Happy foster failure! Ruby was being fostered to help her with socialization. She was nervous and scared in the shelter. Her foster parents fell in love—now Ruby is a permanent member of the family!

Forever Homes

Monkey

Monkey is enjoying his new home as much as we are enjoying him! Thank you for giving us the perfect addition to our growing family!

Ruby

Happy foster failure! Ruby was being fostered to help her with socialization. She was nervous and scared in the shelter. Her foster parents fell in love—now Ruby is a permanent member of the family!

The Story of... Rugby!

by Kelsey Barker

- Rugby’s person -

I believe it was fate that brought me to Rugby. I unexpectedly got out of work early one day last fall, so I decided to go to the shelter to look at some dogs (having just recently decided to look into adopting my first pet) and visit with some of my past co-workers. While walking through the adoption kennel, a small terrier mix caught my eye, but I quickly learned that it was already in the process of being adopted. Still feeling hopeful that I could find a dog that was right for me, I vowed to return the next week and continue my search. On my way out, I ran into my former boss, Meg. Stopping to speak with her, I mentioned the cute terrier mix that I had just looked at and told her that while I was glad it was finding a home, I wished I could find one similar to adopt for myself. That’s the moment when my life was forever changed. Meg told me that the shelter had 2 adorable terrier mix puppies (they had been found wandering the streets and were brought to Animal Friends by a concerned citizen) that weren’t quite ready for adoption yet.

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...Continued on page 8
Name: Penny
Nickname: Penny Annie
Age: 10 years old
Sex: Spayed Female
Breed: Beagle / Terrier Mix, 20 lbs.
Owner: Mann Family, interview conducted with Rita Mann & son David.

How did they become Penny’s owner: On Christmas Eve in 2009, Don (Rita’s son) was driving home in the snow and sleet. He approached his home and found Penny right in front of his driveway. Don stopped his vehicle, and Penny went right underneath the car. Don got her out from under the car and took her inside. Two hours later she was resting peacefully by the fireplace. It appeared that Penny had been on the run for quite awhile. She weighed 7 pounds at the time.

The Mann family has four houses on 38 acres. The dogs mainly go between Rita and David’s houses, but will sometimes visit the other houses as well. Penny has a special bond with David. She clings to his side, and anytime he returns home she is elated to see him.

How long have they had Penny: 6 years this past Christmas Eve.

Any siblings: At one point Penny was one of 8 dogs and two cats. Penny still has many current siblings. Presently she shares the homestead with Eleanor, a 6 year old Pitbull/Boxer mix, Zelda, an 8 ½ year old Labrador mix (and AFHS Alumn), Oso, a 7 ½ year old Labrador mix, Muffin, a 12 year old tortoiseshell domestic short hair cat and Samantha, a 17 year old black domestic long hair cat. Eleanor is Penny’s best friend. When Penny has been exploring too long, Eleanor will run into the woods, find Penny, and escort her back home.

Any more siblings in the future: Not right now, but maybe someday down the road.

Favorite treat: Vanilla Ice Cream or Peanut Butter.
Favorite toy: Penny doesn’t have a favorite toy, but she loves chasing rabbits and squirrels. After all, she is part Beagle. ☺
Favorite things to do: Penny loves to run through the woods, and she loves to bark, especially when she is on a scent.

Special tricks: Penny follows her nose! When the Mann family first started exploring the woods with her, Penny would bark like crazy. At first they thought something was wrong, but they would find she was just on a scent, ending up with her head in a tree stump.

How does Penny feel being the #1 dog in Butler County: Like a STAR!

Penny’s advice to pet owners: Have patience with Beagles. When (they) get locked on a scent, you don’t have a chance.

Unique quality: Penny loves to bury herself in the covers and sleep. She does NOT like the water, despite her canine siblings loving to swim and jumping right in.

Thoughts from the owner: Pets are a lot of work, but they bring a lot of love in return.
Hey Meg & Tara
We adopted a dog at the shelter in May, her name was Kara. She was a shepherd/beagle mix. Real chunky girl!

She has lost 20 lbs! I just can't get over the difference. She looks like a different dog. Just wanted to share!

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Blake, Abbey & Cooper

Thought you guys would get a kick out of these. Our buddies courtesy of you guys!

Blake, adopted 11/13 (formerly Matrix)  
Abbey, adopted 12/15 (formerly Dottie)  
Cooper, adopted 11/15 (formerly Claus)

Keep up the great work there!!!

