



1820 Princeton Road • Hamilton, Ohio 45011
(513) 867-5727

Animal Tales



Edgar



Wilbur



Rusty



Bridget



Jefferson



Jerry



Joy



Pipsy



Milton



From Our New Executive Director... **Tara Bowser** Executive Director

Dear "Animal Friends",

For many of you, this is my first opportunity to reach out and introduce myself. My name is Tara Bowser, and I stepped into the role of Executive Director in June, after serving as Interim Director for four months. Although this role is still very new to me, being an Animal Friends employee is one that is very familiar.

My career with Animal Friends began 12 years ago, in October 2006, at the "old" shelter in Trenton. Then Executive Director, Leland Gordon, hired me on as part-time kennel help, which worked perfectly with my full-time schedule as mom to two rowdy toddlers, Breanna & Jacob. Being an animal lover since I was a toddler myself, I knew it was only a matter of time before I began investing even more of my time at Animal Friends. When a full-time office position opened up a few months later, I decided to apply for it and began working alongside Becky and LaShon that coming January. From there, I had the privilege of becoming Foster Coordinator, Rescue Coordinator, Kennel Manager, and then Operations Manager, a position created in 2011, and held only by me up until July of this year. Throughout the past 12 years, I have also spent my fair share of time working alongside our amazing surgery staff and the Dog Warden's Office - from assisting with various surgeries to helping clear out animals from the homes of hoarders. I have even had the pleasure of being a puppy handler the last 3 years for all six of our Puppy Bowl pups, traveling each football season, with my husband Dan in tow, to New York City to film with Animal Planet.

None of this, however, would have been possible without the support and guidance of our former ED, Meg Stephenson. I had the honor of working hand in hand with Meg during her entire career at Animal Friends. From her, I was able to learn what it takes to lead an organization to greatness. I appreciate the role Meg played in helping me get to where I am today, and I can only hope that my years as ED brings as much success as hers did.

With my deepest gratitude,

Tara Bowser

Congratulations, Tara!



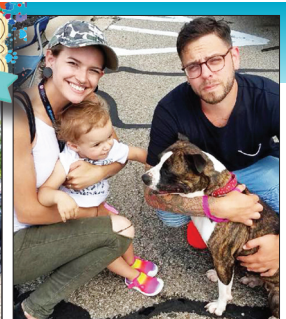
Forever homes...



Ducky, went up for adoption two days ago & found his forever family today! Congratulations Ducky!



We're ecstatic to share that **Spike** found his forever home! We predict many fun days ahead for this big, goofy boy! Wishing Spike and his new family a happy future!



We all had an absolutely wonderful day at **Crafts 'n' Critters**, but we suspect **Alexis** (above) and **Summer** (left) had an even better day... they both found their forever homes!!



Sirah

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Izzy

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

New Changes at AFHS...

Nancy Patton Operations Manager

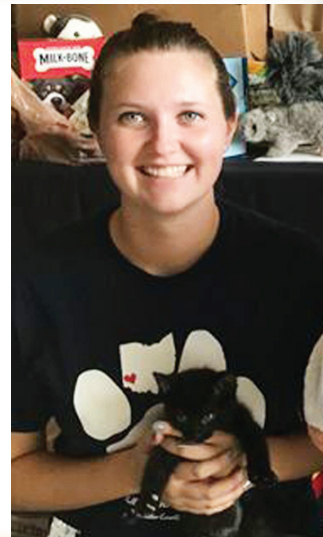


A note from Nancy...

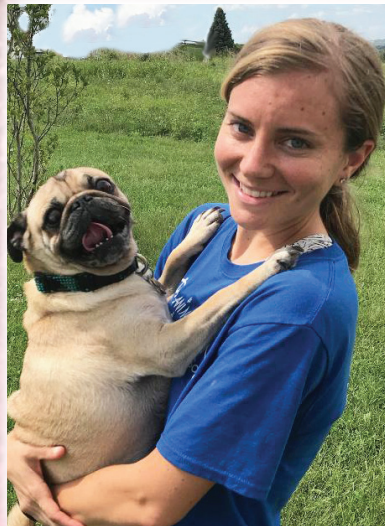
"I am a mother of two animal loving children. I have three dogs and a cat, most of which came from AFHS. I started my journey with AFHS back in 2015 as a foster. It was always a dream of mine to be involved in animal welfare and that dream has only been fueled by this great organization. I was employed in the front office for a year and a half before I left to try to pursue that ever elusive dollar. I was overjoyed when AFHS reached out to me to come back for the Operations Manager Position. I gladly accepted and have hit the ground running to keep up with this ever growing shelter!"

