Just when we thought it couldn’t possibly get any better, it did! They pulled out all the stops to mark the 10th anniversary of the Bark’n’Purr Ball. The shelter’s largest annual fundraising event was held on March 21st at Receptions, in Fairfield. To commemorate the event, everyone in the sold-out audience received a champagne glass engraved with the shelters’ name and logo. It was a fantastic and endlessly entertaining evening, all befitting of a 10th anniversary celebration.

Special guest and host was Cincinnati’s WLW icon, Mr. Jim Scott. We were privileged to hear him sing and listen to his humorous antics, for which he is so well-known. He and Executive Director, Meg Stephenson have shared many hours of live radio promoting the shelter’s Pet Adoption Program. She

...continued on page 6

Congratulations! Buddy is Butler County’s #1 Doggie! ...interview on page 2
BE A VOICE FOR
THE ANIMALS!
If you witness
animal neglect, cruelty or abuse, report it to the proper authorities!

Interview with the
#1 Butler County Dog,
Buddy!

Name: Buddy (originally Clyde before he was adopted)

Nickname: Bubba
Age: 10 years old
Gender: Neutered Male
Breed: Basset Hound/German Shepherd Mix
Owner: Maureen Miller

How did Maureen become Buddy’s owner: Maureen has always had cats. Her last cat passed away five years prior to her adopt-
ing Buddy. One day she just decided it was time to get a dog. She went to the Animal Adoption Foundation and walked around the kennel area several times. The first dog she was interested in was older, because Maureen thought she wanted an older dog. However, he was on hold. During the second walk through she saw another dog but that one was already adopted. On her third pass through the facility she saw Clyde, a 1 year old, 26 pound guy who captured her heart. She was told he wouldn’t get much bigger than that. Now he is 57 pounds!

Buddy’s story didn’t start at Animal Adoption Foundation, though. A woman by the name of Jill Binzer was living in Athens, Ohio at that time. She was from the Cincinnati area and had done volunteer work with Animal Adoption Foundation. She was active with the Athens County Humane Society during her time in Athens and helped save countless animals by fostering and coor-
dinating transports. Jill received a call one day regarding a stray dog at Strouds Run State Park. He was very fearful of people and would not approach anyone. He stayed around the picnic area and every day volunteers would go to the park to feed him. He loved cheese and tomatoes, and with each passing day, he would warm up to the people feeding him. Jill was one of those people. Several weeks had gone by when the Park Ranger finally caught wind of his whereabouts. The Ranger couldn’t allow him to stay there, so the volunteers needed to get him to a safe place, fast. That is exactly what they did. They were able to catch him and Jill became his foster parent. He enjoyed the love and affection Jill shared with him and play time with his foster brother, Happy. He would never want for anything again.

Through her connections with Animal Adoption Foundation, Jill was able to coordinate a transport from Athens to Hamilton for this special guy, now named Clyde. He went into their adoption program and was there for about two weeks before Maureen stopped by and fell in love. Clyde is now Buddy and he is loving life with Maureen. Don’t worry. Jill is back in the Cincinnati area and she and Happy were able to connect with Maureen and Buddy. They are now good friends and share in their love of this incredible dog.

How long has Maureen had Buddy: Maureen adopted Buddy on September 3, 2005.

Any siblings: No

Any more siblings in the future: Buddy likes other animals, but he’s a loner and enjoys having Maureen all to himself.

Buddy’s favorite treat: Ice Cream! Every night he walks to Grandma’s house (Maureen’s mother) for his own special homemade ice cream.

Buddy’s favorite Toy: A stuffed squirrel. If you ask Buddy, ‘Where’s your squirrel?’ he will surely find it and bring it to you for play time.

Buddy’s favorite things to do: Buddy loves to ride in the car. He curls up in the seat and cruises around town with Maureen. He also enjoys going on vacations, running through the woods, hiking, and catching snow balls in the air. Oh, and running through sand. The sand touches his toes and Buddy goes, goes goes!

Buddy’s special Tricks: Buddy will give you a high five and he will balance a treat or a ball on his nose until he throws it back and catches it.

How does Buddy feel being the #1 dog in Butler County: He knows he’s it and it’s about time! In his mind, he’s been the #1 dog for years!

