

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER
ANIMAL TALES



celebrating our
70
YEAR
★ ANNIVERSARY ★



Middletown Dog Pound in 1952

In 1952 a small group of concerned Middletown citizens organized to build the first animal shelter in Butler County. Stray and loose running dogs were a nuisance, causing driving hazards, dog fights, dog bites, killing livestock, for which the county was legally responsible to reimburse farmers for their loss. Middletown and Hamilton each only had one dogcatcher. A shack at the city dump in Middletown and a small cement block building on the fairgrounds in Hamilton were used to house strays until the dogcatcher disposed of them.

But fear of a rabies epidemic was the major reason many people supported building an animal shelter to concentrate on animal control.

Rabies is a viral disease that attacks nerve and brain tissue and will cause a painful death unless treated. Anyone bitten by a rabid animal had to have from 14 to 23 painful shots in the stomach to avoid dying!

In the minutes of a meeting of the Butler County Board of Health held June 4, 1952, the County had confirmed 29 positive dog cases and 1 positive cow case of rabies since April 1st. The County spent \$8,000 on rabies treatments for humans that summer and that was equivalent to nearly \$90,000 in today's money. (The average annual income in 1952 was \$3,515, gasoline was 27 cents per gallon, a loaf of bread was 16 cents, and a postage stamp was only 3 cents.). During the year 1952, more than 60 people were forced to take Pasteur shot treatments and three persons suffered post vaccinal reactions.



Hamilton Dog Pound in 1952



Trenton Shelter in 2008



70

celebrating our
YEAR
★ ANNIVERSARY ★



Animal Friends Humane Society in 2022

Construction of the shelter building on Hamilton-Trenton Road in Trenton, Ohio began on May 6, 1953 by McGraw Construction Company of Middletown. Total cost was approximately \$20,000 or about \$222,000 in today's market. A county report from August 1953 stated that in the first 30 days, "276 sick, diseased or injured dogs and 99 diseased cats were picked up." The shelter also had 55 dogs adopted in the first month. Approximately 12,000 dogs were handled annually in the early years of the shelter's operation.

A year after the animal shelter went into operation in 1953, the health commissioner stated "The control of rabies was made possible by the picking up of stray dogs by dog wardens and by enforcing the law requiring canine vaccinations for all owned dogs."

As our communities grew and pets became more popular, the shelter in Trenton became crowded and outdated. In 2007 the voters of Butler County passed a tax levy to help fund the present shelter, a 22,500 ft building which opened in Hamilton in August 2009.

The same humane organization has been serving Butler County residents for seven decades, originally The Humane Association of Miami Valley and then became Animal Friends Humane Society in 2002. The mission is to promote humane principles, protect lost, homeless, abandoned and mistreated animals and to act as advocates for the animals in our communities.

AFHS is a 501 (C) 3 charity financed by donations, fund raisers, and the sale of dog licenses. The non-profit organization is essential, adopting out thousands of pets, saving the lives of dogs and cats, promoting spaying and neutering to keep the pet population under control, operating a veterinary clinic for their adoptable animals, and educating the public about animal welfare.

Extreme progress has been made over 70 years thanks to the shelter employees, volunteers, the Board of Trustees volunteers, and caring people throughout Butler County.

By Carolyn G. Kramer

To celebrate our 70 years—
between *Oct. 24 – Oct. 30*,
dog adoptions will be

\$70!

Thanks to all who have supported the humane society and our animal shelters since 1952!



After 16 years of caring for the animals of Butler County, Animal Friends says farewell to **Tara Bowser**

Announcement from AFHS Board of Directors, July 22, 2022:

With deep appreciation for her outstanding leadership and 16 years of tireless work to further our mission and values, the AFHS Board reluctantly announces that our Executive Director, Tara Bowser is stepping down and leaving Animal Friends at the end of this month. Since receiving her resignation in late May, the Board has been working closely with Tara and other administrative staff to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities.

