

## Seeking Shelters

We are always seeking new shelters to be listed so that homeless pets from all across Illinois have a chance to find a new family.

If you are a shelter looking to become part of the Comptroller's Critters family, please email us at [critters@illinoiscomptroller.gov](mailto:critters@illinoiscomptroller.gov). We will need the name of your shelter, contact information, website link and a .jpg or similar photo file of your logo.



**COMPTROLLER'S  
CRITTERS**  
ILLINOIS STATE COMPTROLLER  
SUSANA A. MENDOZA

COMPTROLLER'S CRITTERS  
[IllinoisComptroller.gov/ComptrollersCritters](http://IllinoisComptroller.gov/ComptrollersCritters)  
Email: [critters@illinoiscomptroller.gov](mailto:critters@illinoiscomptroller.gov)



“If you're looking for a new best friend, adoption is absolutely the way to go. You're saving the life of a homeless pet and saving money because shelter pets are offered for a reasonable fee that typically includes vaccinations, spaying or neutering and microchipping. Plus, less animals on the street means less costs to local government for animal control.”



**SUSANA A. MENDOZA**  
ILLINOIS STATE COMPTROLLER



# Find Your New Best friend



[IllinoisComptroller.gov/ComptrollersCritters](http://IllinoisComptroller.gov/ComptrollersCritters)

**Comptroller's Critters** was created by the late, great pet-loving Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka and carried on in her honor by Comptroller Mendoza. The program aims to find shelter dogs, cats and other animals forever homes and features a searchable database of facilities and rescue groups in your area. Our goal is to give you the resources you need to adopt a pet, which in turn reduces animal control costs at the local level and saves taxpayers money.

The database is searchable by county and provides contact and website information for many shelters around the state. The shelter's websites and/or social media accounts usually feature the animals they have available for adoption and information about the pet's breed, age and personality.

Comptroller's Critters isn't limited to just dogs and cats. Shelters listed also rescue hamsters, ferrets, horses, rabbits, pigs and other animals.

“ I am honored to continue the program started by my good friend Judy Baar Topinka and encourage everyone to visit our Comptroller's Critters webpage, find a nearby shelter and consider giving an animal a forever home.”



## Why adopt?

**SAVE A LIFE:** Thousands of pets throughout the State of Illinois are without a loving home and in danger of being euthanized. It is a common misconception that animals end up in shelters because they've been abused. In fact, most animals are handed over to shelters because of "people reasons," like a move or financial constraints. Additionally, when you adopt a rescue pet, you're not only saving that pet's life, but you're making room for another animal in need.

**FISCALLY SMART:** Pet overpopulation leads to additional animal control costs for taxpayers at the state and local level. In many cases, adopting a pet from an animal shelter is less expensive than buying a pet through another source. Shelter animals usually come fully vaccinated, spayed or neutered and microchipped, which saves YOU money. And, if you have your heart set on a purebred animal, you may be able to find one at a local shelter or through a breed-specific rescue group. You'll be saving a life and the potentially thousands of dollars you would be paying to a breeder.

**IMPROVING YOUR OWN LIFE:** Pets can be a best friend, a shoulder to cry on and a confidant that won't share your secrets. Often, pet owners find they are more social and active after they adopt an animal.



## Getting Started

A directory of participating shelters along with contact information is at: [IllinoisComptroller.gov/ComptrollersCritters](http://IllinoisComptroller.gov/ComptrollersCritters). Search by county, view the map, or scroll through the list to find a shelter near you. Once you find a shelter, visit their site to view all the animals they have for adoption or plan to visit the shelter in person. And don't forget to mention Comptroller Mendoza sent you!

When choosing a pet, consider your lifestyle and the traits of the animal you are considering if known. Will you be able to provide plenty of exercise for a high energy pet, or do you want a couch potato to snuggle with and watch TV? Do you have a fenced-in backyard? Ask shelter staff if the pet is good with children and other animals if applicable. If you have another pet, check with shelter staff about bringing your current pet in to see if it gets along with the animal you are thinking about adopting.

Our website also includes tips for bringing your new best friend home.

