



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



Animal Tales



ANNIE



PONCHO



LIL BIT



SADIE



NANCY



BOBBY



OTTO

Keeping up with AFHS

By: Ashlyn Varacalli

While COVID-19 has caused some businesses to slow down, we've been as busy as ever here at Animal Friends!

We had to get creative and shift the way we typically operate in order to continue to serve our community and our critters the best that we could amidst the pandemic.

Initially, when we were able to reopen our doors, we were operating by appointments only. When we officially reopened to the public, we needed to put procedures and protocols in place to ensure safe social distancing between staff members, volunteers, and our community members while encouraging mask wearing and proper hand sanitizing. We knew this would be a large feat to tackle, but we were ready to be open once again! Despite facing the many unknowns that would inevitably come with being open during a pandemic, we continued to take in animals in need.

Continued on page 2



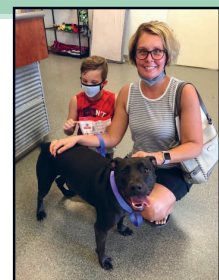
HUGE shoutout to Big Daddy Dumpsters for donating a dumpster for stall cleanup!



#ForeverHomes



Congrats to these dogs who found their Forever Homes on National Dog Day! Left to right—Leo, Wells & Daphne with their new families!





MONIQUE



JAXSON

AFHS

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Many of these animals were suffering at the hands of their owners, like Dana. Dana, a black pitbull, was emaciated and dehydrated when she was found. Being placed in a loving foster home that provided Dana with a peaceful place to recover was exactly what this sweet girl needed. Even though Dana has gone blind because her diabetes was not properly treated, she is continuing to gain weight and is ready to share her life with a new family.

Bandit (a.k.a. Hank) is another animal who was wrongfully hurt by the hands who were supposed to care for him. Hank suffered from a fractured leg after being slammed to the ground by his owner. This abuse was reported by a concerned neighbor, and thankfully, healing hands were there to take Hank in. His foster/adoptive family devoted the love and attention to him that he so desperately needed. This black lab puppy was given a safe place to recover from the many procedures he needed as a result of the abuse he endured.



Over the summer, we were faced with a heartbreaking backyard breeding case. We rescued four German Shepherds from an owner who was overwhelmed and unable to keep up with the sale of the dogs. When they were brought to Animal Friends, these dogs were terrified and severely undersocialized. Our staff and volunteers invested their time and love into socializing these dogs and helping them to build trust and healthy connections with people.

One of the most unique cases that we have ever taken on was a cruelty case involving 5 horses. The previous owner of these horses allowed them to live in unfathomable conditions. They were confined to a barn that lacked proper air circulation, were without food and water, and did not receive much needed medical attention. We received tremendous support from our community who selflessly devoted their time and efforts to help us care for the horses and move them to a safe location. We were eventually awarded custody of newly named Scarlett Johansson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Matthew McConaughey, and Channing Tatum. Scarlett, Matthew, and Channing have been adopted by wonderful families who have experience caring for horses and are prepared to take good care of their new companions. Currently, Brad and Leo are looking for the same!

We've definitely been busy since we officially reopened! As always, our team at Animals Friends will continue to be busy saving lives and advocating for those without a voice- our animals.

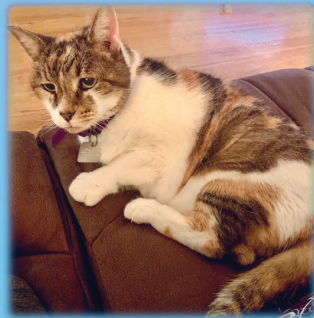


great adoption Success Stories



Yaya:

I just wanted to give you a Yaya update—She hid the entire weekend I brought her home, then Sunday night she came strolling out like she'd been here forever! She's taken over the house & my heart! She's loving her canned food, CBD oil & cosequin. She actually enjoys catnip, laser lights & a couple toys. Besides curling up on my lap & napping, she likes watching the squirrels play on the porch through the glass door. She also has a new bling collar with a sparkly tag, a large nightlight with fake swimming fish in it and a geriatric height kitty condo. Amazon loves us! Thanks for letting me be her new mom & spoil her the rest of her earthly days!



Frankie:

My son and his girlfriend adopted a dog from Animal Friends back in January.....he is a little stinker, but so cute! They named him Frankie, and today was his 2nd birthday, so they made him a dog-friendly cake and gave him some new toys.



Maggie:

We got an amazing update on a puppy that was adopted from us 7 years ago! She is currently living her best life! This is what her mom had to say about her experience of adopting Magnolia – now named Maggie! "At 8:06 p.m. on May 25th, 2013, I saw this puppy posted on the AFHS webpage. Once I saw this picture, I knew this was my girl. I set my alarm for the next morning, drove 45 minutes to the shelter, and was waiting at the door when they opened. I then came upon her kennel, where she sat quietly at the front, looking at me and wagging, not making a sound. I knew right away that this was my girl, but the shelter staff told me to take her into a play room to get to know one another. The rest, as they say, is history. We've done so much together over the past seven years — road trips, trips to Petsmart and getting ice cream, going to Opening Day parades and watching fireworks on the banks of the Ohio River, snuggling on rainy days and sunbathing on nice ones. To my girl who is always up for anything, my sidekick, the best decision I ever made, and my best friend: Happy Gotcha Day Maggie - Mommy loves you so very much!"

