



BERGEN *County* **NEW JERSEY**

Press Release

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Bergen County to Assist Pet Owners with Donation to CFA

Bergen County Executive Kathleen A. Donovan announces that the Bergen County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center has begun a partnership with Center for Food Action to donate pet food and some supplies to the CFA's food pantries. The Shelter Manager, Deborah Yankow, with the assistance of the American Humane Association, arranged with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to have the Shelter become a donation/distribution center. This role for the shelter was formalized in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy when there were so many residents with pets displaced from their homes and in need of support. "This designation allows the shelter to donate food to residents not only during natural disasters, but year-round as well. We had always tried to help out folks before, but by having this partnership with the Center for Food Action we can get resources to those who need it on a more sustained basis" indicates Ms. Yankow.

"Bergen County residents and businesses are so generous donating to the shelter; this is a great way to share the abundance so that nothing goes to waste. The County and the Center for Food Action work together on a variety of different initiatives through both the Health Department and the Human Services Department. This is another great way to link people to the help they need by using resources more effectively, which is the mantra of my administration," said County Executive Donovan.

"It's really a win, win for both the Shelter and CFA," said Deb Yankow "people often surrender their pets to the shelter because they can no longer afford to care for them, by partnering with Center for Food Action low-income residents will be able to keep their pets and that helps lower the shelter population and our costs as well."

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