forever homes...

Halo found a wonderful family to call her own!

Winston & Ruth with their new family!

We’re home and little Annie is doing great! She has been busy checking out her new home and now she is asleep on the couch. We are so happy to have this little sweetheart!

Nugget was adopted at our 6th Birthday Paw-ty!

Most people refer to cats they see outside as ‘feral’ cats. This term actually refers to a cat’s behavior and is not associated to a certain type or breed of outdoor cat. All cats, feral, stray or pet, are from the same species; they are all domestic cats. The differentiation comes from how they interact with people. A pet cat most often is friendly and social, seeking affection from their human companions. A stray cat refers to a friendly cat that is wandering outside. A feral cat is not socialized to people. They have had little to no contact with people, and are fearful of them. They are not likely to ever become a lap cat or enjoy living indoors, so they survive on their own outdoors.

So what is a community cat? Great question! A community cat is a free-roaming cat that is living outdoors. It can be either a stray or a feral cat. Community cats typically have one or more people providing them with a food source and some type of shelter (under a porch or shed, for example). You may be a provider and not even know it! A cat may have chosen your barn to sleep in or your trash can as a meal source. You may be asking, ‘What kind of life can a cat have without a home?’ But they do have a home… the outdoors, and the life they live is one they prefer.

While yes, there are certainly dangers in the community which can affect the quality and length of their life (no routine veterinary care, potential for food sources to end and/or shelter to cease), the cats are used to this way of life. They enjoy roaming freely and exploring their territory outside. These cats do not adjust well to life in an animal shelter. When confined to a small cage they become depressed, irritated, or frustrated. Their quality of life diminishes greatly and they are extremely challenging to adopt out. Options for these cats when brought to an animal shelter are few.

- continued on page 2
Community Cats
- continued from page 1

A model program for reducing euthanasia of cats in animal shelters is ‘Feral Freedom’. The basis of Feral Freedom is a trap/neuter/return (TNR) program. This program was first implemented in Jacksonville, Florida in 2008, and reduced cat euthanasia by 50% in the first year. We researched this program, and we reached out to Ohio Al-leycat Resource and Spay/Neuter Clinic (OAR) for input and perspective. With the information we gathered, we created a proposal for a Community Cat Program right here in Butler County. We submitted the proposal to The Joanie Bernard Foundation, a foundation designated solely to the mission of a no-kill nation for cats. They were in full support of the program and granted us funding to embark on this life-saving endeavor.

When stray or feral cats are brought to our facility, we gather information during intake regarding where they were found. The cats are assessed for adoptability based on health, temperament and space. Cats that are not able to be placed up for adoption but are healthy enough to live a free-roaming lifestyle are spayed/neutered, rabies vaccinated (if old enough), and ear tipped to identify them as being altered. We then release them back to their familiar territory.

Our first community cat was released on October 2, 2012. It was a liberating day for our entire staff (as well as the cat). A cat that was most certainly going to be euthanized had a new outlook on life. We learned a lot over the first several months, from the best way to release the cats to responsive ways of educating the public on the benefits of TNR. Through the trials and tribulations we persevered, resulting in hundreds of saved lives and many unwanted litters prevented. We’ve had some memorable moments for sure. One day while releasing a cat, a gentleman stopped us and asked what we were doing. He had seen us release a cat, but didn’t get a good look at it. We started to explain our Community Cat Program, and as he approached he said that the cat we had just released was his outdoor cat.

He explained that he hadn’t seen the cat for a couple days and was thankful for his safe return. All too often cats wander, and owners presume the cat will make it safely back home. It isn’t until several days later that the owner begins to worry and starts really looking for the missing cat. By that time, the cat may have already been brought to a humane society. Thanks to our Community Cat Program, we were able to reunite a cat with its owner and save a life while doing so.

Another time we released a cat in a neighborhood with woods behind the houses. The release was uneventful and we returned to the shelter. The next day we received a message that read, “Last Friday my husband trapped one of the feral cats living in our neighborhood. We have about 8 of them that sit at our back door and beg. Being a cat lover, it breaks my heart, so I feed them. I had trapped one and gotten her fixed last year but have been faced with the dilemma of what to do with all these cats. It is expensive to feed them all- and I know the population will just boom if the situation isn’t dealt with. I cannot afford to have them all fixed at my regular vet so we made the decision to try and trap them and take them to Animal Friends. I was just sick about the one he trapped and took to Animal Friends last Friday. I just prayed that maybe she was tame enough that they could adopt her, Lo and behold, this morning she is at my back door with her little ear clipped. They had fixed her and returned her to her territory!!! I had a pamphlet on my mailbox about their trap, neuter, return program. I will definitely be doing this with any of the others that I can trap. Thank you Animal Friends for everything you do for the animals!!!”

