



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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17TH Annual FurFest & Halloween Pet Parade Returns October 25, 2025, at Manahawkin Shelter

(Manahawkin) – Get ready for a paw-some time at the **17th Annual Furfest and Pet Parade** at the **Southern Ocean County Animal Facility (SOCAF)** on **Saturday, October 25, 2025**. The big bash will begin at **1:00 P.M. sharp** to register your pet, followed by the parade and the judging of the costumes, which will get underway at **1:30 P.M.**

“This event is one of the best ways to celebrate Halloween as a family,” said **Jennifer Bacchione, Ocean County Commissioner and liaison to the Ocean County Board of Health**. “Every year, dozens of creative costumes and handmade floats take center stage, and it’s always amazing to see how much fun people have celebrating with their pets.”

Pets will compete for **prizes and ribbons** in the following categories:

- **Scariest**
- **Best Group**
- **Funniest**
- **Most Original**
- **Best in Show**

Every four-legged participant will also take home a **Halloween goodie bag** - no tricks, just treats!

We have held this event for 17 years now, and every year it keeps getting better and better, with people really getting into the spirit of Halloween with the pets,” explained **Daniel Regenye, Ocean County Health Department (OCHD) Public Health Coordinator**. “Watching the pets strut their costumes is always a highlight, and thanks to our staff and volunteers, it’s an afternoon filled with smiles, laughter, and wonderful memories.”

Beyond the costumes, FurFest also shines a spotlight on the animals waiting for forever homes. Visitors can meet the many cats, kittens, and dogs currently available for adoption. Every adoption includes a veterinary exam, age-appropriate vaccinations, spay/neuter services, and microchipping.

Join us for a day of fun, fur, and family at the 17th Annual Fall FurFest & Halloween Pet Parade on Saturday, October 2, 2025, at SOCAF, located **at 360 Haywood Road, Manahawkin**.

(Note: All pets must be leashed or safely crated during the event for everyone’s safety.)

For additional information regarding the Ocean County Animal Facilities, please visit the Ocean County Health Department website oceancountyhealth.gov or follow or like us on Facebook and X. Download the Ocean County Health Department free mobile app from the Google Play/Android and Apple APP stores.

