



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

# Animal Tales



Alexis



Kelly



Cairo



Daffodil



Prancer



Kiko



Gilligan



Kevin



Bella



Jedi

*- In Appreciation -*

We would like to thank and recognize

**Meg Stephenson**

Animal Friends Humane Society  
Executive Director, 8/8/2008-2/17/2018

for your kindness,  
your compassion and  
your loving service.

Animal Friends  
Humane Society  
Hamilton, Ohio

## Our Sincere Thanks...

### Meg Stephenson

Animal Friends Humane Society  
Executive Director  
8/8/2008-2/17/2018

When I met Meg Stephenson for the first time, I thought, "Wow - she must be something to be so young yet

so knowledgeable to take on what I considered to be a monumental task..."

Meg came to Animal Friends during a very busy and exciting time for the shelter. The passage of Issue 12 - money for a shelter was becoming a reality - and she was in charge! In charge of the old shelter - the new shelter and all of the pieces of the puzzle that had to fit perfectly into place.

It was a new beginning for Meg, a new beginning for AFHS, a new home for the animals and, for Meg, a new "personal mission" to raise awareness about animal welfare in Butler County like never before!

For nearly ten years, Meg reached out to everybody and anybody to promote the shelter - radio - TV - special fundraising events - and everything in between to raise money to keep the shelter running at peak performance... AND SHE DID!

Nothing is born without pain and strength and of course, love - and these are all things we are grateful that Meg possessed and shared with all of the Animal Friends Humane Society family.

We all know your new path will be filled with the wonders the world has in store for you, but please know we are honored to have been a part of your path...

Meg's Party... on page 3

- Denise & your AFHS family!

## Forever homes...



After spending 250 days in the shelter watching dog after dog leave with their new families, today was finally Jedi's day to be ADOPTED!! We are beyond excited for Jedi and his new mom. Happy Gotcha Day, Jedi!



Shi Shi is pictured with his new family. Congrats to their new family members! Have a wonderful life, Shi Shi!



Congratulations! Mikey Thomas is Butler County's #1 Doggie! ...see pg 2





Bolt

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Bobby

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



**Butler County #1 Dog**

by Meg Stephenson

**Mikey Thomas**

**NAME:** Mikey Thomas.  
He is named after his Uncles, Melissa's two brothers.

**NICKNAME:** Mikey for short.  
Oompa Loompa when he's moving a little slower.

**BREED:** German Shepherd/Collie Mix  
**AGE:** 17 years old.      **GENDER:** Neutered Male  
**OWNERS:** Melissa and Ray Sherman

**HOW DID THEY BECOME MIKEY'S OWNER:** He was a stray found in Liberty Township. He had been seen around their home for several weeks. At first, he wouldn't approach anyone. The Butler County Dog Wardens were contacted, and they came out to try to catch him. Unfortunately they weren't successful. Melissa began feeding Mikey Thomas, trying to build his trust. She and her other dog at the time, Bandit, would go outside with food and would try to befriend Mikey Thomas. This went on for about a month. Melissa would put the food closer and closer to her front door, and Mikey Thomas would come closer and closer to eat it. Then one day, he decided to follow Bandit through the front door into the house. That was that. He was home, and he wasn't going anywhere. Once he knew where he belonged, it didn't take long at all for his confidence to shine through. It was as if he knew he could trust his new family. He is completely reliable off-leash, wanting nothing more than to be with his people.

**HOW LONG HAVE THEY HAD MIKEY THOMAS:** 15 years.

**ANY SIBLINGS:** Baxter Oliver, a 7 year old Border Collie/Spaniel mix and Max Finnigan, a 10 year old Great Pyrenees. Baxter was rescued from an Amish Puppy Mill in Northern Ohio. Max was adopted through National Great Pyrenees rescue after his father passed away from Cancer. Any more siblings in the future: None right now, but the Sherman's plan to continue fostering animals in need. They also take part in overnight transports for animals traveling to other rescue groups around the country.

**FAVORITE TREAT:** Chicken and ham!

**FAVORITE TOY:** He has a stuffed Rudolph that he likes. He prefers stuffed toys, and will carry them around the house. If he could have his pick though, he prefers treats over toys!