Izzie:

I just wanted to give you an update on Rue (now named Izzie). Izzie stole my heart the second I saw her! She is such a sweet girl. She may not be the best employee when it comes to working from home, but she is definitely great at distracting me and giving lots of cuddles! She loves to play ball, take walks/ runs, go to the park and just be silly by running in circles on the bed and jumping on me. Izzie claimed her side of the bed immediately after walking in the house. I appreciate everything you have done for her! I have, and plan to stay in touch with foster mom (we now call "step-mom") because she is a huge person in Izzie's life and came to the rescue when she needed love the most.



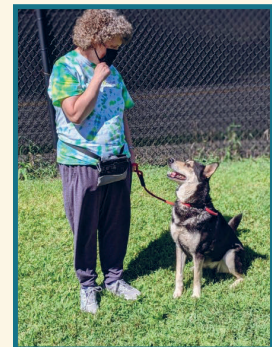
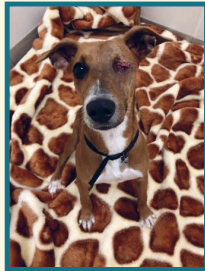
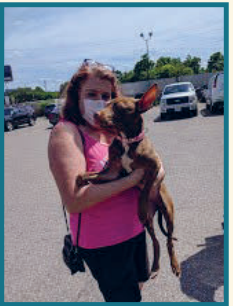
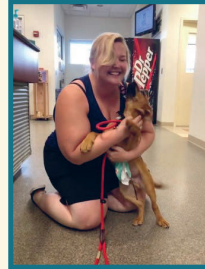
Animal Friends Reaching Out

By: Tara Bowser and Ashlyn Varacalli

Every animal deserves a chance, whether they're located in Butler County or not. When we have space at our shelter, we will send a team of staff members, volunteers, and/or board members to transport animals to Animal Friends who may be in danger of being euthanized due to overcrowding. These animals have been transported from struggling rural county shelters in Indiana as well as Cincinnati Animal CARE, who recently took over as the county shelter for Cincinnati.

All shelters, no matter their name or location, have a common goal- to do right by the animals they take in. Working as a team to help this goal come to fruition is what rescuing animals is all about- whether that means helping to transport animals, donating a surplus of necessary supplies to shelters in need, or countless other ways shelters use outreach to support one another. Tara Bowser, Shelter Director, has this to say about our Transport Program and the Outreach we do:

“Before we were blessed with our new shelter, Animal Friends operated out of a run-down facility in Trenton, Ohio. There was never a time when we weren't packed full of animals, and desperate for help from anyone who would offer it. We relied heavily on rescue groups to come and pull animals from us to help make room for the thousands that would come in behind them. Our hard work over the years, new building, and support from our community have allowed us the opportunity to pay it forward and help struggling shelters who are in the same position that we were once in. At the end of the day, we're all in this together.”



Pictured: Dogs transported out of rural shelters, their adoptions, and our staff, board and volunteers visiting the new Cincinnati Animal CARE.

ON BOARD WITH THE BOARD



MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS!



GREG VARACALLI— PRESIDENT: I've never known life without a dog. When I moved to Ohio, I adopted a Greyhound named Wags who would eventually become my best friend. I was never a cat person until our neighbor found a 3 week old kitten in the middle of winter and said they would just leave her outside. My wife and I took the kitten in and insisted we'd find her a good home. That good home ended up being our own. I first got involved with AFHS when we had our family restaurant, Anthony's, and we started an annual golf outing in support of the shelter. My whole family is heavily invested in the success of Animal Friends- from volunteering at the Bark n' Purr Ball and for Carol's Canine Companions, fostering special needs animals and animals needing extra love to prepare them for adoption, and donating all that we can. I became a board member in 2018, and president in 2020. My vision for the board is that we have a very active role in supporting our shelter and I am grateful to be able to lead this group of dedicated individuals in pursuit of this mission.

LINDA DUNAWAY— BOARD MEMBER: I'm so excited to be a new member on the Animal Friends' Board! I have been a volunteer at Animal Friends for many years. With the support of my family, I have fostered many dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens. I especially enjoy fostering mother dogs with puppies and finding them forever homes. It has been great to be part of the positive impact Animal Friends has made on the animals in our area. This is the first time in my life that I've had only one dog. Boomer came to Animal Friends as a puppy who I took home to foster. I fostered him and spent a lot of 1:1 time training and working through his challenges. During this time, we became best friends and now he and I are looking for a four-legged friend for him. In addition to fostering, I also volunteer in the clinic and am part of the fundraising committee. I can't remember my life before being a volunteer at Animal Friends and I'm looking forward to my time on the board.



