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**Atlanta-based Furkids Cancels Largest Fundraiser of the Year,
Issues Urgent Appeal for Support and Adjusts Operations During the Coronavirus Pandemic
Furkids Experiencing Immediate Impact on Ability to Save Animals and on Fundraising
- Issues Plea for Help Salvage Fundraising Event to Save Lives -**

- As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, Furkids is experiencing a significant impact on their ability to raise funds to save animals.
- Furkids Animal Rescue and Shelters has been forced to cancel their largest fundraising event, scheduled for Saturday, March 21, and take the silent auction online.
- Furkids remains open, and is adapting operations, with adoptions by appointment only.
- Of the five largest shelters and rescues in the Atlanta area, only Furkids and Lifeline continue to operate – and at reduced capacity with reduced resources.
- Furkids is appealing to the community for immediate help with funding, fostering, adoption, thrift store donations.

(Atlanta, GA, March 19, 2020) - Furkids Animal Rescue and Shelters has made the very difficult decision to cancel their upcoming 18th Anniversary Celebration fundraising event. While this decision helps protect public health, it's also jeopardizing donations that support lifesaving work. Shelters have closed to protect their staff and volunteers, and animal care supplies could deplete rapidly. Furkids is remaining open, with operational adjustments, and is appealing to the community for support.

Furkids has been following health tragedies and loss of business in Atlanta and across the country as the corona virus spreads. With the overwhelming concern for human safety as well as the economy, little has been heard about nonprofit organizations, which also are on the firing line amid the growing public health, economic, and social repercussions of COVID 19.

“Despite this crisis, we will continue to save lives and care for the animals currently in our program,” stated Samantha Shelton, CEO and Founder of Furkids. “We are issuing an urgent appeal to our community for support; whether it is a donation, participation in our silent auction or fostering; we need help to save the lives of animals who survive on their own.”

Furkids had to cancel their 18th Anniversary Celebration, their most vital fundraiser of the year. Historically, this party has generated critical lifesaving revenue – around \$150,000 of annual funding. Losing these funds will negatively impact at-risk animals in what are already very difficult times. To salvage party revenue, Furkids is launching a silent auction starting Tuesday, March 18, and ending Saturday night, March 21 at 8:00 p.m. The community is encouraged to register now by texting the word FURKIDS to 71760. Once registered, you can bid on fabulous auction items, buy a commemorative Furkids t-shirt, and donate to Furkids. On Saturday night, Furkids will host a first-ever live auction countdown event on Facebook, complete with a puppy and kitten party.

As this crisis progresses, Furkids is especially concerned about vulnerable homeless animals, and those pets likely to be surrendered to shelters as families are challenged to make ends meet or are too ill to care for their pets. **There is very real danger that, as a lack of funds, lack of volunteers, and lack of fosters grows, some shelters and rescues could be forced to close.** Of the five largest shelters and rescues in the Atlanta area, only Furkids and Lifeline continue to operate – and at reduced capacity with reduced resources.

Furkids is urging the community to:

- Please donate now at <https://furkids.org/donation/>
- To help with supplies, visit Furkids' Smile Amazon Wish List at https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/lr/HYJHBML9YPHD/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl
- Foster a Furkid while stuck at home. Fostering opens up space in the shelter to rescue more at-risk animals. Apply to foster at <https://furkids.org/volunteer/foster-a-furkid/>
- Start purging your closets and home of items you don't need. Furkids' thrift stores generate vital revenue for their lifesaving programs. More information at <https://furkids.org/thrift-store/>

To date, Furkids operational changes include:

- Shelters are open for adoptions by appointment only. To set up an appointment, prospective dog adopters should email dogadoptions@furkids.org, or call 678-624-1003. Prospective cat adopters should email adopt@furkids.org.
- Furkids' Petco and PetSmart store adoption centers are also open by appointment only. Cats located at PetSmart Midtown and Happy Tabby have been temporarily relocated to the cat shelter or to foster homes. Other store closings may be necessary.
- Volunteer group operations (school/company groups) are postponed.
- The FurTales reading program for children is temporarily suspended.
- All community adoption events are postponed.
- Intakes will be limited when necessary.

While this coronavirus pandemic progresses, Furkids will continue to update the public on their website at www.furkids.org as well as on social media.

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ABOUT FURKIDS

Furkids, headquartered in Atlanta, GA, is a 501c3 nonprofit charitable organization that operates the largest cage-free, no-kill shelter in the Southeast for rescued cats and Sadie's Place, a no-kill shelter for dogs. Furkids also operates one of the only facilities in the Southeast dedicated to the care of FIV positive cats. The Furkids mission is to rescue homeless animals, provide them with the best medical care and nurturing environment while working to find them a forever home. Furkids heals the whole animal, physically and emotionally, restoring its health and its spirit. Furkids has rescued and altered more than 35,000 animals since its founding in 2002. Approximately 500 animals are in the Furkids program today, in the Furkids shelters, 12 PetSmart and Petco adoption centers, Happy Tabby Cafe and more than 400 foster homes in the Atlanta area. Furkids is the only animal rescue organization in metro Atlanta that allows children of all ages to volunteer. Furkids volunteer programs are designed to restore the health and spirits of injured and homeless animals while providing healing opportunities for volunteers who are strengthened by the bond of love and care between humans and animals. For more information about our volunteer opportunities and programs, visit www.furkids.org.