Buddy’s advice to Pet Owners: Do what my mom does… love your pet and treat them like family.

Unique quality: Buddy understands most everything. You can have a conversation with him and tell him everything that is going on, and he understands. He also loves to get puppy massages. Buddy gets a puppy massage every morning!

Thoughts from the owner: “Every dog should sleep in the bed. Buddy is the best. He makes me laugh or smile if I’m in a bad mood. He is very smart. I firmly believe he was meant to be with me. Four days after I adopted Buddy, my dad’s house had an explosion. Buddy was by my dad’s side through his recovery, keeping him company while he stayed at my house. I loved my cats, but I will always have a dog from here on out, and it will always be a rescue.”
We adopted Bella (formerly ‘Tinker’) just a few weeks ago. She has fit seamlessly into our family. I’m so glad we made the decision to drive the 2 hours from where we live just outside of Indianapolis to meet her in hopes that we could make her a part of our family. She has a new BFF in our other chihuahua, Tank and those 2 are absolutely inseparable. She’s great with our kids and even lets our daughter dress her up and carry her around like a baby. I just wanted to say a huge “THANK YOU” to all the wonderful staff at Animal Friends for all that you do!!

Ruby
Another happy foster failure! Ruby was being fostered to help her with socialization. She was very nervous and scared in the shelter. Her foster parents fell in love and now Ruby is a permanent member of their family. Don’t worry - the foster family still plans on fostering more animals in need. Win win!

Buddy
Just wanted to share a 1 week update on Buddy (formerly Hansel). We couldn’t be happier with him! He is very loving and laid back... especially for only being 1.5 years old! Not a single accident. Hasn’t jumped up even once. Doesn’t pull at all on a leash. Loves car rides. Plays excellent with dogs of all sizes. I think we’ve maybe heard him bark once. I couldn’t ask for a more gentle dog with my son. No idea why someone got rid of him... but we are glad they did!

Bella
We adopted Bella (formerly ‘Tinker’) just a few weeks ago. She has fit seamlessly into our family. I’m so glad we made the decision to drive the 2 hours from where we live just outside of Indianapolis to meet her in hopes that we could make her a part of our family. She has a new BFF in our other chihuahua, Tank and those 2 are absolutely inseparable. She’s great with our kids and even lets our daughter dress her up and carry her around like a baby. I just wanted to say a huge “THANK YOU” to all the wonderful staff at Animal Friends for all that you do!!
Volunteering at AFHS has been a remarkable experience for me. I have always loved animals and had a passion for volunteering with Animal Friends Humane Society since June of 2013 and she has volunteered a total of 187 hours and 53 minutes. Claire is passionate about animals and animal welfare and we are thankful to have her as an Animal Friend! Here is what Claire has to say about volunteering with Animal Friends Humane Society: “I have always loved animals and have always wanted to help them.” Volunteering at AFHS has given me a great experience of helping animals find their forever homes and hanging out with all the loving dogs and cats. I have given a lovely cat a forever home as well. She was six when we adopted her and she was the most frightened cat at the shelter. She is now eleven and is the sweetest cat to a few and frightened of the rest. For as long as I can remember, I have always wanted to volunteer at an animal shelter. The only thing that kept me from doing so was my age, so luckily two days after I turned sixteen, there was an orientation. Volunteering has taught me to be patient and a little more social. My generation is so used to getting things right away and not waiting, but I have learned to be patient about the shy dogs and cats and helping others find their new family member. Volunteering at AFHS has taught me to be social and to talk to people more because I have always been a shy person. Animals are loyal and don’t care about color, ethnicity, or politics, and they will always be there to help in times of need. I guess that is why I love them so much. Volunteering at AFHS isn’t just volunteering for me. It’s a part of my life. It’s like going to school, I have to go and I love it.”

