



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kent County Animal Shelter Sets Record for Most Pets Adopted in a Year

GRAND RAPIDS – When the Tasker family walked into the Kent County Animal Shelter today they had no idea what was awaiting them.

James Tasker and his family were taking advantage of the BISSELL Pet Foundation “Home for the Holidays” event at the Kent County Animal Shelter (KCAS) which offers free pet adoptions until the end of the year. By choosing two cats, the Taskers broke the record for the number of pet adoptions in a single year. “Cookie Dough” and “Brulee” became pet numbers 1028 and 1029 adopted at KCAS this year.

This is the third consecutive year that KCAS has been able to set a new record. In 2014, 1,028 shelter animals became family members through adoption. “Setting these records back to back shows that the people of Kent County have come to rely on us when they are considering bringing a new pet home,” said Carly Luttmann, Program Supervisor at the Kent County Animal Shelter. “We’ve had several nights when nearly every adoptable pet was taken home! A great deal of that success comes from our collaboration with the BISSELL Pet Foundation.”

On November 18, KCAS and the BISSELL Pet Foundation announced the “Home for the Holidays” campaign. Thanks to a generous donation, all fees for pet adoptions have been waived until the end of the year. Since the beginning of the event, 121 pets have been adopted. Last year’s “Home for the Holidays” initiative resulted in the adoption of 270 pets. “We are able to save two lives with this program,” says Cathy Bissell, founder of the BISSELL Pet Foundation. “The pet that gets adopted and the animal who gets that open spot in the shelter, out of the cold and the elements. We are so pleased that the community has rallied around this important cause.”

Attached to this release are three photos for media use.

All pets available for adoption through the “Home for the Holidays” program are up-to-date on vaccinations, have been neutered or spayed, and are microchipped. There is a \$12 license fee to adopt a dog. The program ends December 31, 2015.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.