Tara's leadership and collaboration has made her one of AFHS's most effective Executive Directors. She's stewarded the organization through many periods of change and growth with thoughtful, generous, and exemplary leadership. She made an outstanding positive impact on our community, in local shelter work, and within the lives of our adoptive families.

On behalf of the tens of thousands of animals she has helped save, AFHS's Board of Directors, Staff, Supporters, and Volunteers join in offering Tara Bowser our heartfelt gratitude for her dedication to animals in need, as well as those caring for them. We will miss her natural insight and experience; her professionalism, strong support, and generosity toward her staff; and her caring heart for all animals. We wish her all the best as she moves forward toward exciting new endeavors, including well-deserved time to devote to her family and travels.

Over the next several months, the Board will be conducting a thorough search to find AFHS's next Executive Director. It is our priority to find a dynamic leader with a true passion for AFHS's mission: to promote humane principles, to protect lost, homeless, abandoned and mistreated animals, and to act as advocates for animals in our communities. We will share the job announcement soon and ask for your help in identifying candidates who can help AFHS take its next steps.

Again, we cannot thank Tara enough for the dedication, passion, enthusiasm and motivation she has given AFHS over the past 16 years. She will be greatly missed by many.

Sincerely,
AFHS Board of Directors



*Thank you
from all of us
at AFHS!*

Announcement from AFHS Executive Director:

After 16 years with Animal Friends, I recently submitted my resignation to the Board in order to pursue new opportunities that'll allow me more time to focus on my family. I want to give my deepest gratitude to all who have been so supportive of the organization and of me personally over the years, especially the last 4 years during my tenure as Executive Director. Together, with an incredibly talented staff and dedicated volunteers, we have made significant advancements over the last 16 years to reduce euthanasia and build programs to support our community. I am so honored to have been the leader of this incredible organization and will hold dear to my heart the relationships I've built during my time with AFHS.

All my best,
Tara Bowser
AFHS Executive Director

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Shelter Hours

M, T, F, Sa, Su
12pm - 4:30pm

W, Th
12pm - 6pm

We need you!

We have a constant intake of over 5,000 animals each year. Each one of these animals needs your love & care.

Join our volunteer community – Did you know...

- Spending time with animals helps **lower your stress levels and blood pressure**. It will also keep you active, especially if you prefer to walk dogs.
- Walking dogs is the **easiest cure for kennel stress**. Kennel stress negatively affects both their mental and physical health.
- When volunteers spend time with the animals, their true personalities come out and they **get adopted more quickly**. It is incredibly rewarding!
- **The best feeling in the world** is watching your current favorite animal walk out of the shelter with their new forever family!
- Volunteers can help on their own time with **no schedule**! You can come anytime during our volunteer hours. You must be 16 years old to volunteer.
- You will be part of a group of animal lovers just like you, **saving lives and giving back to your community**.
- **Volunteers must attend an orientation prior to assisting us.**
For upcoming dates and how to register, visit our website -



<http://www.animalfriendshs.org/ways-to-help/volunteer>

We're Hiring!

We'd love to hear from you –

513.867.5727 • <http://www.animalfriendshs.org/>

Animal Friends is looking for dedicated people to join our team who desire a job helping change the lives of animals in a meaningful way.

You will be part of a team of animal lovers caring for the displaced pets of Butler County and helping the community with a vital service.

We currently need both **part time and full time Kennel Technicians and Front Desk assistants**.



Volunteers of the Month



Chad Teets *March 2022*

My name is Chad Teets. This is my first year at Animal Friends, and I have to say it has been a wonderful experience. Outside of volunteering, I work full time in the IT Industry as a Customer Success Manager. Life for me is getting to spend another day with my lovely wife of 21 years, Kim, getting some smiles and laughs in the day, and trying to do something good for someone or something. I try my best, as we all do, to apply that to the endeavors of life. I enjoy playing drums and guitar with the worship team at Community Christian Church, and training Jiu-Jitsu with the great folks at Gracie Cincinnati.