Kathy Larson

Congratulations to Kathy! She has logged countless volunteer hours with us and has provided so much love and care for the animals here at AFHS. “Volunteering at AFHS has been a remarkable education in a subject that has fascinated me for as long as I can remember – dogs. I began volunteering in the summer of 2013, thinking that I knew something about dogs because I had always had a pet dog. Not so much. At the same time I began volunteering here, I began reading multiple books on dog training and behavior in order to become more competent. The other volunteers and staff have been more than generous with their knowledge and support as well. My husband and I have adopted three dogs from AFHS, one from the Trenton facility and two in the past year, Bear and Tommy, aka Carson. These dogs have stolen our hearts and have taught us so much. The dogs still in the shelter continue to teach me to be patient, that it’s fine for me to set limits on behavior just like with kids, and that life is joyful even when circumstances are not ideal. Taking a dog to Berkeley Square is one of the highlights of volunteering for me. I get to combine two of my favorite groups, dogs and the elderly. To see the joy on the faces of the residents when the dog comes in the room and greets them is such a gift. Seeing if my nursing skills could translate to being helpful in the clinic is my next goal when time permits. It was a volunteer at the Trenton shelter who found our first dog for us. When I visited the shelter for the third time, she asked what I was looking for. I said a Boxer since I had grown up with a Boxer. Being short on Boxers that day, she showed me a black and tan German Shepherd mix that I had walked by many times. That dog, Reba, turned out to be a magnificent dog.

Claire Tullis

We are excited to announce our October 2014 Volunteer of the Month... Claire Tullis! Claire has been a volunteer with Animal Friends Humane Society since June 2013 and she has volunteered a total of 187 hours and 53 minutes! Claire is passionate about animals and animal welfare and we are thankful to have her as an Animal Friend! Here is what Claire has to say about volunteering with Animal Friends Humane Society: “I have always loved animals and have always wanted to help them.” Volunteering at AFHS has given me a great experience of helping animals find their forever homes and hanging out with all the loving dogs and cats. I have given a lovely cat a forever home as well. She was six when we adopted her and she was the most frightened cat at the shelter. She is now eleven and is the sweetest cat to a few and frightened of the rest. For as long as I can remember, I have always wanted to volunteer at an animal shelter. The only thing that kept me from doing so was my age, so luckily two days after I turned sixteen, there was an orientation. Volunteering has taught me to be patient and a little more social. My generation is so used to getting things right away and not waiting, but I have learned to be patient about the shy dogs and cats and helping others find their new family member. Volunteering at AFHS has taught me to be social and to talk to people more because I have always been a shy person. Animals are loyal and don’t care about color, ethnicity, or politics, and they will always be there to help in times of need. I guess that is why I love them so much. Volunteering at AFHS isn’t just volunteering for me. It’s a part of my life. It’s like going to school, I have to go and I love it.”

Dee Parragh

We are excited to announce our November 2014 Volunteer of the Month... Congratulations Dee Parragh! Dee has been a volunteer with Animal Friends Humane Society since 2003. She has taken on many roles within our organization: from dog walker to Pet Mobile Coordinator, to fundraising committee member to Board member. She is an avid animal lover and a dedicated supporter of our cause.

“Volunteering at AFHS has been a really positive experience for me. I have been volunteering here for over 10 years now, and I have learned so much about animals and their behavior. One of the most important things I have learned is the importance of patience. Animals need time to adjust to their new surroundings, and it’s important to be patient with them. Volunteering has also given me the opportunity to meet many wonderful people who share my love for animals. I am very grateful to be a part of such a wonderful organization.”

Hannah Davis

Hannah has a deeply devoted to the Animal Friends family since she started volunteering with us in 2006. She is one of the seasoned dog walkers and helps with adoptions, whether at the shelter or on the Petmobile. Hannah has clocked a total of 3,443 hours with Animal Friends, since we started keeping track in 2010. When you stop by the shelter, no matter the time of day, there is a pretty decent chance that you will run into Hannah. She can usually be found playing with an enthusiastic pup or helping out with the day to day tasks of running the shelter. Hannah works at both a vet hospital and an animal boarding facility and yet, somehow managed to clock in an impressive 32 volunteer hours for the month of November.

Sally Kocher

Usually when you think of a dedicated volunteer, you have the image of someone who spends countless hours at the shelter interacting with the animals. It is not hard to pick these people out in a crowd and visibly see all their hard work. This month, we are celebrating a different kind of volunteer. Sally is an ambassador for Animal Friends and helps bring resources to us that we would otherwise not have access to. Sally does not have the most hours of our volunteers but it’s what she does when she is not on the clock that makes the biggest difference. In Sally’s words: “I was a teacher and the Athletic Director at Badin High School in Hamilton for 40 years. I retired in June, 2013. After spending my career working with young adults, I decided that it was time to “go to the dogs” and started volunteering at AFHS in October, 2013.”

