



Shelter Address: 2037 Foxon Road (Route 80)

North Branford CT 06471

[www.branfordcompassionclub.org](http://www.branfordcompassionclub.org)

### **BRANFORD COMPASSION CLUB HOSTS**

## **ANIMAL AWARENESS DAY with the Annual Blessing of the Animals OCTOBER 4, 2026 AT GUILFORD FAIRGROUNDS, 111 LOVERS LANE, GUILFORD CT**

Spring 2026

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Animal Awareness Day returns on Sunday, October 4, 2026 again on the Guilford Fairgrounds. This indoor event will be held rain or shine from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. There are covered pavilions and a huge barn that we will use. This location worked out well for us last year with so many advantages and we are pleased to be there again this year! Animal Awareness Day benefits the Branford Compassion Club's Feline Rescue and Adoption Center.

It's a family fun day for everyone, including music, food trucks, live animals (mini therapy horses!), live animal educational demonstrations, a giant bake sale, booths featuring a variety of area animal care and rescue groups, as well as craft and business vendors, and you never know what other surprises may happen! 2025 brought us old friends - Missing Link K9 Training, Turtle Haven rescue group, Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities, and BCC volunteer Kelsey Elizabeth Matthews entertained us again with her beautiful singing. We are always looking for new and fun things to add to the day!

The highlight of the day, as always, will be the Blessing of the Animals, the annual nod to the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, large and small. An interesting array of pets always makes their way to the event to be blessed by local clergy from several denominations. In past years, that parade has ranged from dogs, cats and gerbils to horses, rabbits and birds.

We are looking for many vendors to join us as well as our fellow rescue/non-profit groups. Last year we had over 40 vendor booths! An application is enclosed.

You can pay by mail, making your check (sorry, no credit cards) payable to Branford Compassion Club, along with your completed form, and mailing them to me directly. We encourage you to pass on the application to any other vendors or animal rescue groups you may know who might be interested in joining our event. **The deadline to respond is August 31.**

2026 brought a new honor to BCC when we were named the Best of 2026 New Haven County Award winner in the Animal Shelter category! Coming on the eve of our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2027!) in existence, this was a special recognition for us. BCC is a privately funded nonprofit organization founded in 1997 to raise awareness about the importance of spay-neutering felines, to aid in the adoption of homeless cats and care for those deemed unadoptable in area feral colonies. These feral cats are trapped, neutered and released into the perpetual daily care of BCC volunteers. The shelter, which opened in 2011, has found forever homes for over several thousand cats, while BCC has adopted out several thousand more before opening the Feline Rescue & Adoption Center at 2037 Foxon Road in North Branford. The shelter is open to the public one day a month during a scheduled Open House but prospective adopters can also always view our available adoptable cats on Petfinder and make an appointment to come to the shelter to meet them. The need to rescue and find homes for thousands of homeless cats in our community remains a priority and a challenge to us every day. We receive no municipal funds – our funding all comes from donations, grants, and fundraisers.

We look forward to and greatly appreciate your support and hope you will be a part of this special day!

## Chris Gagne

Christina Gagne, Board of Directors and Event Chairperson [chriskat32@aol.com](mailto:chriskat32@aol.com)



Sunday, October 4, 2026  
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
(Rain or Shine)

Guilford Fairgrounds, 111 Lovers Lane, Guilford CT

**Hosted By Branford Compassion Club:** [www.branfordcompassionclub.org](http://www.branfordcompassionclub.org)

## Vendor/Rescue/Non-Profit Registration Form

Business Name/Website \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Any food & beverage vendors or anyone bringing live animals MUST enclose their Certificate of Insurance.

Please state what you sell or the type of rescue/non-profit you are:

How did you hear about this event? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor spaces are about 10' X 10'. You are responsible for your own tent (if applicable), tables, set-up and breakdown. Set-up begins at 9:30 a.m. and must be completed by 11:00 a.m.. You may choose to set up your own tent on the grass somewhere or be in the barn or under a covered pavilion. MORE INFORMATION ON THAT LATER.

**FEES: Vendors - \$50 if received by August 31 or \$65 after August 31.**

**Rescue or non-profit Groups - \$25 if received by August 31 or \$35 after August 31**

**All information on form must be completed. Confirmation info will be sent closer to the date of the event, and all communication will be done by email.**

We can only accept cash or checks. Make checks payable to Branford Compassion Club.

**Please mail this form with your check before the deadline of August 31 to (fee is non-refundable unless BCC cancels the event):**

Chris Gagne, re: Branford Compassion Club, 24 Jay Place, North Branford CT 06471

For more info: Contact Chris at [chriskat32@aol.com](mailto:chriskat32@aol.com)