



CHARITY WATCHLIST

Best Friends Animal Society



LGBTQ+

- Best Friends has hosted Pride events, and in 2024 it contracted with [an LGBTQ+ consultant](#):

For this year's Annual Pride Celebration, Best Friends is excited to welcome LGBTQ+ Educator and Consultant Lex Horwitz (he/they) as our featured guest speaker. The presentation will include a look at the LGBTQIA+ community and our connections to animals – including highlighting LGBTQIA+ icons and their cats – and a break down [sic] of gender with a look at cisnormativity and cissexism and how we can disrupt these systems of oppression to better show up for and support non-binary, trans and gender diverse people. The session will conclude with identifying and implementing advocacy tools and practices to cultivate affirming spaces where everyone's entire being is celebrated.

- Its online store sells a [2026 Pride T-shirt](#):

At Best Friends, we celebrate the invaluable contributions of the LGBTQ+ community have made in animal welfare both within our organization and beyond as we further our lifesaving mission and reaffirm our commitment to a culture rooted in diversity, inclusion and belonging. We honor our LGBTQ+ staff, volunteers, donors, and the broader community who make our work stronger.

- In June of 2026, a Best Friends chapter in Arkansas hosted a "[Paws and Pumps](#)" drag show as a fundraiser:



Best Friends Animal Society
bestfriends.org

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Mission

Get more dogs and cats out of shelters and into homes and make every shelter in America no-kill.

Focus

domesticated animals

Charity Watchlist Rating: RED
unworthy of support