Megan Niehaus Outreach Coordinator

My name is Megan Niehaus. I started working with AFHS as a volunteer. I did that from 2014 to 2017. I graduated high school in 2015 and went to college at UC to obtain my Associates in Criminal Justice. I loved the degree I pursued, but I always knew my passion was to work with animals. As soon as I graduated college, I went to work at AFHS as a Kennel Technician. When the Outreach Coordinator position opened up, I knew I'd be a perfect fit due to my love to work with the public, volunteers, and adoptable animals. My favorite part of my job is matching families up with their new best friend during PetMobile events! I look forward to years to come with Animal Friends!



Megan Sams Kennel Manager



My name is Megan and I have been an employee of Animal Friends since August 2010. I have four rescued pets: two cats named Derek and Gumdrops and two dogs named Sookie and Angus (pictured), three of which are AFHS alumni! In my free time, I enjoy hiking, yoga, cycling and watching true crime documentaries. As the Kennel Manager of Animal Friends, I hope to continuously find new ways to improve the adoption rates of our animals, keep our facility sparkly clean and make our furry residents' temporary stay with us a pleasant one!

SHARED BY
TARA BOWSER

great adoption SUCCESS STORIES

GOOSE

Hello all. I wanted to give a quick update on Mother Goose. It has been 6 months since she found me and her home. She is a creature of habit and demands her canned food at 8 AM and PM. Definitely spoiled rotten. She also is quite fond of her sweater. I don't think I have ever known a sweeter animal. I am still very grateful for AFHS and the care they provided for her.

- Phil



BELLATRIX



Alexis is very much loved we have changed her name to Bellatrix and she has been the perfect little angel since being with us we are so happy to have her!

- Erin



AJAX

We adopted Ajax (Chase) from AFHS three months ago! He is such a ham and a happy boy!

- Ann



PEANUT

Peanut spent a few months at our shelter before finding his fur-ever family.

We love seeing him in a home and happy!

Animal Friends Humane Society
Volunteer
 of the month

SEPTEMBER 2017



Sheryl Drexelius

Sheryl has been with the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family since August 2015. She dedicates her time in giving back to the residents in our nursing home program, Carole's Canine Companions! We are grateful to have Sheryl as a volunteer and look forward to having her as part of our volunteer program for many years to come!

"I started volunteering at Animal Friends about two years ago with my daughters as I thought it would be a fun way for us to spend time together doing something we love. We started in the cat room as we currently have 2 cats (Tiger the Tabby and Carl a Siamese mix) and that is where we felt most comfortable. I read in one of the newsletters that Carole's Canine Companions was asking for volunteers to take dogs and cats to the nursing home and I thought I would give that a try. The volunteer coordinator at the nursing home specifically requested I bring dogs so I had an opportunity to learn more about dogs which I had not had any experience with since I was a child. Taking dogs (and some kittens) to Berkley Square has been a great experience. The residents love to see and pet the animals and so do the staff and visitors. Some of our dogs have even been adopted by staff members! My daughters have grown up and gone off to college but I am happy that I still have the opportunity to meet new animals and people as part of the Carole's Canines volunteer program and I highly recommend it. I might even be able to talk my husband into adopting a dog someday."

OCTOBER 2017



Judy Lenihan

Judy has been with the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family since July 2016. She spends most of her time with our canines in the shelter and on the petmobile! We are grateful to have Judy as a volunteer and look forward to having her as part of our volunteer program for many years to come!

"I began volunteering at AFHS in July of 2016 upon retiring from Sycamore Community Schools. Although I have no pets of my own, I get my pet "fix" from socializing with the dogs. They are all such unique individuals. My mind has certainly been changed in regards to the pit bull breed - I have discovered that they are friendly and intelligent. Working with the Petmobile has allowed me to spend more time with individual canines, but also meet some of the volunteers whom I might not know otherwise. There are so many individuals who help out at AFHS, I am honored to be chosen. I truly enjoy volunteer work as I spend a lot of time helping out at West Chester Hospital too."

