

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Paws for a Cause: Bunnings brings back Stores for Paws to support animal welfare nationwide



Limited-edition Bunnings pet hoodies for sale in store support families and pets in crisis

**Bunnings is proud to bring back its Stores for Paws fundraising weekend from 17–19 April 2026, supporting animal rescue and welfare groups across Aotearoa.**

Pups and pets are already a familiar sight in Bunnings aisles, and this April there's even more reason to bring them along. Returning for another year, Stores for Paws continues to grow with the introduction of a limited-edition Bunnings pet hoodie, giving customers a simple, feel-good way to show their support. \$2 from every hoodie sold will be donated to Pet Refuge, helping provide safe, temporary shelter for pets affected by family violence.

Across the weekend, Bunnings stores will welcome local rescue groups, hosting sausage sizzles, pet adoption days and in-store activities to raise awareness and funds for animal welfare organisations in local communities.

A free, pet-themed Kids D.I.Y. Workshop will also run in-store, alongside giveaways and treats for four-legged visitors.

Funds raised will support Pet Refuge, a charity that provides nationwide, temporary shelter for pets when families are escaping family violence. Their service includes transport, veterinary care and reunification, ensuring people can leave unsafe situations without having to leave their pets behind.



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Julie Chapman, Founder of Pet Refuge, said: “More than half of people experiencing family violence delay leaving because they fear for their pet’s safety. We hear all the time from people who feel they have no choice but to stay because they have nowhere safe for their pets to go. Support from organisations like Bunnings, alongside our incredible monthly donors, helps us keep pets safe so families don’t have to choose between their own safety and the pets they love.”

Pet Refuge has reported a 19 percent increase in demand year on year, with more families needing safe shelter for their pets. In March, Pet Refuge reached the milestone of supporting more than 500 families and over 875 pets to reach safety.

With demand continuing to rise in 2026, proceeds from the limited-edition Bunnings pet hoodie will help ensure more pets, and the people who love them, can access safety, care and a future free from violence.

The limited-edition Bunnings pet hoodies are available exclusively in-store while stocks last, priced at \$12 and available in sizes Small to XX-Large. Bunnings’ growing pet range continues to offer great value across food, treats, toys and accessories.

To sign up for a DIY workshop, visit: [In-Store D.I.Y. Workshops - Bunnings New Zealand](#)  
To learn more about Pet Refuge, visit: [www.petrefuge.org.nz](http://www.petrefuge.org.nz) or to donate: [Provide Safety for Pets | Donate Today | Pet Refuge | Pet Refuge](#)

- ENDS -

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## Notes to the editor:

### About Pet Refuge

- Pet Refuge is New Zealand’s only dedicated shelter providing temporary refuge for pets from families experiencing domestic violence. Their mission is to ensure no one has to choose between their own safety and the safety of their pet.
- Since opening their doors almost 5 years ago, Pet Refuge has cared for more than 900 pets from over 500 families. This equates to over 74,000 safe bed nights, with more than 850 pets reunited with their families.
- Pets are often silent victims of family violence, with many witnessing abuse and some being directly harmed. Abusers frequently use threats or violence towards pets as a form of control, making it even harder for survivors to leave.
- Knowing that their pets will be safe and well cared for removes a significant barrier for people trying to escape abusive situations.
- Pet Refuge relies on community support, donations, and partnerships to provide everything from food and medical care to enrichment activities and shelter.
- Every act of support helps Pet Refuge keep their doors open to continue providing a lifeline for pets and families in need.



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## About Bunnings NZ

Bunnings is a leading retailer of home and lifestyle products for consumer and commercial customers in Australia and New Zealand. We are a major supplier to project builders, commercial tradespeople and the housing industry. Our store network in New Zealand is made up of 51 locations, comprising Bunnings Warehouses, smaller format stores and trade centres. This physical network is supported by a growing e-commerce ecosystem and supply chain network. Bunnings employs more than 5,000 team members across the country.