**FAVORITE THINGS TO DO:** He takes short walks now due to his older age, and he loves to bark at the UPS driver and the mailman. Around the holidays, Mikey likes to dress up and pass out Christmas gifts to the neighbors. He also enjoys wearing hats and posing for photo sessions with his mom.

**SPECIAL TRICKS:** Every morning he will pull the covers off of the bed to get Melissa's attention. If Melissa is working from home,

he will grab the table cloth and give it a tug to get her attention as well.

**HOW DOES MIKEY THOMAS FEEL ABOUT BEING THE #1 DOG IN BUTLER COUNTY:** He is honored and happy and proud.

**MIKEY'S ADVICE TO PET OWNERS:** Spay/neuter and adopt, don't shop. There are too many homeless animals out there. All of the Sherman fur-kids have been rescues.

**UNIQUE QUALITY:** He is very loyal to his family, both people and animals. A couple years ago, Ray was building a retaining wall in the back yard. Mikey Thomas refused to leave his side. He stuck around the entire time Ray was working on it. Mikey certainly wasn't going to let anything happen to him on his watch. Another time about seven years ago, the Sherman's lived behind a golf course. Mikey Thomas and Bandit were outside one evening, and all of a sudden the Sherman's heard a distinctly unique alert bark coming from Mikey. They immediately ran to the back door and saw three coyotes surrounding Mikey and Bandit. Bandit was older at the time, and Mikey jumped in to protect him. Mikey ended up getting bitten on his back leg, requiring staples from the veterinarian. The coyotes took off after hearing the Sherman's come outside, but Bandit's fate would have certainly been different had Mikey not been there and alerted his family. Additionally, he is really good with the animals that stay overnight during transports. He watches over them and ensures they are safe and not getting into any trouble. He really gets along with everybody, both human and dog.



**THOUGHTS FROM THE OWNER:** Melissa decided to bid on the #1 dog tag to help the animals in need. Additionally, she wanted to have the opportunity to brag about her #1 boy (don't we all brag about our fur-kids!).



# Thanks Meg!

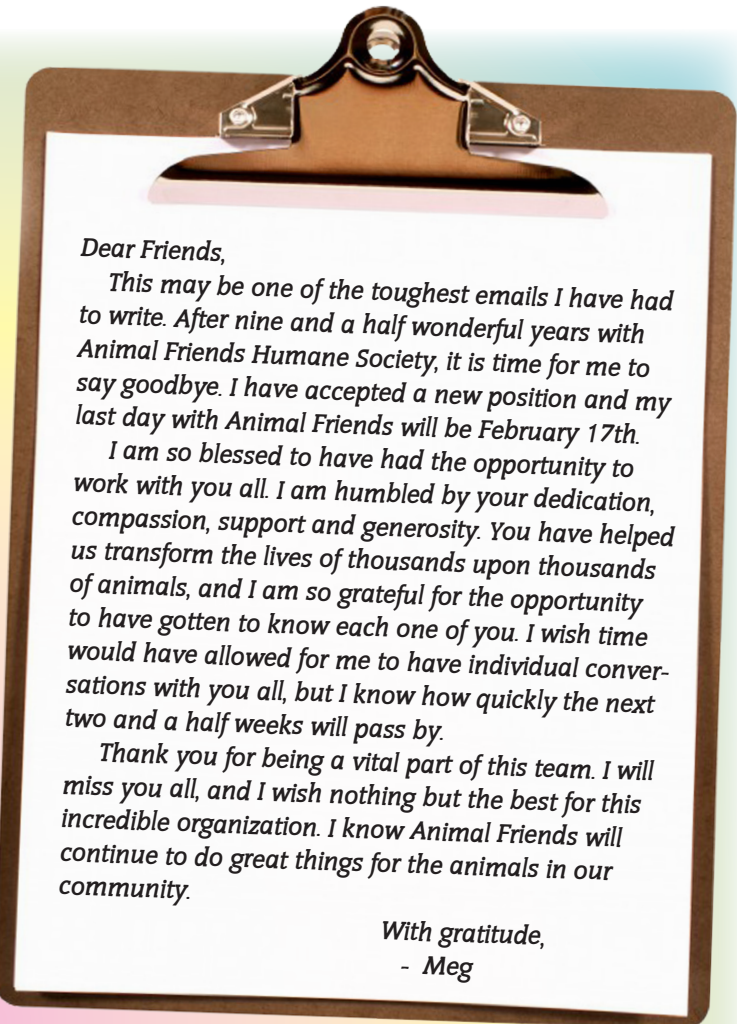


## Passing the Torch



Rick Fox and Meg pass the torch to Interim Director & Operations Manager, Tara Bowser, who will be running the shelter while we are looking for a new Director.