The success of the Community Cat Program is evident by the significant decrease in euthanasia of cats in our facility. Since the program’s inception, we have released 3,121 community cats back to their familiar environment.

Q: Did you know that a fixed community cat has a job in your neighborhood?
A: THEY DO! If you have one, be grateful and don’t remove it! Simply by being there, it helps control cat population by preventing other cats from moving into their territory.

AFHS Community Cat lesson...

Q: Did you know that we do not euthanize healthy stray cats?
A: Since the program’s inception, we have released 3,121 community cats back to their familiar environment.

Q: Why is this important for you to know?
A: We are making a huge difference and you can help! Here’s how...

If you find an unaltered cat (neither ear is tipped) in Butler County, bring it in. We will assess it for adoptability (based on temperament and space), and if we can’t place it up for adoption we will spay/neuter, ear-tip and rabies vaccinate the cat prior to releasing it back to where it was living.

Learn more at http://www.animalfriendshs.org/community-cats-what-are-they/

Need to rent a feral cat (Havahart) trap? No problem! Stop by AFHS during our operating hours to pick one up. The cost is $55 (charged to a credit card), with $50 refunded back to the card when the trap is returned. The rental is good for two weeks, and a photo ID is required at the time of rental. To lure a cat into the trap, use moist, smelly canned cat food. You can also cover the trap or put it in a discreet location to encourage cats to go in.

Be a voice for the animals... if you witness animal neglect, cruelty or abuse, report it to the proper authorities!
Dear Animal Friends...

Just wanted to update you on “Andy” (we have named him Tucker). He came to you a week ago Friday with a buddy. We saw him on Mother’s Day, adopted him Monday and brought him home Tuesday. He is doing great!!! He has really opened up, become more playful, and he truly seems like he is happy to be with us! Since I am the one who is home most, he has grown very attached to me. But every day he makes some kind of stride toward more independence - following directions, learning his new name, walking better on a leash as we take daily walks and he is eating very well. We have discovered a few small challenges with him, but nothing we haven’t been able to deal with. Tucker is very friendly and loves to greet everyone who comes over. He is playing with stuffed toys, a rubber ball we got him, and is enjoying a chew toy we got him. Tucker is just a sweet joy to have in our home and we can’t imagine why anyone would abandon him or let him stray away from home, unless his home life was not good. He seems very happy here with us! He has been here nearly a week and we couldn’t imagine our life without him!

- Michele

I am happy to say Tiger is the most amazing kitty ever! He loves his new home and runs around and plays all the time.

Hello!

I wanted to thank you all for our new sweet, sweet girl. She is fitting in splendidly - took 7 minutes to get her running with the pack, 3 hrs to finish her housebreaking and she crated like a champ.

Our little girl adores her and she tried to sleep with her last night! She sat under my legs in my office most of the day and hasn’t dug up or chewed up a thing (knock on wood)!

We’ve renamed her Matilda Rose (Tilly for short) and she answers to it already. She really fits right in. Thank you for taking such great care of her and for letting us adopt her into our pack.

- Anni

Tilly

Tiger
It seems like only yesterday when the Princeton Road shelter first opened its doors. Fast forward to August 8th, 2015, Butler County residents, 2 legged and 4, gathered to observe its 6th Birthday Paw-ty! We continue to celebrate the “newness” of it and all the good that has come about, since its relocation. Among the first of numerous exciting changes and perhaps, the most memorable from day one - the shelter animals were happier! They had room to move! Increased space and a much needed ventilation system has aided their over-all health, while awaiting their forever homes. It has been six years, yet we still celebrate: doggy doors, a cat room with adjoining cat condos where the cats can actually interact and play, two large, turfed canine play yards, a surgery clinic with an observation area and an adoption visitation room.

The list goes on. At the top, what we MOST celebrate, without question, is the increase in pet adoptions! At Animal Friends, every successful adoption is cause for a happy dance. At the party, 25 dogs and 11 cats were adopted! AFHS is grateful for the influx of community support, helping hands from outside rescue groups. More volunteers. More donations. So many individuals bringing in Wish List items, fundraising and offering help. For all of these reasons, for the difference made by so many, we gathered and celebrated a birthday. Special thanks to all of the great vendors, the Hamilton Fire Department, Butler County Sheriff Dept. and Mike’s Mobile Veterinary Service!

