

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

ANIMAL TALES

FOSTERING

THE BEST WAY TO HELP A SHELTER PET!

Undoubtably, you have heard the phrase “fostering saves lives” in regards to animal welfare before. Our foster program at Animal Friends is indeed an essential tool designed to support our most vulnerable animal populations.

For the past year, our Cat Care Coordinator, Kim Sunberg, and our Dog Care Coordinator, Nancy Patton, have diligently continued to build a robust, dedicated group of fosters for our shelter residents. Our foster families provide a safe environment for animals to call their temporary home until they can be adopted. **In 2022 Animal Friends placed 155 dogs into foster homes and 762 felines,** mostly orphaned kittens, which without fosters, it would be impossible to save. These volunteers make it possible to provide the specific needs and care required for all these dogs and cats.

How does fostering make a difference? Our fosters increase the number of animals we can care for by increasing space at the shelter and giving animals the best possible place to wait until they find a loving home. It also provides the shelter with valuable information about that animal's true personality, which is not able to be learned by interactions in the shelter environment. Newborn kittens who cannot survive without round-the-clock feedings must be in a home with caregivers. Shy and frightened animals who need socializing don't do well in the noisy chaotic shelter atmosphere. Long-time residents of the shelter often need a break from the stress of life in a kennel day after day. Sometimes an animal needs time to recover from an illness or injury before adoption. Kittens and puppies need a foster home until they receive vaccinations and/or weigh enough to be spayed or neutered. Mother cats and



762
felines placed
in foster!

dogs need a quiet space to feed and care for their litter.

Living in a kennel or cage is a stressful existence for dogs. The noise and activity make it hard for most to relax. “Dogs who live in homes sleep approximately 14 hours each day, while dogs in shelters only sleep just under 11 hours each day. Trying to sleep in a shelter is like trying to sleep with noisy neighbors. You can't get in a good nap during the day.” explains Nancy Patton. Cortisol levels are directly related to stress. Fostering lowers a dog's cortisol immediately.

Prancer was a terrified little dog who hid under his bed in the shelter for over two weeks. He would allow no one to touch him without snarling and snapping and showed no signs of getting any better. After less than 5 minutes in his foster home, Prancer showed



Prancer in the shelter, hiding under his bed for 2 weeks

his true playful, loving self. Being in a home instead of the scary kennel allowed his true personality to emerge and provided a place for his new forever Mom to meet and fall in love with him.

In some cases, it is impossible for an animal to recover

from an injury or illness in the shelter and must be placed in a home for in order to recuperate or get healthy enough for surgery. “Knowing I have a safe, low stress, place to put cats and kittens that need medical treatment, or just a place to gain weight until they can be treated and then adopted is amazing,” says Kim Sunberg. Recently, four kittens, Sampson, Occi, Medusa, and Iris, needed a safe place to stay until they were big enough to have their infected



Prancer, now Alfie, with his forever mom Jeanine

eyes removed. Kim explains, *"Without a foster they would have ended up scared and lonely in a cage for a month until they were ready for surgery. Living with a foster they were well socialized and easily transitioned to their new homes afterwards."*

Fostering offers the one-on-one attention and loving comfort that only a home setting can offer, which is precisely what some animals need to heal either physically or mentally. **We are always looking to welcome new foster volunteers into the Animal Friends family—** it's the best way to expand the number of animals we can save in our community. You don't need previous animal experience to become a foster, just a love for animals and a willingness to learn. Regardless of the amount of time you can commit, there is a foster opportunity to fit your availability. Of course, there are some animals looking for a more long-term foster, but particularly for dogs, we're happy for you to foster even for a weekend getaway.

Welcome **Anna** to Animal Friends!

Meet our new Executive Director

*Anna
Friedman*



Originally a social worker, in 2007 I made the career leap from clinical therapist to Director of Volunteers and Community Outreach at Anderson Animal Shelter in South Elgin, Illinois. While working in that capacity I continued to stay connected with folks I had met through volunteering and in 2008 a small group of passionate, motivated and naïve 20-somethings founded One Tail at a Time. Initially a volunteer and foster based organization, in 2010 we were able to support our first staff person and I was honored to accept that role. Since that time the organization has grown exponentially, with an adoption center, veterinary clinic, gift boutique with adoptable free roaming cats and a behavioral and training center.

Moving to the Cincinnati area in December of 2017, I spent a year as the Shelter Director at newly formed Clermont Animal Care before parting ways to focus on the arrival of our son. After a few months out of the work world, I returned to a job in non-profit healthcare as the clinical operations manager. Though I loved the mission and my colleagues too, animal sheltering still had my heart. Seeing the posting for this role felt like kismet and though there may have been some twists and turns along the way, I am beyond thrilled to be a part of the future of an organization that is such a cornerstone in the community. It's already clear AFHS embodies the forward thinking mindset of minimizing barriers to adoption and pet ownership that made me passionate about this field in the first place and I'm grateful to be part of such a dynamic team of both staff and volunteers!

