and pets in mind, the Pet Resource Center partnered with Third Space Coffee to create an on-site vegan café and coffee shop. The café provides free WiFi and lounge area seating, allowing people to work in the company of adoptable dogs and cats. The center offers a variety of com-

ing classes, just to name a few.

The center's design is playful, featuring installations

fortable spaces for guests throughout the facility, allowing potential adopters, fosters or volunteers to engage with the animals in a relaxed atmosphere. The community can spend time in open spaces with the adoptable pets and engage in fun activities for humans of all ages.

People can also bring their own dogs to the center for a DIY dog bathing station or participate in dog socialization activities.

**For more information,** visit [bestfriends.org/northwest-arkansas](https://bestfriends.org/northwest-arkansas).

—By Annie Butler Shirreffs



Courtesy Schwarzman Animal Medical Center

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF RESCUE

### The Schwarzman Animal Medical

**Center** ([amcny.org](https://amcny.org)) in New York is the world's largest nonprofit animal hospital, and its mission is to provide the best in care, research and education. An important part of the center is the Emma and Georgina Bloomberg AMC to the Rescue Fund, which was established in 2013 to provide free or subsidized specialty care to rescue animals who are hard to adopt because of health issues.

The fund was named for Emma and Georgina Bloomberg in 2020 in recognition of their generous support. Over the last decade, the fund has helped more than 600 pets, partnered with more than 140 rescue groups and provided over \$1.6 million in donated care to help these precious animals find their forever homes.

"It's an honor to support the Animal Medical Center, an organization that has changed the lives of so many animals in New York City and beyond," says Georgina Bloomberg. "By helping the AMC to the Rescue Fund, my sister and I are addressing a major obstacle in animal adoption and ensuring that the homeless animals of this city will have a better chance of finding the forever homes they deserve. Thank you, AMC, for everything you do for the animals of this amazing city and for letting us be a small part of it."

AMC will highlight several heart-warming stories of rescue animals that have been helped by the fund throughout the year. **To learn more** about AMC to the Rescue's 10th anniversary, visit [amcny.org/community-funds/amc-to-the-rescue](https://amcny.org/community-funds/amc-to-the-rescue).

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