

New satellite locations make pet adoption more convenient

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The Oakland Pet Adoption Center recently established five new Pet Adoption Outreach centers to help find homes for more homeless pets and is seeking additional partners to further expand. The Oakland Pet Adoption Center's mission is to "provide a temporary haven for animals" until it can "find them permanent, loving homes." The program currently focuses exclusively on **cats** and kittens.

Oakland Pet Adoption Center Administrative Supervisor Joanie Toole said that around 300 **cats** and kittens are currently being housed in the shelter and need to be adopted.

"We get 15-20 **cats** per day from people who are not being responsible and neutering their pets. They will bring us kittens or the adult **cats** that they can no longer keep. It's really quite sad, but we try our hardest to adopt out the ones that are adoptable," she said.

The new satellite locations include The **Cat Practice** in Birmingham, Pet Supplies Plus stores in Bloomfield Hills and White Lake, Advanced PetCare of Oakland in Clarkston, and Allen Animal Hospital in Livonia.

"We really care about the animals.

Right now, with the way the economy is, there are a lot of animals that are losing their homes, so we wanted to try to figure out a way to help with the **cat** side of it, because we only deal with **cats**. We really would like to find a home for all of them," said Joel Labo, manager of The **Cat Practice**.

Oakland Pet Adoption Center is looking for more veterinary hospitals to participate in the program.

A Pet Adoption Outreach Center must meet certain criteria, be pre-approved by the Oakland Pet Adoption Center, and agree to care for the **cats** until a permanent home can be found.

"With these satellites that we can count on, we can ship some **cats** out of our shelter environment and into their environment, which is probably a little quieter, a little less stressful, and it really helps us out tremendously," Toole said.

Anyone interested in adopting a **cat** or kitten from a Pet Adoption Outreach Center should contact the locations directly for information on hours and availability of **cats**. Each center will have access to a database of the **cats** at every Pet Adoption Outreach Center to help people who may be looking for a particular breed or type of **cat**. Potential adopters must also meet certain criteria, provide a loving home and pay an adoption fee - which varies at each center. **Cats** must be spayed or neutered prior to adoption or following their adoption in the case of young kittens. The center also runs a series of low-cost spay/neuter clinics to help reduce pet overpopulation. Those interested in becoming a satellite adoption center should contact center volunteer and program coordinator Linda Wasche at Linda W@LWmarketworks.com or (248) 253-0300.

For more information about the program, visit www.oakgov.com/pet-adoption/ or call (248) 391-4100.

For more information about adopting a **cat** or kitten, call The **Cat Practice** at (248) 540-3390, Pet Supplies Plus at (248) 333-7545, Advanced PetCare of Oakland at (248) 620-2900, and Allen Animal Hospital (248) 476-0570.

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Caption: More than 300 **cats** and kittens at the Oakland Pet Adoption Center are in need of homes.