

Oakland Pet Adoption Center in Auburn Hills stocks 200 cats at Pet Supplies Plus

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While many retailers may be limiting holiday merchandise because of the economy, the Pet Supplies Plus store in White Lake is stocking up on its order from Oakland Pet Adoption Center in Auburn Hills.

The shipment isn't the latest pet toy or holiday pet treats, but 200 homeless cats and kittens all looking to win over someone's heart this holiday season and find loving permanent homes.

The 200 cats and kittens are all spayed or neutered, examined by a licensed veterinarian and vaccinated. They will be available for adoption Dec. 10-12 at Pet Supplies Plus in White Lake as part of its annual Christmas open house. Adoption fees are \$59 per cat go to Oakland Pet Adoption Center. Adopters get a holiday goody bag for their new pet that includes cat food, toys and a gift card for a free wellness exam at The Cat Practice in Birmingham.

In the past several years, the number of homeless pets in southeast Michigan has escalated because of economic troubles and the fact that many displaced families cannot afford to keep their pets. As a result, the number of pets ending up at area shelters is at an all-time high.

"If you are considering bringing home a pet this holiday, make it a homeless pet from a shelter," says store owner Addy Shattuck. "Many of these beautiful animals were someone's pet and they just happened to end up a victim of the economy. Cats make the most wonderful and loving pets. I should know — I have seven of them!"

Last year, Pet Supplies Plus put 100 cats up for adoption during the holidays.

This year, given double the number of cats and kittens, the store is creating a special holiday adoption center in the adjacent 4,500- square-foot retail space with holiday decorations and a free-roaming area where cats and kittens can play and interact with prospective adopters.

Use of the space is being donated by shopping center owner Richard Zoner who also owns Farmer John's Greenhouse in Farmington Hills.

"The 200 cats will be transported to Pet Supplies Plus in a caravan prior to the event," said Oakland Pet Adoption Center manager Joanie Toole. "Our volunteers are very excited about this event and are looking forward to answering adopters' questions about our pets. We are hoping that by getting a large number of cats and kittens in front of families that many more will find loving homes for the holidays."

Volunteers from Oakland Pet Adoption Center will be on hand to help adopters by providing information on each cat's or kitten's history, if available, and by talking to them about cat care.

If you go

Hours for the holiday cat adoption event and Pet Supplies Plus Christmas open house are from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 10; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 11; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 12. Shoppers will be treated to holiday specials on pet supplies, prize drawings and complimentary holiday refreshments. Pet owners can get a picture with Santa and their pet from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 12 by making a donation to Oakland Pet Adoption Center.

Pet Supplies Plus in White Lake is at 6845 Highland Road. For more information, call 248-889-4131 or go to www.oakgov.com/petadoption/calendar.

— From staff reports

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