- Mike & Teresa

Scooby

Scooby seems really happy and we already love him so much! Thanks for taking such good care of him until we found him!

- Linda

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Kara

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Over the years, Animal Friends largest annual fundraiser, the Bark’n’Purr Ball, has become a cause near and dear to many hearts. It has earned a reputation as the most anticipated event for Butler County’s only open admission shelter. An early sell-out has become the norm. More businesses, small and large, are stepping up. More people are contributing items for the auctions. Combined, this lends tremendously to the success of the Bark’n’Purr. Animal Friends is donation dependent and could not be more grateful, as all funds raised go towards the care of the animals. According to Executive Director, Meg Stephenson, last year’s in-take population consisted of 3,309 cats, 2,785 dogs, 2 pigs, 1 rabbit, 2 piranha, 1 bearded dragon and 1 snake - in all, a total of 6,101 animals. All reasons why the shelter relies on our help, in whatever form it comes! Meg expressed her profuse thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staff, the devotion of the volunteers and the help from outside rescue groups. It bears noting here: all while under Meg’s leadership, her perseverance, hard work and commitment to the animals.

The event was held at Receptions in Fairfield on March 19th. It puts the fun in fundraising, a reunion of old faces and new! It was a lively night filled with nonstop activity: The silent and live auctions, great food, musical entertainment by Thunderbay Band, raffles and games, including the ever popular Heads or Tails. There were 2 featured guests of the furry variety; both of them former residents of AFHS. First up was Rugby! (Story on page 1) Accompanied by his adopter, Kelsey Barker; he had no trouble sharing the spotlight with the 2nd guest,
Sophie, a retriever mix, accompanied by her adopters, the Chernock family. Meg shared Sophie’s incredible journey with Animal Friends, recovering from two broken legs and finding the perfect forever home!

Another special highlight came from Board President, Rick Fox. After thanking the board members for their contribution, he invited an unsuspecting volunteer to the stage. She was, after all, busy photographing the event. Rick proudly introduced Carolyn Kramer and announced her 50 year tenure with AFHS, the longest of all volunteers! He explained her history with the organization, listing some of the numerous and wide-ranging services she has provided.

Director Meg Stephenson presented her a bouquet of flowers. Carolyn expressed her amazement with the many changes and progress she has witnessed with the shelter and animal welfare. In her words, “The shelter is my heart.” Carolyn was visibly overwhelmed by the applause that quickly led to a well-deserved standing ovation.

The Fundraising Committee & everyone who assisted with the Bark’n’Purr are to be credited for yet another exemplary job. Above all, a sincere thank you to everyone in the audience and to all those in the community who support Animal Friends Humane Society.
companions.”

He follows me around at all times, like a puppy, and also sleeps with me, but best of all he plops going door to door and explaining what they were raising money for (at the shelter). Megan, her younger brother Alex, and some friends raised enough money to have the tags made for the cages. When Megan was in 6th grade, her girl scout troop did a fund raiser at Fillmore elementary school to raise money and collect donations for the shelter. Over the years we have fostered several cat families and currently have a mom and 3 kittens. We are what they call “foster failures”, as some of our fosters never left our house. Starting this summer, Megan has also been volunteering in the surgery clinic each week at AFHS. Currently in our house, we have 2 dogs (Barley and Buttons) and “several” cats. My husband has been very understanding about our love for animals!”

Sandy Katan

Sandy Katan has been a constant part of the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family for several years. He has logged nearly 500 hours since becoming a volunteer and consistently volunteers every month with our furry friends! We are so grateful to have Sandy as a volunteer and look forward to having him as a part of our volunteer program for many years to come! Please read what Sandy has to say: “My name is Sandy Katan and I started volunteering at AFHS in the summer of 2009 after I took an early retirement. I have really enjoyed my time there. I love all animals but my love of cats is especially dear to me. I spend most of my time at the cat adoption location at the shelter. What I love about our feline friends is their individual personalities and their unique characteristics. Contrary to public perception they can be very loving as well. I love on these guys, play with them (when they are in the mood) and also do some feline house cleaning when necessary. AFHS staff are top notch and very professional and one can tell the passion they have in their work. I also enjoy observing the smile on the little ones when they are playing with our feline buddies and more importantly try to educate and help everyone make an informed decision on their future forever home pet. My wonderful wife Sharon and I reside in the West Chester area and we have 3 wonderful kids (all out of the house) and 3 grandchildren whom we adore. We are also proud parents of several cats who run the house but we would not have it any other way. One of our cats, Billy (pictured in the photo) must have been a dog in a previous life. He follows me around at all times, like a puppy, and also sleeps with me, but best of all he plops on my chest when I watch sports. (don’t know who his favorite team is yet). All are wonderful companions.”