Thank you Tara!



Dear Friends,

This may be one of the toughest emails I have had to write. After nine and a half wonderful years with Animal Friends Humane Society, it is time for me to say goodbye. I have accepted a new position and my last day with Animal Friends will be February 17th.

I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to work with you all. I am humbled by your dedication, compassion, support and generosity. You have helped us transform the lives of thousands upon thousands of animals, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to have gotten to know each one of you. I wish time would have allowed for me to have individual conversations with you all, but I know how quickly the next two and a half weeks will pass by.

Thank you for being a vital part of this team. I will miss you all, and I wish nothing but the best for this incredible organization. I know Animal Friends will continue to do great things for the animals in our community.

With gratitude,  
- Meg



# great adoption SUCCESS STORIES

SHARED BY  
TARA BOWSER



## MILKY

I know you all see some horrible and sad situations involving pets being abandoned, hurt, sick and rejected... so I wanted to send you a quick email to THANK YOU for all you do within our county. We adopted our sweet boy over 3 years ago from you and love him so incredibly much. His addition has been such a blessing to our family and we are so grateful for your facili-

ty!! He fills our home with laughter day in and day out with his big personality. Just know even with all the sadness you see each day, you are certainly creating more happy endings than you will ever know for all these animals! I can't remember what you named our cat there, but here is our "Milky" (our 3 year-old named him). Our HUGE 23 lb boy with a personality to fit his size! Lol! - Amanda



## LUNA

ADOPTION UPDATE... from Luna, the 8-week-old Goldendoodle. We were so excited when we found the perfect home for the Holidays for this sweet pup. A big THANKS to her family for choosing adoption.



## ALAN

ADOPTION UPDATE: We have fostered many dogs over the years and was able to adopt them out. But this guy we kept. We even kept his silly name Alan. - Kelly



## ELLIE

I adopted Ellie from Animal Friends a little over a year ago (she was Kansas at the shelter) and just thought you guys might like an update. She loves hiking and camping with my family - her favorite

place is the dog park! Thank you so much for everything you guys did to take care of her and find her a new loving home! I always tell people who are looking for pets to check out Animal Friends first. - Kaylie





# The 13th Annual Bark 'n' Purr Ball



Every year, Animal Friends' largest annual fundraiser seems to get bigger and better - don't ask me how - it just does!

And when it falls on St. Patrick's Day it always seems to take this super fun event up another notch! Maybe it is the 'green beer' - the 'green outfits' - and plenty of 'GREEN' made for the animals that pass through AFHS on their way to their special forever home! The event always seems to fly by with so many fun activities and games and friend 'reunions' from past Bark'n'Purr Balls. It's always fun to see 'first-timers' with their eyes wide open when they see all of the wonderful items to bid on!



Of course, every great event just 'happens' - YEAH!!! We don't realize that every day of the year fundraisers are constantly watching for perfect Bark'n'Purr goodies. The AFHS Fundraising Committee turns their ideas into an over-the-top reality year after year to benefit the animals. This extremely hard-working group of volunteers are what make the Bark'n'Purr the yearly success it has become! Next year's event is scheduled for March 16th.



Sincere thanks to all of our very generous donors and volunteers who make the "Bark'n'Purr" a very special event!

There were big winners at our "Lucky 13th" Bark'n'Purr... and of course, the biggest winners are the animals who end up with the greatest gift of all - their very own Forever Home...



