

Bloomfield Township

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Adoption marathon is The Cat's Pajamas

Pet Supplies Plus, Oakland Pet Adoption Center partner to find homes for 200 felines

By Chris Jackett
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BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — For 48 hours this weekend, the local Pet Supplies Plus will be all about two things: cats and pajamas, but mainly cats.

The Pet Supplies Plus at 2057 Telegraph, north of Square Lake Road, is teaming with the Auburn Hills-based Oakland Pet Adoption Center for a cat adoption marathon dubbed The Cat's Pajamas. Between 4 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Sunday, the groups hope to find homes for 200 orphaned felines.

"This is the first time we're doing something like this," said Addy Shattuck, owner of three local Pet Supplies Plus stores. "The staff is excited about it. We'll have plenty of people there to talk to potential adopters."

Per the event's name, customers who visit the store between midnight and 4 a.m. during either night of the event will be treated to coffee, doughnuts and 20 percent off all non-sale items, which the store will also pay the sales tax on.

OPAC Administrative Supervisor Joanie Toole said the center had about 180 cats last week, and with an average of 10 new cats coming in each day, there would easily be more than 200 to choose from at Pet Supplies Plus during the adoption marathon.

With Royal Oak, Pontiac, Ferndale, Troy and other municipalities closing their shelters, stray and abandoned animals are being funneled into the OPAC, which can house about 300 cats if 100 are kept in volunteer foster homes, Toole said.

"A lot of cities and townships are closing down their animal shelters and they're going to become the one," Shattuck said of the OPAC.

Toole said the OPAC works with eight "satellite shelters," which includes two of Shattuck's Pet Supplies Plus stores, a Waterford groomer and five local veterinarian offices.

Before a cat is available for adoption, the OPAC spays/neuters the feline, gets it up to date on vaccinations, checks for feline leukemia and does an overall health test that includes checking for fleas and worms. After that, the pets are available for adoption for \$59.

"I think, if you're in the market for getting a cat or thinking about getting a cat, this would be a great event to come to," Toole said. "They make great pets for seniors. They're very low maintenance."

Shattuck has worked with the OPAC for 20 years, and the center has worked with her Pet Supplies Plus businesses for the past six years, providing cats for adoption.

Last year, the Telegraph and Highland road Pet Supplies Plus locations combined to have about 80 cats adopted during a similar event that lasted for a combined 23 hours because the stores were not open overnight. During an event this May at the 6845 Highland Road store in White Lake, another 70 were adopted.

"I think we're going to do better since it's for 48 hours straight. We need 200 families to come in and adopt," Shattuck said. "People are sometimes surprised by how intelligent and loving cats really are. Our events attract a lot of first-time cat adopters, but we also see a lot of families that want to bring home a companion for their existing cat. We highly encourage providing pets with same-species playmates. It keeps the pet occupied and they are so much fun to watch together."

Although the Telegraph location can hold about 500 cats, Shattuck said the Pet Supplies Plus is in the midst of building an open area known as Kitty City. Nearly 1,400 cubic feet of space will be stocked with perches, cat walks and other forms of cat-focused arrangements so potential adopters can view and interact with the cats in the open, as opposed to through a cage door.

Kitty City will be built out of plastic and glass to provide for a bacteria-free environment with multiple screens for ventilation. Because of a manufacturing delay with the green window frames, the cat paradise won't be complete until after The Cat's Pajamas event.

"It won't be done by then, I'm sure. The cats will have to be in cages," Shattuck said. "Cats do not do well in a cage, so we are creating an environment where they can be cats. It's difficult to see the true personalities of these intelligent animals when they are confined in a small space. We want the public to see just how unique each cat and kitten really is. And we are hoping that a lot of them will find good homes as a result."

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Photo courtesy of Pet Supplies Plus

Store cat Ozzie, who was adopted by Pet Supplies Plus, will oversee The Cat's Pajamas 48-hour marathon Aug. 12-14 at the Pet Supplies Plus at 2057 Telegraph, north of Square Lake Road in Bloomfield Township. The marathon's goal is to have 200 cats adopted.

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