NOVEMBER 2017



Amy Varacall

Amy has been with the AFHS Volunteer Family since October 2010. She is involved in all parts of the shelter and gives of her time and resources generously. We are grateful to have Amy as a volunteer and look forward to having her as part of our volunteer program for many years to come!

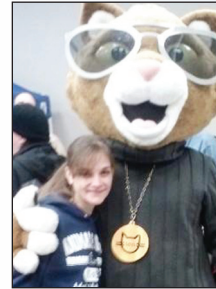
Please read what Amy has to say about volunteering:
 "I am honored to be chosen as volunteer of the month.

Animal Friends is a wonderful place with such selfless, hardworking and dedicated staff members and volunteers with the biggest hearts ever. As someone with a busy schedule, it's great that Animal Friends has so many different opportunities for people to get involved. It takes everyone working together and doing what they can to make a positive impact on the lives of the animals in our community. I am grateful to have the opportunity to do my part.

I was first introduced to Animal Friends in 2010. We got started as a family and I would go weekly with my daughter to socialize the dogs and cats. Since then, we have fostered both dogs and cats, helped with golf outings and in Carole's Canine Companions.

Amy Varacall continued... I grew up always having a dog in the house and my husband and I have continued that tradition (although our clan has grown). We currently have 2 dogs (Sampson and Lady) and 3 cats (Mojo, Blue and Bella) all of whom were adopted from Animal Friends except for Mojo who was found abandoned as a kitten. My picture is with one of our most recent foster puppies, Boomer. Our lives wouldn't be the same without our rescues, and we have such a dedicated and caring organization to thank for that. It is a blessing to be able to be a part of something so wonderful."

DECEMBER 2017



Holly May

Holly has been with the AFHS Volunteer Family for several years. She spends her time in our Cat Adoption room helping to socialize our feline friends. We are grateful to have Holly as a volunteer and look forward to having her as part of our volunteer program for many years to come!

"Hello! My name is Holly May. I have been volunteering with AFHS for almost 5 years now. I spend all of my time working with the cats. I love to help socialize them and enjoy getting to know each one's individual personality. It is very rewarding to help guide people to adopting the cat whose personality will fit best with them. It is always bittersweet when I come in and find that a favorite feline friend has been adopted, it is definitely possible to grow very attached to the animals. I have had a life-long love for animals, especially cats. Over my life I have had four kitties. The first two, Missy and Ciao, have unfortunately passed but currently I am entertained by Juniper Roo and Calvin. They are my babies. When I am not spending time with cats I am at work as a pastry chef and line cook at Marriott Kingsgate Conference Center. In my free time I can usually be found at the library or a coffee shop reading, attending a music show, watching movies, working in my garden, or cooking and baking. I am so thankful for the AFHS. They do such great work and all the employees and fellow volunteers are friends to me. I always look forward to spending as much time as possible there. It is my happy place for sure!"

JANUARY 2018



Frank Stephenson

Frank has been with the AFHS Volunteer Family since 2016. He spends his time involved in our nursing home program, Carole's Canine Companions. We are grateful to have Frank as a volunteer and look forward to having him as part of our volunteer program for many years to come!

"I started volunteering at AFHS in 2016 after I retired. I began walking the dogs and when I found out about the Carole's Canine Companion program that takes dogs to nursing homes I signed up. I think it's a great program because it lets the dogs get a break from the shelter atmosphere and it benefits the patients. Many of them had dogs in their life at home and their faces light up when they get to interact with the dogs again. Even if they can't communicate well they love our visits. We adopted our 6 yr old coonhound, Benny, in 2016. He's a retired hunting dog and keeps me in great shape because we walk 4-5 miles a day weather permitting."