Interview with the #1 Butler County Dog, Turnip!



Name:
Turnip

Nickname:
Fat Toad

Age:
16ish

Breed:
Chihuahua Mix

Gender:
Female Spayed

Human:
Michele DeCresce

How did you become Turnip's Owner?

Originally found as a stray at approximately one year old, Turnip was originally adopted out and then in 2011 came back as an owner surrender. Michele's daughter saw Turnip while she was at one of our partner veterinarian's (Animal Care Center) and told Michele she wanted to adopt her for her 16th birthday. Having always had cats, Michele wasn't originally sold on the idea but after visiting with Turnip two more times she decided to seal the deal and on 9/3/2011 Michele officially adopted her at an Animal Friends Humane Society Labor Day event.

Any Siblings?

Turnip is lucky to have both canine and feline siblings plus an ever changing rotation of foster and overnight guests. Michele reports that Turnip does great with all of them!

How does it feel being the #1 dog in Butler County?

It feels great but believe it or not, this isn't Turnip's first time being honored with the title! This queen pulled out a hat trick as she was also the #1 dog in 2012 when she was a spry four year old and again in 2017 at the age of nine.

Favorite Things:

Turnip has never met a piece of food she didn't like. Though she is slowing down a bit with age and does like her naps, she also loves being outside--even on cold days.

Turnip's Legacy:

Some of you reading this may recognize Michele's name from her involvement in rescue, TNR, and other local animal advocacy but what you may not know is that Turnip was the catalyst for all of this. As Michele explained "my heart just opened in a different way" and ultimately that was what motivated her to become an integral part of the rescue community.

Your Donations at Work!



Daisy



Your donation changes the lives of animals like Daisy. This sweet girl came in because she needed a lifesaving surgery. She had never been spayed in all of her 12 years of life and so had a very infected uterus. Pyometra can be a life-threatening infection for an unaltered animal and is one of the many reasons that we advocate spaying and neutering every dog! Daisy's owner had recently passed away. The family member who took her in had fallen on hard times and couldn't afford or drive her where she needed to get the surgery.

We wanted to save Daisy's life, so of course, we immediately rushed her to an awesome vet that stayed open late to treat her. Not only that, Daisy was then adopted by that very same vet that saved her life!



Elmer



You may remember Elmer, the handsome black lab, dog warden brought in as a stray last September. He became very sick with pneumonia and needed more care than we could provide in the shelter and had to spend several days in the emergency hospital receiving 24-hour medical treatments. Elmer's situation was very grave for many weeks. We are happy to share that Elmer, now Gunnar, is currently living a happy healthy life with his forever family in Vermont!

Donate via Venmo or PayPal!



venmo



Without your generous donations, animals like Daisy and Elmer wouldn't have the happy ending that they are living!

The future is looking bright here at Animal Friends thanks to extremely generous supporters like the **Butler Aerie #407 Fraternal Order of Eagles!**

In September this fantastic organization donated a check for \$5,000! That money was able to cover a large portion of the new surgery light we recently put into our clinic! This light is instrumental in helping us care for the thousands of animals that come through our facility every year!



Thank you so much to Butler Aerie #407 Fraternal Order of Eagles and our other supporters that make the work we do possible!

Volunteers of the Month



Danielle Patton *September 2022*

Hi! I'm Danielle! I started volunteering in December of 2020. I've never had a dog of my own so I have lots of love to give each pup here at Animal Friends. I love taking the dogs on walks, hanging out in the real life room, and doing enrichment games. This summer I also enjoyed taking multiple dogs out on "doggie dates" so that they can have a break from the shelter. I'm so grateful to a part of the amazing team of volunteers at Animal Friends. There have been multiple volunteers that have helped me throughout my time here and I am beyond thankful to be able to work with them. Some of our awesome volunteers do not like being in the spotlight and would rather remain anonymous when receiving Volunteer of the Month recognition. We respect that and will not list our October and December 2022 VOMs. You know who you are and we truly appreciate everything you do!!!!



Monica Tennant *November 2022*

"Being a volunteer at Animal Friends has given me the opportunity to interact with the animals and help socialize them. I also enjoy assisting visitors interested in adopting a cat or dog. My daughters volunteer here too so coming to the shelter is a family experience. We have adopted two cats and one dog and wish we could adopt more! Volunteering at Animal Friends has been rewarding and satisfying and it is something I plan on doing for as long as I can. The photo is me and Finn, who we adopted in May 2018!"



Jackie Lorenz *January 2023*

"It's always great to know you make difference. I retired recently and decided to volunteer at the shelter so I talked my friend in to coming and walking the dogs with me. We both enjoy animals and can visit while walking dogs. Then I started spending time with the shelters cats and got into fostering the kittens. I also help out in the clinic's surgery area. When it was decided to take some of our cats to PetSmart I was happy to help so they all could find a forever home! Animals give unconditional love and they all deserve a family and home! All the staff and volunteers at the shelter are great with the animals, and so they should all be employees and volunteers of the month every month!"