## Special Thanks to our Bark'n'Purr Sponsors







# Hearts *that* Care

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# Hearts that Care ...continued from page 6

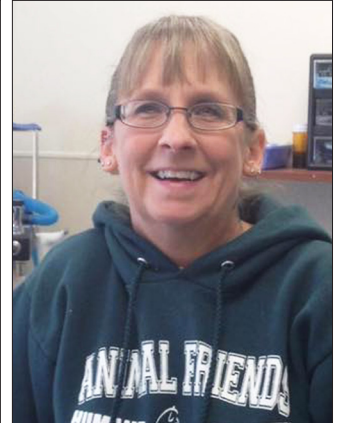
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 Andre Williams . . . . . William Cooley  
 Hines (aka Knox when adopted) . . . Mandy Hess  
 Jon Karlsson . . . . . Dawn Knochenmuss  
 Mr. Big & Yum Yum . Dawn Knochenmuss  
 Santa . . . . . Seth Hodge  
 Corey . . . . . Ron & Naomi Carr  
 Jennifer Goris . . . . . Vicki Rankin  
 Nancy Bender . . . Maggie, Biscuit & Dee

# NATIONAL VET TECH WEEK



Haniah, our Veterinary Assistant, and Susan, our Registered Veterinary Technician & Clinic Coordinator, are vital members of our team! They assist with the care & spay/neuter of thousands of animals annually!

*Advancing Veterinary Nursing and Veterinary Technology*

## Animal Friends Humane Society

# GREAT NEW SUMMER EVENT!

2nd Annual

# Ales for Tails

Saturday, August 11, 2018



on the River in Hamilton



## Opie & Jesse

Opie and Jesse are two of the many Animal Friends Humane Society cats adopted at the Kitty Brew Cat Cafe in Mason. We are so excited for this new opportunity to showcase our adoptable feline friends. Stop by and pay them a visit. We will have adoptable feline friends on site along with other rescues.



6011 Tylersville Rd  
 Mason, Ohio  
 Call (513) 818-2287  
 @kittybrewcafe

# our Wish List

1) Canned Cat & Kitten Food

2) Powdered Laundry Detergent

3) Liquid Laundry Detergent

4) Cardboard Trays

The trays that hold canned goods, etc. We use these as disposable litter boxes

5) Postage Stamps

6) Copy Paper

7) Bleach

8) Gas Cards for PetMobile

...and goodies for our staff!







# Thanks Nancy!

Nancy Bender's time here with us was far too short. In October of 2017 this world lost one of the most extraordinary people I have ever met. The pain of this loss will be lessened however, by the unforgettable memories we have and share of Nancy's life and love.

*Beyond the memories I will cherish, Nancy has taught me invaluable lessons that I will carry with me throughout the rest of my life.*

- **The true meaning of Compassion.** Nancy was a giver, a care-taker, a listener, and a provider. She also was extremely passionate. Passion for animal welfare and passion for Animal Friends. She had a way with words. Many of you have read pieces written by Nancy. We were privileged to share her gift with others through her stories and articles featured in "Animal Tales", our organization's Newsletter. Her passion was undeniably present in the words she shared.
- **Strength amidst daunting circumstance.** Nancy was such an incredibly tough person. Such a fighter. She overcame so much and I am inspired by her unwavering might.
- **Selflessness.** Nancy would put others always before herself, no matter what.
- **Positivity.** In every photo you will ever see of Nancy, her smile radiates through it. Her positive energy was palpable, and it was impossible to be in her presence and not feel it.
- **Live in the moment, and dance like nobody's watching!**

*I am so thankful to have had known and loved this beautiful soul. I look forward to a dance when we see each other again...*

- Meg Stephenson



## ANIMAL FRIENDS HUMANE SOCIETY *lovingly salutes volunteer* **NANCY BENDER** 10.30.56 TO 10.19.17



**Take flight purest soul and make heaven a better place as you have done here on Earth.**  
**Peace be with you forever.**  
...Ken Bender



**ANIMAL FRIENDS HUMANE SOCIETY** **Puppy Bowl 2018**

**PUPPY BOWL**

★ **BOOMER** ★    ★ **TEDDY** ★    ★ **BUBBLES** ★

**ADOPT  
VOLUNTEER  
DONATE**

**Check our Wish List, Updates, Volunteer Orientations & Events!  
For current AFHS info, go to: [www.animalfriendshs.org](http://www.animalfriendshs.org)**

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

**ANIMAL FRIENDS**  
Humane Society

1820 Princeton Road • Hamilton, Ohio 45011  
(513) 867-5727    [www.animalfriendshs.org](http://www.animalfriendshs.org)

**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.**