MARCH 2018



Kristin Wynia

Here's what Kristin had to say about her journey to becoming a volunteer: "I moved to Ohio in April, 2017 and left behind a great shelter in Texas where I had volunteered for 4 years. I really felt like part of that "shelter family", and was looking to find that same connection here. I tried two other facilities before settling in at Animal Friends. I was instantly accepted and really felt like

I could make a difference here. The large group of volunteers is absolutely amazing! My husband and I have 2 rescue cats from the Humane Society in Green Bay, WI. Tango and Cash were adopted at 8 weeks old and are almost 14 years old now, but definitely don't act like it. I have loved animals since I was a child, but have only gotten involved in the rescue world about 5 years ago. I have a love for the pitbull-type dog, and believe that every dog is an individual. I believe in positive reinforcement and creating a trusting bond with the dog. I really look forward to meeting more people and helping more dogs. In Texas I was able to take dogs on "field trips" away from the shelter. We would go to the lake, park, and any store that allowed. It was great to see the positive change in these dogs. I was also able to report any behavioral challenges back to the shelter staff. I have been fortunate enough to keep in touch with the first dog I really helped by getting him out of the shelter and personally transporting him to off-site adoption events. Whenever I feel stressed or defeated, I always remember a little tan pitbull named Jensen, and how he helped me to start this journey. I thank all the Animal Friends staff and volunteers for letting me continue my journey with this great organization."



APRIL 2018

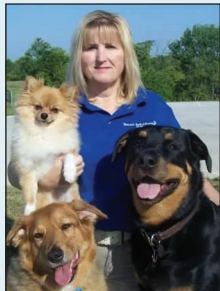
Mark Feldhaus

Mark has been with the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family since September 2009. In that time, he has logged over 1,300 hours! WOW! He spends his time walking the dogs here at the shelter. We are grateful to have Mark as a volunteer and look forward to having him as part of our volunteer program for many years to come!

"I started walking dogs around the time AFHS opened the present location- fall of 2009. It was during one of my dark days of unemployment, and ultimately, I was planning on listing volunteering on my resume. My mother says it was her idea. Well, I found a job before it became necessary. I love dogs & bicycles, so on Sunday I would ride my bike to AFHS, walk dogs, ride back home then visit Mom. Things have changed since then- my mother passed on and I retired, but I still walk dogs.

When I was a kid, I had a dog, and two older sisters. I played with the dog but not my sisters. In the sixth grade, they had a bake sale at school to raise money for charity. One of the kids in my grade had Chihuahuas at home, and they had puppies. They agreed to give away one of the puppies in a raffle for the bake sale. It was a big deal- everybody wanted to win a puppy! My mother was a volunteer crossing guard that day. She gave me a quarter and told me to buy tickets for the raffle. I spent ten cents on candy and the other fifteen cents on raffle tickets. Guess who won? Our dog at the time, Tag, was not too happy to have some little puppy get all the attention. But he was such a good dog he put up with it.

I find that every dog is different- some like to play, some hunt, most just like to sniff around outside. Some are aggressive, some shy. I just let them be themselves and go where their nose goes."



MAY 2018

Barb Thompson

Barb has been with the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family since 2008. In that time, she has helped wherever AFHS has needed her! We are grateful to have Barb as a volunteer and look forward to having her as part of our volunteer program for many years to come!

"I got started as a volunteer in 2008 when I was in school to become an obedience trainer and had to do 10 hours at a shelter to get my certification. I have been around ever since. Lol. At the time I helped walk dogs and work in the kennel and

then started helping in the office at the shelter in Trenton. I enjoyed, although tiring, helping Meg set up the new shelter, spending several late nights cleaning and getting it ready to move the animals to their much needed new space.

Being a groomer as well, I started volunteering my grooming services to help get animals adopted. I also became a foster! I have fostered several dogs including 3 moms and her pups. I have only had 2 foster failures over the years so not too bad.

Lucky is a bichon poo who came in as a one in a half year old with a broken leg and several bb's in his little body. He was on cage rest and in a splint for 7 months. We thought it had healed and it broke where it calcified so we adopted him and had a plate put in his leg. He will be 12 this year and doing great. Snowy was 2 years old and one of the moms I fostered with her babies and then adopted. She was found on the highway 5 days before she gave birth to 7 puppies. She is now 9. I also have a 7 year old poodle and a 1 year old chihuahua. My favorite things to do at the shelter is work in the office and of course groom and see the difference I make in the those dogs' lives that have been so neglected."



JUNE 2018

Dee Johnson

Dee has been with the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family since November 2012. She spends most of her time on our PetMobile finding adoptable animals homes! We are grateful to have Dee as a volunteer and look forward to having her as part of our volunteer program for many years to come!