NOVEMBER 2015

Janet Linnemann

Congratulations Janet! Janet Linnemann has been a part of the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family for over a year. She has logged almost 150 hours since becoming a volunteer and consistently volunteers every week with our furry friends! We are so grateful to have Janet as a volunteer and look forward to having her as a part of our volunteer program for many years to come! Please read what Janet has to say about volunteering with Animal Friends Humane Society: “I’ve been a volunteer at AFHS for about a year and a half. When I retired last year, I wanted to do something useful. One of my oldest and dearest friends Debbie Schneider (one of our fab senior volunteers) invited me to come to the shelter and try it. I did and LOVED it! It seems I learn something new just about every day – first and foremost is patience. I’ve always been a cat person at heart and have 4 cats at home, the last I adopted from the shelter since volunteering, but I spend most of my time walking the dogs. I love seeing how excited they get when they see us volunteers come through the door and knowing they are going to get out of their cages for a while. I’ve met a lot of fun people, it’s great exercise and of course I’ve fallen in love with several dogs so far. Hoping I’ll be able to do this for a long time to come.” We thank you for your service, Janet!

DECEMBER 2015

Barb Homan

Congratulations Barb! Barb Homan has been a part of the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family since February 2011. She has logged almost 350 hours since becoming a volunteer and consistently volunteers a few hours every week with our furry friends! We are so grateful to have Barb as a volunteer and look forward to having her as a part of our volunteer program for many years to come! Please read what Barb has to say about volunteering at Animal Friends Humane Society: “I wanted to volunteer after I retired and helping at AFHS was a natural choice for me. I love cats and dogs. I look forward to coming every week for my fur fix in the cat adoption room where I can play and socialize with all types of cats and kittens. I have had two cats and one dog over the years and now have a grandcat in the Boston Mass. area named Oscar. Oscar provides purrs over the phone and all the cats and kittens at AFHS provide smiles every week. I have met many wonderful volunteers and workers at AFHS over the past five years and would recommend volunteering here to all animal lovers.”

FEBRUARY 2016

Ken & Jane Yelm

Congratulations Ken and Jane! Ken and Jane Yelm have been a part of the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family since April 2010. Combined, they have logged almost 400 hours since becoming volunteers! They consistently volunteer every month with our furry friends and we are so grateful to have them as volunteers. We look forward to having them as part of our volunteer program for many years to come!!

We thank you for your service, Ken and Jane Yelm!
Save the date and join us!

Our 7th Birthday Paw-Ty!

and you’re invited!

Saturday
August 13, 2016

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

ANIMAL FRIENDS Humane Society

1820 Princeton Road • Hamilton, Ohio 45011
(513) 867-5727 www.animalfriendshs.org

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

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

I had worked for Animal Friends before and helped with fostering and placing adoptable animals, Meg agreed to let me meet the puppies, and if I was interested in one I could take it home and foster it. If the puppies were chosen, they would travel to New York City for a weekend of filming, and I could finalize the adoption upon their return. I couldn’t wait to meet these puppies she was telling me about, and agreed to everything that Meg had discussed with me. I sat patiently in the empty meeting room waiting for Meg to bring the puppies in, and once she came through the door with them I instantly fell in love! The shelter had been calling the 2 scruffy puppies Bert and Ernie. While both of them were equally adorable, one all black and the other tan in color, I couldn’t help but fall in love with the tan one. He was the first to come running up to me and immediately began licking my face. I was sold! I agreed to foster the puppy, who I re-named Rugby, and would hold off on finalizing his adoption until we received word on whether or not he had been chosen for the Puppy Bowl. Shortly after I took Rugby home to foster him, Meg called me to let me know that Rugby was invited to the Puppy Bowl! He was going to be a star! The trip to New York went smoothly, and Rugby met many new friends while filming. He made his debut in Animal Planet’s Puppy Bowl XII on February 7th, the same day as the Super Bowl. Although Rugby was most interested in socializing with the referee, and less interested in helping his teammates score, he was still an MVP in my eyes! His team, Team Fluff, was defeated by Team Ruff, but they sure had fun. I may have rescued Rugby from the shelter, but I believe he also rescued me. I could not have asked for a better or more loving companion to stand by my side.