Of Note: 2016 will mark a milestone as this nonprofit organization, Animal Friends Humane Society, turns 65 years old! It is the oldest and ONLY open admission shelter in Butler County.
Bill Hess

“My dog, Sheba, was the main reason I became interested in volunteering to work with dogs. She’s a wonderful dog that spent her early months in shelters and a foster home. I’ll always be grateful to the many, unknown volunteers that helped her along the way. Although I wasn’t quite sure what I’d be getting into when I decided to volunteer at AFHS, I thought it would be a good way to show appreciation for those that had helped Sheba. As a dog owner, I thought I knew a lot about dogs when I started volunteering two years ago. However, I found that there’s always a lot more to learn, especially about different individual dogs and their needs. As I learned during 32 years at P&G, it also helps to have good people to work with and to learn from. I’ve found the Animal Friends’ staff and volunteers to be a warm, caring and hard working group of animal lovers. Although I have focused on walking the dogs, I’ve also helped with adoption events, Bark N Purr Ball and trail maintenance, which has given me some appreciation for how much it takes to run a first class animal shelter. My greatest satisfaction comes from seeing the frequently posted photos of the dogs enjoying their new homes and families.”

April 2015

Shelby Varacalli

Congratulations to Shelby Varacalli - here is what Shelby has to say about volunteering with Animal Friends:

“I have been volunteering at Animal Friends since October 2010. Ever since I was little, I have always loved animals and knew that I would want to do something animal related when I grew up. My dad always asked me if I would ever want to volunteer at an animal shelter and I always said no because I didn’t think I would be able to handle it. I thought it would be too sad and too hard not to be able to take every animal home. The summer of 2010, my dad held a charity golf outing to benefit Animal Friends and that’s when I realized that I wanted to volunteer there because of the wonderful piece it is. I have loved volunteering at Animal Friends over the past few years because it has given me the opportunity to do something that I love and meet so many incredible people who have the same passion as I do. I love feeling like I make a difference in the lives of all the animals that I have come across over the years. I look forward to getting more involved and helping and loving more animals in the future!”

May 2015

Ronda Duvall

Congratulations to Ronda! Here is what Ronda has to say about volunteering at Animal Friends: “I was introduced to AFHS under unfortunate circumstances. I needed a low cost euthanasia to stop my beloved kitty Ruby’s suffering. Everyone was so nice and empathetic at AFHS that I went to the next volunteer orientation and have been hooked ever since.

So many people tell me they couldn’t volunteer at the shelter because it is too sad. I think they are looking at it all wrong. The sad part is that all these animals ended up at the shelter, confused, depressed, and scared, in the first place. Doing my part to make their lives a little more pleasant while they are in transition is what makes me feel good. As volunteers, we have the ability to help the animals feel loved, soothe their anxiety, get fresh air, exercise, work on social skills and find loving homes. That is the draw for me. It’s cathartic. After a long, stressful work week I look forward to going to the shelter. I am disappointed when things come up that prevent me from spending time there. As time and money allow, I help where I can. Caring for animals, adoption events, cleaning, and yard work. By far, my favorite activity is simply being a dog walker.

My Kroger card is linked to AFHS and every week when I put together my grocery list I try to add at least one item for the shelter: bleach, Fabulous, dog/cat food. I cross-post on social media and talk to anyone that will listen about volunteering, spaying/neutering, chipping their animals, and of course promoting adoption instead of going to a breeder. There are tears, but they are most often tears of joy whenever an animal, happy and proud, gets to leave with their new family. And finally, if it weren’t for our collective love of animals, I would never have had this opportunity to meet so many dedicated, loyal, and inspirational people. My mother always said “it takes an army...” the shelter needs so much...I am happy to be one of so many who are willing and able to help. My kids and I are lucky enough to share our home with several animal friends including our dog Rooster (former AFHS resident and foster failure) and our cats Kozmo, Keegan and Willie (former litter mates from AFHS, Butterscotch and Toffee), and Whiskey (formerly Mr. Whiskers, from AFHS).”

May 2015

Carol Monson

Congratulations Carol for being nominated as our July Volunteer of the Month! Carol Monson has been a part of the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family since 2007. Carol shows us that it’s not always about who donates the most time, but who is consistent, reliable and devoted. Here is what Carol has to say about volunteering at Animal Friends:

“After a 40 year career with General Electric Aviation, I retired and took up activities I never had time for while working and raising my son and daughter. That led me to volunteering at Animal Friends about eight years ago at the Trenton facility. I’ve always been an animal lover. My favorite TV shows are on the Animal Planet or National Geographic channels. As a child, I was fascinated with cats and always had them as pets. I love their unique personalities and forming bonds with them. I’ve never been without a cat in my home. At present I have two, Maggie (16) and Molly (15). When they’re not sleeping (which is most of the time) the “girls” rule the house, much to my husband’s displeasure!