Kathy Gianfagna *February 2023*

What an honor it is to be nominated for Volunteer of the Month! I've enjoyed being a volunteer at AFHS since 2016. I have three cats. Lilly and Willy are my fifteen-year-old rescues that I got as kittens, and Willy is my four-year-old foster fail. Thanks Kim! Now that I help in the surgery clinic, I can see how each animal is so well cared for by the great clinic staff. From the day they arrive at the shelter to the day they are adopted, they are treated so well. I always look forward to the Petmobile events I can do with Sarah and spending time there with the other volunteers and animal loving people is fun. I thank all the volunteers and staff for making each cat and dog feel loved."

Hearts that Care

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Tuffy and Fluffy Henry
Janice Chism
Andrea Niese
Marva Dawn Griffin
Margaret Wynn
Cliff Johnson
Sharon Haas
Angela Faucett

Barry Blomer
Leo Geiser
Debbi Fish
Millard Lakes
Adam Joseph Smith
Lou Ann Pfeiffer
Lisa Jones
Dante Hopper
Betty Hargraves

Ella Barker, beloved dog
Buttons
Murphy
Valerie and Mickey
Tank
Lexy
Lucy, bassett mix
Sherry Quick
Bentley Thompson
Ann Mowatt

Jack Armstrong

Sophia Mason
James Compton

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Angela Popp
Joann and Glenn Mills
Jenni Jacobs, John Smith, Brian Hasselbeck
Angela Spaeth
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Michael Mason
Karen Adams

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Eudie
Linus
Winston
Seymour
Bear
Morty
Lb
Diane Meeks
Isabel "Bizzy" Sophia
Wes
Victor Lassandro and Elmer Otto
Anna Mae Burkett

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John
Laura Smith
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Justin Tankersley & Bailey
Samuel D. Howard
Mary Kay Bartels

Sam
Lola, Chuck, Holly, Patches
Abby Sample
Cleveland Bay mare, Westerly
Adopted dog, Eli
Brownie and Babas
Shelter dog, Marty
Chloe and Bell
Kinley, Lindy, Rudy, Blondie
Lad
Sassy and Zac
Cedric
Champ and Tory
Callie

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Karen Shearer
Jalah Harris
Andrea Gemperle
John Quimby



Wishlist

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

Canned Kitten Food

Kitten Replacement Milk

Paper Towels

Trash bags

Toilet paper

Large Nylabones

Peanut butter



Amazon Wish List



Chewy Wish List

IN MEMORY OF

Wookie Walls
 Wylee
 Juanita
 Stella
 Emma
 Baden
 Wally
 Jasper
 All of our special animals
 Cash
 Khloe
 Gabby
 Ralphie
 Maddie
 Kirby and Springer
 Leo
 Bailey
 Dixie
 Sweet Charlie B
 Haku
 Cats: London and Pete
 Foster
 Wally
 Winchester
 Daisy
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 Cheyenne
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 Bubbles, Snoopy, Smokey, Biffy,
 Dempsey, Jade, Scruffy
 Fluffy
 All our four-legged friends
 Nickie
 Bentley
 Service dog, Oden
 Rizzi
 Valerie and Mickey
 Bailey
 All our pets
 Camden and Dusty
 Ruby
 Best buddy, Patch
 Honey and Candy Taggart
 Bo and Gus
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 Rio
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 Kitty
 Rosco
 Betty White
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 Hatchet
 Topsy Ebben
 Diane Niehaus
 Evan Fraser
 Ruth Burchfield
 Beth Tellep

IN HONOR OF

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 All furry kids
 Heather Proctor
 Ingrid and Penelope
 Rusty
 Thomas Carmichael
 Madison Bolling
 Coral Andrea – Birthday
 Celebration for Bill Turner and Becky Swartz

The Lydias
 Granger
 Sue Frazier's birthday
 Franco Delsignore
 Tom and Gina Helm Wedding
 Peyton and Emma Beals
 Anne Mills
 Sampson and Ream Families
 Allen J Baxter
 Bonded kitties, Tavi and Phoebe
 Doberman Jasper
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 Acuff Family – Merry Christmas
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 Mo

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Hearts that Care

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 Linda Schofield - Merry Christmas
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 Brad and Ginny Foster pup
 Pat and Randy Gray
 Stephen and Michael Brown
 Cooper Short
 Sophie
 David and Nanci Cash - Merry Christmas
 Wonderful neighbors who rescue Daniel Mader
 Mason and Rusty
 Niko Ruckh
 Meg Stephenson Mitchell
 for her devotion to animals
 Grizzly
 Judy Royle
 PJ, Angel, Patches
 Kona
 Bruno, Sergius, Damian, Alexander, Apollo
 Mick Trick

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Shelter Hours

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

W, Th
 12pm - 6pm

* Donations made as of 2.26.2023

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