



Great Plains SPCA Celebrates 15th Anniversary with 6th Annual Best In Show

Award-Winning Fundraiser Returns with Pet Photo Contest, Three Mural Opportunities, Silent Auction and an Unforgettable Grand Finale

MERRIAM, Kansas, Great Plains SPCA is celebrating **15 years of saving and improving the lives of pets** with the return of one of Kansas City's most beloved animal fundraising events: the **6th Annual Best In Show Pet Photo Contest and Grand Finale Celebration**, Thursday, October 15, from 6–9 p.m. at Great Plains SPCA's Merriam shelter. **This event is made possible by Presenting Sponsors: The Quinn Foundation, Hill's, and Black and Veatch**

Best In Show enters its sixth year after being recognized by *The Independent* as one of its **Top Ten Impact Players of 2025**, ranking fifth among Kansas City charitable events in the category after raising \$146,000.

"This is a milestone year for Great Plains SPCA, and we wanted Best In Show to be a true celebration of the pets and people who have made the past 15 years possible," said Hathaway Maranda, Vice President of Philanthropy & Engagement at Great Plains SPCA. "Best In Show has grown into something really special. It's fun, it's joyful, it's a little competitive, and underneath all of it is a community coming together to help pets who need us."

The Competition Is On

Pet owners can **enter their pets now** for a \$10 donation in five categories:

Cutest Kitty | Most Adorable Dog | Best Buddies | Best Smile | Sweetest Senior

Beginning **September 19 through October 10**, the public can vote for their favorites for **\$1 per vote**.

The winning pets will earn one of Best In Show's most coveted prizes: a place on the shelter's **larger-than-life outdoor mural, created by local KC artist, Dani Roma**, where their portraits will be seen by thousands of visitors throughout the year.

Three Chances to Put Your Pet on a Mural

The contest winners aren't the only pets getting their moment in the spotlight this year.

In honor of Great Plains SPCA's 15th anniversary, **two additional mural opportunities will be available through the Best In Show silent auction**, giving two lucky bidders the opportunity to have their beloved pets featured in special murals at Great Plains SPCA.

The **silent auction is open now**, giving supporters the opportunity to begin bidding before the Grand Finale.

A Grand Finale Worth Celebrating

On **Thursday, October 15, from 6–9 p.m.**, Great Plains SPCA will transform its Merriam shelter into a celebration of pets, philanthropy and 15 years of lifesaving work.

Guests can expect **cocktails, great food, photo opportunities, a curated silent auction, raffle prizes, special experiences with puppies and kittens**, and plenty of surprises throughout the evening.

The highlight of the night will be the **live crowning of the 2026 Best In Show winner and unveiling of the new Best In Show mural**.

More than a celebration, every entry, vote, auction bid and ticket purchased supports Great Plains SPCA's lifesaving work for thousands of pets throughout the Kansas City community.

"For 15 years, this community has helped us give animals second chances and create better lives for pets and the people who love them," said Tam Singer, CEO of Great Plains SPCA. "Best In Show is the perfect way to celebrate that legacy. It brings together the people who have supported our mission, celebrates the pets who mean so much to us, and helps ensure we can continue changing lives for many years to come." Whether you enter your pet, campaign for votes, bid in the silent auction or **join the celebration on October 15, this year's Best In Show is one you won't want to miss**.

BEST IN SHOW 2026 [Great Plains SPCA | Great Plains SPCA Best in Show Pet Contest 2026](#)

Pet Contest: Open Now

Voting: September 19 – October 10

Silent Auction: Open Now

Grand Finale: Thursday, October 15 | 6–9 p.m.

Location: Great Plains SPCA, Merriam, Kansas

Tickets: \$75

Enter your pet, purchase Grand Finale tickets and learn more:

Great Plains SPCA Best In Show 2026

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About Great Plains SPCA

Great Plains SPCA (GP) is the highest rated animal shelter in the Kansas City area serving 500,000 residents and 7,000 community pets annually. GP works to save, protect and improve the lives of animals, while strengthening the relationship between pets and their human companions by providing humane sheltering, adoptions, community outreach and behavior training. GP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, please visit www.greatplainssPCA.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).