Also, I share my son’s best friend, a German Shepherd, Admiral, now seven. He is the only dog I’ve owned. Need I say what an intelligent, devoted pet he is for our family. I spend Tuesday afternoons in the clinic providing aftercare for those getting spayed and neutered. I value working with the great staff of devoted animal lovers at Animal Friends. I always say if you are a homeless animal, Animal Friends is where you want to be.”

AUGUST 2015

Lori Rich

Congratulations Lori! Lori Rich has been a part of the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family since September 2013. She has logged nearly 200 hours since becoming a volunteer, over 110 of those hours have been this year and just this month she volunteered 17:04! We are so grateful to have Lori as a volunteer and look forward to having her as a part of our volunteer program for many years to come! Here is what Lori has to say about volunteering:

“I have been a regular volunteer at Animal Friends for about a year and a half now and I absolutely love it! It is probably the single most thing I can say I love to do. Most of my volunteering work is coming to in socialize and walk the dogs, although I also love the Petmobile, if time allows. I would have a farm and 10 dogs if that were possible, but since it’s not, the second best thing is sharing a hug and some love with all the dogs who come into AFHS. I really think I get back more from them than I give. There is nothing better than walking in to see those faces! I haven’t worked at other shelters (but have seen a few) and am so appreciative of what we have, the staff and all the volunteers who do their absolute best to help these animals have the home they deserve. I live in Butler County with my hubby, have a daughter finishing school at UC, a married daughter in California, and my first grandson just turned 1! And my biggest pride and joy is “Ruby,” our soon to be 13 yr old bulldog!”

Congratulations & Thank You for your Service!
IN MEMORY OF

Beloved dog, Oliver  ................. Friends
GiGi Echols  ................. Carl and Betty Echols
Bebe  ..................... Martin and Shirley Harvey
Mollie  .......... Charles Kleinke
Maggie  ....... Nancy Wenning
Claire, a 13 year old cat . David & Carol Thomas
Ronald Kettman  ........ Katherine Schwarz
Daniel Warrick, Sheila Warrick, Barbara Rodney
Nick Baker  ........ Dee Farler
Helen Fahnmer  ........ Pat Glidewell
Harold Jepson  ........ Pat Glidewell
Esther Fox  ........ Gordon and Janet Fox, Judy and
Jimmy Dusnette, Renate Peer
Richard Alexander .... Barbara Hendricks,
Monica & Darrell Dennis, Paty Phipps, Debbie
Thomas, John Stretch, Tom & Suelen Stretch,
Jennifer Deaton, anonymous
Brenda Spurgeon ....... David Kaber
Jeri Lynn Smith, Gary Greiner, Rose Mary Wilson
John E. Hudson  .... Mr. & Mrs. Donald Vauh
Laurie Brown, Bob and Wilda Mucha
Sierra  ............. Jan and Doug Clauserby
Bruce McDaniel  .... Mrs. Sandra McDaniel
Molly  .......... Mrs. Sandra McDaniel
Ruth Ann Williams  .... Glenn & Betty Julian
Orville Ernest Pence .... Sandra Stewart,
Deborah Schneider
Sylvia Elaine Phillips .... Ronald Bowie, Barbara
Austin, Panina Limon, Helen Hordert, Carol
(McNeil) Jackson, the Parker Family, Bill & Nancy
Koebel, Hartley Ann Livingston, Dick & Dottie
Lamb, Michael Livingston, Deborah Shay
Jack Vicory  .......... Sandy Donathan
Michael Kell  .... Elizabeth Frede
Bandit and Tutti  ....... Derek and Karen Conkle
Staff and Dutchess  . Carole and J.B. Little
Todd Streinberger  ...... Roger, Racheal &
Cameron Knoepf
Sassy and Zac  .......... Karen Shaver
Jack  ............ Glenn & Betty Julian
Sophie  ........... Patty Gifford
King Shepherd, Acre  Martin & Shirley Harvey
Nancy Burd  ........ Kim Price, Jill Woodward, Joseph
Craig, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Dixon, Lana & Scott
Elliot, Mark Sanders, Jr., Arthur &
Janet Neuman, Becky Smith and Kathy
Maehler, Paul & Heidi Hemker
Addie  .......... Chuck & Connie Duerheiser
Cookie  ........ Walter Spurgeon