A bit you might not know about me is, I like dogs. I find a lot of joy in working with dogs in a lot of different aspects. Fostering, behavioral training, enrichment, walking, and helping our community connect with great dogs. I genuinely enjoy talking with people about dogs. I hope to work towards my CCPDT-KA Certification in the future and look forward to learning and helping along the way.

We do not have any dogs or pets of our own at this time, but we've found that it has allowed us to be a good foster candidate for dogs that may need special consideration placement. My favorite dog breed is the Doberman Pinscher. I understand "best dog breed ever" might elicit commentary, so I won't say that. I've been fortunate in the past to be able to foster with Bluegrass Doberman Rescue. I keep pictures of the fosters on Instagram: @storyofadoberman.



Hayley & Alaina Dreisbach *April 2022*

Hi! We are Hayley and Alaina Dreisbach. We are twins that go to Mount Notre Dame High School and we're seniors this year. We live on the westside of Cincinnati in Colerain Township. We (obviously) love dogs! We have a 9 year old Cavalier/Poodle mix named Lucky. He is the best dog, but we may be a little biased. Our "favorite" breed of dog is anything pit-mixed because of their big heads and loving personalities.

We first started volunteering with Animal Friends in December 2021 after joining a service program at our school called Paws for a Purpose. We have been coming ever since! We've never volunteered at an animal shelter until we found Animal Friends, but we have always been very passionate about doing service. We lead a service program at our school called Opening Minds through Art (OMA) where we go to a retirement community every Tuesday and paint with the residents who have Alzheimer's/dementia and we're involved in a few other programs as well. We enjoy going on service trips and just recently came back from one in Liberty, Kentucky. We also work at LaRosa's as servers. Aside from doing service and working, we love hanging out with our friends and oftentimes convince them to come to the shelter with us.

Although we are headed off to college next year to either Ohio State or the University of Kentucky, we will still come back to Animal Friends as much as we are able to. It will be hard being so far though, and we will miss all of the sweet dogs and all of the volunteers and workers at AFHS very much. For now, we will keep coming as often as possible!



Leah Devin *May 2022*

I began volunteering at the shelter after I retired and at the beginning of the pandemic, so it was a slow start for me. I have trained in the surgery clinic and worked there routinely until the vet left, and sporadically since then. I work for the pet food pantry and enjoy helping those folks. Most of them are so grateful for any assistance that we can provide! I help out with the pet mobile when I can and enjoy having a variety of ways to help out around the shelter. There is so much going on to help provide a safe, healing and nurturing environment for the animals that I feel like there is always a way to contribute. The staff works very hard and I am happy to be part of an organization that cares so much about the welfare of each animal that enters the building.

I hope to be a part of it all for many more years!



Volunteers of the Month



Joanne Horrell *June 2022*

Between my son and I we have 3 rescue dogs. One was adopted when she was 8 going on 9; the other 2 were around a year old. Over the years I've had many rescue dogs and took in 1 stray cat that thought he was a dog. The rescues make the best pets as they seem more appreciative of a good home. I've always had a passion for animals and after having so many wonderful rescue pets I'm glad I decided to volunteer at Animal Friends. I've been very impressed with the dedication of staff and volunteers and it's been a pleasure working with such caring individuals. I just want all our wonderful animals to find forever loving homes.



Teresa Hardesty *July 2022*

Between my husband Mark and I, I don't know who is more of an animal lover. We have three rescue dogs including 15-year-old Dillon, who we fostered and then adopted in November. We also have three rescue kitties. I feel like I have truly found my calling since I started volunteering at Animal Friends. I volunteer with so many other dedicated and compassionate volunteers. I have met many new friends and look forward to seeing all the furbaby friends each time I come to volunteer. Nothing makes me happier than when I see a pet adopted and go to a new loving home.



Beth McDaniel *August 2022*

I work mainly in cat adoption with a side gig as a laundry fairy. It's always wonderful to find the right match for each cat!