Karen Noonan

February 2015 Volunteer of the Month: Karen Noonan. Karen has always had a passion for animals, dogs in particular, so volunteering her time at an animal shelter makes perfect sense. Even though she works full time, Karen still managed to log over 230 volunteer hours in 2014. She spent most of that time in the dog adoption area walking dogs on the trails and assisting visitors. She has a soft spot for the underdog-the senior, elderly, or sick dog that needs just a little more attention and care than most. She has fostered and adopted a number of “special needs” dogs, and she has given them a safe and warm place for their later years. In addition to this, Karen brings around 8 to 10 people from her work every year to the shelter to perform community service and build team work. Besides walking the dogs, Karen enjoys photography and takes many shots with the adoptable pups. These “shelter selfies” with the dogs have become a great way to increase publicity and attention for them. Her favorite fundraiser is the Bark ’n’ Purr Ball, where she donates much of the beer for the Wheelbarrow raffle. Thank you Karen for all of your hard work and dedication!”
Stay. It’s one of the first things we teach them and yet, there comes a time when they no longer can.

The Promise

By Nancy Bender

Few experiences resemble the unique challenge of watching our pets grow old. With the mere onset of graying fur comes memories of their more youthful days and their goofy antics. We feel helpless and quickly banish from our minds the thought of life without them. It becomes a forbidden topic: the thought of it so very painful, particularly if your pet has been your sole source of unconditional love. There are people who grieve more profoundly for their deceased pets than for their human relatives. There is no shame in this. There is no right or wrong. Loss and how we cope with it is individual and deeply personal.

In the last edition of Animal Tales, readers were invited to contribute to this article. The purpose was to provide pet owners with an opportunity to share their own experience with pet loss, helpful suggestions and support. There were no responses. Not one. The silence spoke volumes. When we reflect on our pets who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge, there are often no words. Some memories are strictly meant to be stored away in our hearts. They may be tucked deep or still too raw. Either way, the silence is well understood. Please know you are not alone. People care. Our pets matter. On my end, there was a good deal of conflict; I struggled with whether to proceed. Then came the lightning-bolt. What would our pets say, if they could? That settled it. For their benefit and hopefully, in some way, for yours - the story continues.

Lying near me are three wonderful rescues, all of them dogs. Two of them are being treated for geriatric issues. Denise and I give thanks for every day we are able to keep them happy, mobile and pain-free. We have vowed quality of life to each: a lesson well-learned from our deceased Yorkie, Murphy. She was 11 years old when we had her put to sleep. She had Cushings Syndrome and had endured multiple chronic and acute medical problems. She was remarkably resilient and enjoyed a great life, but these complications had taken their toll on her. During her final days, she wasn’t having fun anymore. The life that defined her as a dog was gone and there was no hope for recovery. People pray that their pets will pass, sparing them of having to make the sensitive decision. Murphy needed our help. The time had come and we knew, for her, it was the right thing to do. Prior to her last vet visit, we said our bittersweet good-byes and thanked her for the precious gift she was in our lives. I clipped some locks of hair for a keep-sake. We stayed with her at the clinic, our voices the last she would hear. Within mere seconds, she was at peace. We were grateful for the time taken with her at home, not realizing how quickly the medication worked. We signed forms for her cremation. The drive home was surreal; we were numb with grief. The house was unbearably empty without her. I cradled her dog bed in my arms and sobbed. We were in no way prepared for the indescribable heartbreak. A part of me tries to brace myself for the circle of life involving our current three. We hug and spoil them all the more. It seems we can’t take enough pictures. What eases some of our sadness is a reminder that it isn’t about us. It’s about doing what’s best for them. We promise not to let them suffer. Advocating for them in their time of need is the human equivalent of Advance Directives. We can’t prevent our pain, but we are prepared to prevent theirs.