"Hello, I have 3 fur-babies, Charley and Mozart who are both 13 years old, and Bentley (formerly Patches) who I adopted from Animal Friends two years ago and is now 4 years old. When I first saw Bentley, he was over in strays, looking very sad. I asked if we could take him into the play yard so I could get to know him. He was very skinny and missing more than half his fur from a flea infestation. A few days later, he met his new brother and sister and has become the clown of my household. He is pictured with me and as you can see looks absolutely gorgeous now! We also have a Senegal Parrot that Bentley tries to play with, but he has to watch for nips on his nose!

I have been with Animal Friends as a volunteer since November 2012. I spend most of my time on the Pet-mobile introducing our dogs to the public trying to find their forever families. Over the years, I have helped many dogs find their forever homes and find a lot of joy in doing so. I have also been fortunate to meet many other volunteers and made some wonderful friends.

Thank you for this honor. It was totally unexpected, but very much appreciated."

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS WE THANK YOU

JULY 2018

Lisa & Jillian Splawn



Lisa and Jillian have been with the Animal Friends Humane Society Volunteer Family since when Jillian turned 16! However, they have been eager to start helping AFHS for some time! They spend most of their time on our PetMobile finding adoptable animals homes! We are grateful to have Lisa and Jillian as volunteers and look forward to having them as part of our volunteer program for many years to come!

"We feel honored to be nominated as volunteers of the month for AFHS. We are a mother/daughter team. I am Lisa Splawn. I work at Fairfield Creekside middle school by day. By night and weekends I love spending time with my family.

I am Jillian Splawn. I am a junior at Fairfield high school. I work at the new MacKenzie's River Pizza and Grill. In my free time, I like to play lacrosse, but my passion is helping animals.

It is a double bonus what brought us to Animal Friends. First, it was a great opportunity to spend time with each other - great mom/daughter bonding time. Second is both of us love animals and want to see all of them find homes and what a better way to do that, then to volunteer at AFHS.

We really would do anything to help at AFHS that is needed, but the two things we enjoy most are walking the dogs and the Pet Mobile. When you are walking the dogs, just spending one-on-one time with them, it makes it special for both of us. The Pet Mobile has made a big impression on us. We love watching people interact with our adoptables and it makes our heart skip a beat when you see one find their FURever home.

I cannot imagine ever not having pets in our home. We would like to thank all of you for welcoming us into your amazing AFHS family. We hope to meet all of you eventually."

AUGUST 2018

Kathy Gianfagna



Kathy has been a volunteer since May 2016, spending most of her time on our Petmobile or with our cats. This is what Kathy had to say about being nominated, "I'm very touched to have been nominated as VOM. Thank you so much.

I want you to know I truly appreciate everything the workers and other volunteers do to keep the pet residents comfortable and happy until they find their forever homes. I love them all.

I started volunteering at AFHS when I retired in June of 2016. The Orientation and tour was so informative and positive, it made me eager to help out. My family is very supportive and my two cat rescues, Lilly and Willy, are happy I'm helping their feline's friends find homes.

I've always had a cat in my life, so I started out socializing the cats and kittens at the shelter. Doing laundry with other volunteers was fun too. Next, I started participating in the Petmobile events which I really enjoy. I like introducing the cats to the public and helping children learn how to properly hold and pet them.

At each event, I learn something new about the different dog breeds and their personalities. Now, I have the confidence to volunteer anywhere there is a need. The dogs love to be walked at the shelter and at Petmobile events. I thank Tara Brown for teaching me so much, and I look forward to helping and learning from Megan Niehaus in the future. It's so great when a pet finds their forever home."

Check Important Updates, Volunteer Orientations & Events...

For the most current info, please go to

OUR WEBSITE: www.animalfriendshs.org



After the holidays, the fundraising committee will be seeking donations for the Bark'n'Purr Ball silent auction - please help us come up with some goodies for this year!

MUNICIPAL BREW WORKS

2018



ALES FOR TAILS 2018

by Tara Bowser

Saturday, August 11th marked our 2nd Annual Ales for Tails event, held once again at Municipal Brew Works in downtown Hamilton - and what an event it was! Rain poured down hard multiple times, but that did not stop our attendees from having a fantastic time.

The day began at 10 am, with the sun shining and crowds forming. Our PetMobile arrived, packed full of hopeful cats and dogs anxious to find their forever homes, which ultimately happened for 4 dogs and 4 cats!