Wishlist

General items + priority items we're in need of:

- Soft dog treats
- Gatorade and bottled water
- Clay cat litter
- Kongs
- Frisbees



Amazon Wish List



Chewy Wish List

Hearts that Care

IN MEMORY OF

Max
Tuffy and Fluffy Henry
Emmet
Beau
Zoey
Penny
Cooper
Lily
Delbert (Skip) Waddell

Sue Waddell (The Puppy Lady)
Esther Chaney Johnson
Valerie Anderson
Michael (Mike) Brockman
Barry Lane Brown

Evelyn Vereker
Lisa Gabriel

Joni Demmel

Janice Chism
Diane Meeks
Jackie Juenke
Erin Jo Ferland
Susan Salvo
Vernon Burns
Geri Crull
Cheryl Curry
Adam Muterspaw

Jake Myers
Glen Jones
Ollie
Keeper, a Havanese
Alice Jeffers
Mary Lucille Dudek

Madalyn Davis Lester

Karl Willman

Lois Wasem
Tara Rhea Holzinger
Ed Berkemeyer

Emilee-Anne Margaret Sandlin
Jim Gill
Ginnie Sowers
Rebecca Pratt

William Everett Eisele
Jessie Hamblin
Susan Kay Walker Truesdell
& her furry angels
William "Bill" Bell
George Martin
Erick Stitzel, David Stitzel,
Joanie Stitzel
Dick Roots
Roland Hickman
Marjorie E. Newton
Andrew Luttrell

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Doug Waddell
Kim Bell, Kiki Demetron-Gordon, David and Patricia McGraw, Lisa Patterson
Dann Anderson
Charles (Chuck) Broughton, 1974 Taft High School Reunion Committee
Leslie Besl, Pat and Ernestine Mancuso, Steve Sorkin, Andy Noel and Cathy Terhar, Michael Siegel, Neil and Honi Cohen, Marilyn Verbeck, Fairfield South Sunshine Fund (Fairfield South Elementary)
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Marilyn Schwarz
Shirley Gabbard

Dianne Ninke
Roger and Kathy Gross
Tina Lay
Jean Butcher
Alissa Dix, Mary Ann Harkrader

IN MEMORY OF

Mel Wimmer
Lionel "Zen Boods" Dailey
Khloe
Blackie and Peaches
Coach
Precious (20 yr old cat)
Boo
Squeaks
Rocky
Theo
A beautiful friend
Ron Enderle
Samantha Marie Rocky

Virginia Dutze
Nancy Pratt
Bob Houston

Tim Staarman
Elvira Kelley
Debbie Kramer
Krista Irwin

Coyt Rains
Marjorie Newton
Jackie Freyberg
Sherry Quick
Macy
Desi
Freddie, Bootsy, Jack
Sweet furry baby, Annie Haring
Sadie
Dear, sweet Fergus
Dear, sweet Max
Joey
Riley
Marli Moo McNab
Luca
Her beloved kitty, Armani
Patrick, Skipper, Jiggs, Lily, Trooper
Khloe
Valerie and Mickey
Steve Marcum
Jean Ponder

Joanne French
Rebecca Blanton
Joyce and Mike (John) Vogt
John Farmer
Ronald Puska

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Nancy Nicodemus, Howard and Simonetta Nunamaker
E. Joyce Davidson



Hearts that Care

IN MEMORY OF

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Reinhold (Ron) Lampe

Reva Fultz
Ruth Anne Etter
John Horn
Adam J Smith

Rick Serge
Bonnie Hickman
David DiMenna
Uncle Basil
Dennis Meyer
Karen Meyer Hodges
Maryanne Leeds
Thor
Scooter
Cheyenne
Mama Cat and HoBo
Sammy
Her Cats
PeJo and Stimp
Bruno, Sergius, Damian,
Apollo, Alexander
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Jen Goris' Birthday
Lily Cat
Her 6 German shepherds
Rob and Donna Cohen's 25th anniversary
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Baltar
Nancy Ayers
Robert "Bob" Adams
Steve McIntosh's 60th bday
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