After Murphy passed, I insisted on no more pets for at least a year. Four days later, we unexpectedly wound up taking an abused Shepherd puppy to Grady Animal Hospital. We brought her home with a cast on her front leg. Our intention was to find a loving home for her and 13 years later, she is the graying alpha in our household. It was a classic case of who rescued who and down deep, we know Murphy was behind this. Cody taught us that no pet is replaceable and that it is possible to love again, and even heal, through another. When we were ready, we adopted Maggie and later, Biscuit.

The senior years sneak up on our beloved pets too soon. Responsible pet ownership involves our continued commitment to look after them in their old age. We learn to accommodate for their dulling senses, arthritic legs and possible “accidents” in the house. Their dietary needs change along with their sleeping patterns. New or odd behaviors, excessive panting, aggression, increased vocalizations may be signs of pain, confusion or illness. Advanced aging calls for us to be ever more vigilant to what our pets are trying to “tell us”. Veterinarians guide us with their needs and medical challenges. In-home pet hospice is also available.

The decision of whether it’s time to help your pet over the Rainbow Bridge is yours to make and can be extremely difficult. It is normal to seek reassurance from others. For this phase of the journey, pet owners frequently rely on their own veterinarians. Animal Friends Humane Society also provides this service. In-home humane euthanasia, provided by many veterinarians, is an option more people are choosing so that their pet may cross from familiar surroundings. If needed, grief counseling and support groups are available. Pet loss can be particularly hard for children. It may be their first experience with death. Memorializing the family pet by planting a tree, lighting a candle or making a paw-print impression are meaningful ways to say farewell. As a tribute to her beloved pet, a woman came to Animal Friends to donate Wish-List items. It is for this same reason many people adopt. If there are other pets in the house, they will know someone is missing from the pack. They are not immune to grief and they, too, may need some extra TLC. Healing works both ways.

We somehow manage to find and connect with each other; those of us who have been down this road and those who are currently facing it. We exchange stories of our pets and share pictures. There is a very real need to acknowledge pet loss. Social media draws a flood of support and validation, even from perfect strangers, when we announce the loss of a pet. Regarded as family, they are no less deserving of our tears and that permanent place in our hearts. Through grief and our memories, we recognize and honor them.
presented him with an award and a dozen red roses for being a prominent voice for the animals. Together, they led the champagne toast.

The live auction was made even livelier when in walked another special guest, Rosie Red, mascot of the Cincinnati Reds! She stopped for charming photo-ops with every request and worked the audience during the auction. Her adorable presence was a donation from State Senator Bill Coley and his dog, Wilby. They also generously donated tickets for 4 humans and 4 dogs for the Reds baseball event, Bark in the Park. Much to the delight of the audience, the senator, himself, unexpectedly took the stage and the microphone to auction off the item!

Two other items also produced great interest and amazing bids: a triple donation of African Safaris for Two (another surprise that allowed 3 separate bidders to win!) and a Behind-the-Scenes Tour at the Cincinnati Zoo! Auctioneer, Douglas Ross kindly donated his invaluable service. We enjoyed live music provided by Thunderbay Band. The silent auction, raffles, drawings, slideshows and games were all a big hit!

Not to be out-done was a 4-legged guest from the shelter named Motts. Volunteer, Meg Kleman escorted this sweet homeless dog all evening. He, too, had a job collecting donations and his total funds were matched by several patrons. Motts reward? How about a forever home? He was adopted by an audience member the very next day! A better ending none of us could wish for.

All of the proceeds from the event go towards the care of the many wonderful animals, like Motts, so that they, too, can have a chance for a forever family. The Fundraising Committee and all those who helped with the event are to be congratulated for their outstanding efforts. Animal Friends Humane Society expresses their sincere appreciation to everyone who attended and to all those who support the shelter. We look forward to seeing you again next year!
Our Birthday Paw-Ty!

and you’re invited!

Saturday
August 8, 2015

11 am till 2:30 pm • 1820 Princeton Road
Cake & ice cream, food, games & fun!

Our Humane Society was established in 1952...

Our mission is to promote humane principles, to protect lost, homeless, abandoned and mistreated animals, and act as advocates for animals in our communities.

The oldest, largest, non-profit animal adoption agency in Butler County, Ohio

Shelter Hours: Mon-Tues-Fri-Sat-Sun...11-4:30 • Wed-Thurs...1 - 7 pm

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