DONATED BY

Chloe  ................................ M. C. Schellerbach
Murphy  ................. Gloria Gardner
Lozelle Brown  ........ Mike & Missy Pecinoni
Alberta Dietz, Angela Woodward, Phyllis Julie,
Darlene Chafin, Wes, Cheryl, Caleb & Seth
Napier, Ken Howard, Rene Lendell
Dave Waddle  .......... Eileen Rice
Stan Ernst  ............. Donna & John Kruse
Jim Kaufman  ........ Barb Kellogg, Ernie & Bette Hall, Jerry &
Kathy Patterson, Carol Zwicklbauer and Jerry
Humphsoid, Stonecrest Dog Park, Walter & Fonna
Westrich, Jill Baker, Jean Baker, Melodi Thiel
Ruth Laverne Moore  & their sons & families, Mrs. Connie Duke,
the Leslie Family, Nancy McKee, Jean Berger
Basset Hound, Roxie, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Roer
Max  ................. Charles Havens
Jean Caldwell  .......... Donald Barnhart
Stephen Willis  ...... Barney and Helen Schneider
Robert McDaniel  .... Sandra McDaniel
Karen Rummels .... Patricia Smith, Sue and Bob Gretchel,
F.O.E. Butler #407, Auxiliary
Teddy, Sunny and Cinder  Barbara Windbolz
Mindy  ............ Naomi Carr
Hobbes, a cat  .......... Karen Fuchs
Dr. Donald A. Alford  .. Sharon Anderl
Alex  ............. Donna Jee
Mrs. Ida Wise  ........ Sharon Anderl
Ronnie Maughher  .. Donna Stephens
Bill Yaw  .............. Sandra McDaniel
Black Dog, White Dog, Max,
Dixie, Tinker, Little Bit  Sandra McDaniel
Brian Zai  .......... Mr. & Mrs. Terry Lehmann

IN HONOR OF

Black lab, Cooper  ........ Dan and Erin Moore
Ben Bailey  ............. Jeff Laughtie
Abbott Spears  .......... Eliza Miller
Richard Young  ...... Susan Henry
Tigger and Marri  ....... Derek and Karen Conkle
Karen Woodrey's birthday  Sandra Lacher,
Anonymous
Mabel Stimpson's birthday  Sandra Lacher,
Anonymous
Lucy, a cat  .......... Edward and Judith Hearns
Mimi  ............ Ron and Donna Marmont
Bill Gracie &
Dan Fairbanks wedding  Susan Frazier
Peg and Irvin Lewin  .......... J. Dean

DONATED BY

1) Powder & Liquid
Laundry Soap
2) 33 & 50 Gallon Sized
Garbage Bags
3) Clorox Bleach
4) Postage Stamps
5) AAA Duracell or
Energizer batteries
6) Looped Mop Heads
7) Cat and Dog Treats
8) Canned Dog, Cat & Kitten Food
9) Copy Paper

...and goodies for our staff!

Check Important Updates,
Volunteer Orientations & Events...

For the most current info, please go to
OUR WEBSITE: www.animalfriendshs.org

to find events, micro-chipping, Pet-Mobile adoption schedule

We recycle for $$$ for the shelter!
Please bring your newspapers and aluminum cans
(no glass, etc.) to the collection receptacles located
at the far end of the parking lot. Bring old cell
phones & inkjet cartridges to the front desk.

Adopt Volunteer Donate

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

Reserve Your Space!
Our biggest fundraising event sells out
to faster and faster every year!

After the holidays, the fundraising
commitee will be seeking donations
for the silent auction, just in case you
are left wondering what to do with
that extra Large Screen TV! :-)
Our 11th Annual

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Bark‘n’Purr BALL 2016

Bark ‘n’ Purr Ball
Saturday, March 19, 2016
at Receptions in Fairfield, Ohio

2016 Butler County Dog License
Available at the shelter
- a portion of sale benefits AFHS -

ALL DOGS indoor & outdoor
3 months & older MUST be licensed
between December 1, 2015 & January 31, 2016

8,000

WINTER WEATHER

* Provide a warm shelter. Bring them inside if you can.
* Make noise before starting your CAT. Some animals try to stay warm by utilizing a warm car engine or wheel well.
* Check their paws. Salt from sidewalks and frostbite can injure the pads of their paws. Wipe them with a warm cloth when they come inside.
* Recognize the signs of trouble. If your pet is whining, shivering, anxious, or slows down, your pet is at risk of hypothermia.

It Takes A Community!