One of the lucky dogs was Missy, a 3 year-old pit mix that spent 3 months at our facility waiting on her second chance at a new life. Missy had a rough start at life, coming to us with a severe skin condition and plagued with bouts of chronic diarrhea due to the stress of living in a kennel, without a family of her own. We are so thankful she can now rest easy with her new family!

... continued on page 7



Join Us
NEXT YEAR!
 Mark your calendars for
 Saturday, August 10, 2019!
CHEERS!



Hearts that Care

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 Wilma Pendergrass *Robyn & Jack Stevens, Don & Lu Neubrandner, Ken & Judy Gibbons, Raymond & Cara Godfrey*
 Carol Farrell . . . *Yesterday's Book Club: Vonnie Davis, Betty Bay, Tina Bay, Cathy Dailey, Linda Dettmer, Dianne Kuhnell, Kristen Nunn, Julia Santo, Anita Schafer, Adrienne Wasko, Sue Bosse*
 Loraine Rosen *Phyllis Snyder, Penny Huff*
 Joyce Hocking *Diana Thompson*
 Lottie Mae *Karen and Matt Fuchs*
 Kenneth Chappell *Kathleen Friend*

Janie Lou Coakley Carl & Edna Huston, Sandy Davish, John & Michelle Harris, John Becker, Leonard Harris Family, Charles & Dean Oder
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• THE PET PALS •

Thank you to all of our anonymous sponsors

BALEDDASH **GERHARD ALBINUS**

... continued from page 6

Thanks to 24PetWatch's donation of microchips, Mike's Mobile Vet was able to microchip 54 pets for only \$10. By early afternoon, the crowds were making their way through the various food trucks and vendors that surrounded the brewery. DJ Bill Dattilo kept the crowd entertained until it was time for owners and dogs to take the stage to compete in the pet contests. Despite the rain not stopping, the evening was still enjoyed with the performances of our live bands - Gerhard Albinus, Balderdash, Doug Hart, and Brass Owl. A big THANK YOU to our fundraising committee and Municipal Brew Works for once again putting together a great event. We can't wait to see everyone back next year!

LEAVE A LIVING LEGACY

HOW TO LEAVE A LIVING LEGACY: You can name Animal Friends Humane Society as a beneficiary in your will, IRA, life insurance policy, or retirement plan. You can create a Charitable Lead Trust or Charitable Remainder Trust. Include AFHS in your estate planning or donate a percentage of your assets. Encourage pet-loving family members and friends to consider these gift-giving options. AFHS is a 501(c)(3) donation dependent organization.

our Wish List

- 1) Canned Dog and Cat Food
- 2) Postage Stamps
- 3) Cardboard box 'cat' trays - used as cat litter boxes
- 4) Liquid & Powdered Laundry Detergent
- 5) AAA Duracell and Energizer batteries
- 6) Fabuloso Cleaner
- 7) Gas Cards for PetMobile

...and goodies for our staff!

Save The Date



Our 14th
Anniversary

Bark 'n' Purr Ball

Saturday, March 16, 2019
at Receptions in Fairfield, Ohio

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

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.



**ADOPT
VOLUNTEER
DONATE**

2019 Butler County Dog License

Available Dec 1st at the shelter
- a portion of sale benefits AFHS -

ALL DOGS
indoor & outdoor
3 months & older
MUST be licensed
between
December 1, 2018 &
January 31, 2019



If it's too cold for you,
it's too cold for them!

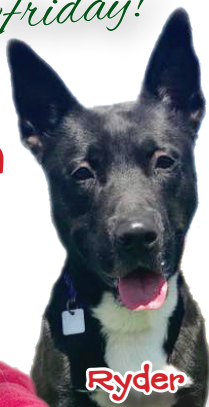


••••• **Check Out Upcoming Events: www.animalfriendshs.org** •••••

A Very Awesome Weekend!

All Day Friday!

**Special
Adoption
Deals!**



**BLACK
FRIDAY**
November 23th

• PET PHOTOS •
with **Santa**

**Saturday,
November 24th**
from 11-4
and
**Sunday,
November 25th**
from 11-4
at
Animal Friends Humane Society
1820 Princeton Road in Hamilton