KATHLEEN MILLER— BOARD MEMBER: I grew up around veterinary medicine, working at a small clinic in Northeastern Ohio as a kennel worker and later as an animal health technician through college. Because we lived on a farm, our family was gifted—quite often—with lost or “dumped” dogs and cats. I am so grateful to have had parents that always took them in. Both experiences created a strong empathy for pet shelters and a need to support their efforts on behalf of abandoned and abused animals. Professionally, I am a freelance writer and copy editor. (Great job when you want to travel!) My husband Steve and I have been West Chester residents since 1988. In 2002, a neighbor called asking me to please take a stray cat trying to break into her family room. That beautiful cat was unchipped, quite ill, and pregnant. She was our first foster and triggered a thing—we are currently fostering our seventh stray cat and her kittens. In addition, to an embarrassing number of house cats (including all of the unadopted mothers and a few previously feral kittens) we have two Shetland Sheepdogs from Precious Secrets Sheltie Rescue and an Australian Shepard, a “temporary foster” situation that failed before we made it back to our driveway. Every homeless pregnant cat, every neighborhood notice for a stray or lost dog underscores the need for the compassionate care offered by Animal Friends Humane Society. My goal as a board member is to help AFHS do what it does best and make that easier in any way I can.

NOT PICTURED: BETSY FORMAN, PAUL LEWANDOWSKI, STACIE STITSINGER

Animal Friends Humane Society
Volunteer
 of the month

AUGUST 2020



Rhonda Cupp

Congratulations to Rhonda Cupp! Rhonda has been fostering kittens with us since

2017! She has fostered over 90 litters/single kittens in that time! We thank Rhonda for her time she puts into caring for the little ones and look forward to years of fostering to come with her! "I've raised quite a few stray kittens over the years, the latest when I found two tiny sweet babies under a tarp all alone in my yard back on Mother's Day in 2017. This was shortly after we lost our sweet 16 yr. old cat, Bandit (who was born with only 3 legs). It was such fun raising them and watching them grow, it got me to thinking about how I could help other abandoned animals. I got to searching for local organizations that work with pets, which is how I came to know about Animal Friends. I called them up one day and said "Hey, do you ever need help with kittens?" And that was where it began, and I've been fostering kittens ever since, with the help of my husband Rob and our 3 dogs, Dasher, Dixie & Lily. Animal Friends does an amazing job rescuing animals and providing them with care, loving homes, and a voice. I'm so happy to be part of the work they are doing. If you have a heart for animals, they need your help too! Call or visit their website to find out how to be involved ~ I know you'll be glad you did!"



JUNE 2020

Hannah Smuda

Congratulations to Hannah, who has been volunteering for us since October of 2019! "Hello, my name is Hannah, and I have been volunteering since October of 2019. As long as I can remember I have had a soft heart for animals. If I had the option, I would adopt

every single little furry bundle of joy. We are quite happy with our Golden Retriever, little Border Collie, two turtles, three chickens, and four bunnies. All of these adorable members of our family bring so much joy to our lives. When I was 14, I heard about volunteering opportunities at AFHS. I wanted to sign up then, however I learned that I had to be at least 16 years of age. On my 16th birthday I went and filled out an application. I was eager to begin. On the first few days I was nervous of messing up, but thanks to my parents' support and kindness of other volunteers and staff, I am slowly settling into the community. When an opportunity came to volunteer for surgery, I wanted to gather information instead of working only for hours. I am now interested in a medical career working in the clinic. My time in the shelter has grown my passion for animals further, and I am grateful to be a volunteer."



JULY 2020

Debbie Gerstner

Debbie has been volunteering with us November of 2017. She spends her time walking our dogs! Over her time of volunteering with us, she has

committed 359:58 hours! We thank Debbie for her time she gives to our dogs and look forward to years to come with her! "My name is Debbie Gerstner. I am honored to have been chosen as the volunteer of the month. I am a high school science teacher and have been spending my free time outside of school volunteering at Animal Friends for almost 3 years now. I live in Fairfield with my husband and our dog Shadow. We have two sons that are 19 and 22 that are both students at OSU. I spend most of my time at AFHS walking the adoptable dogs, but have also gone on a few Petmobile trips and to My Furry Valentine events. I have always been a "dog person" and I love spending time with all of the pups, helping them find new forever homes. It is so rewarding to see the shy dogs come out of their shells and learn to trust us. My very spoiled dog is named Shadow for a reason; he literally follows me everywhere I go. He was my first rescue pup. He and his litter mates were left with their mama at another shelter in Indiana nine years ago. He has been my sidekick ever since. We walk for miles in the woods of Harbin Park together! I have also enjoyed getting to know the staff at AFHS and spending time with the other volunteers. The group of volunteers is like having a big extended family! I am so happy to be part of the AFHS family and look forward to continuing my volunteer service with all of you for many years to come!"

OUR WISH LIST

- 1) SCOOPABLE CAT LITTER
 - 2) BREEDERS EDGE KITTEN FORMULA
 - 3) CANNED CAT FOOD
 - 4) SOFT DOG TREATS
 - 5) GAS GIFT CARDS
 - 6) POSTAGE STAMPS
- ...AND GOODIES FOR OUR WONDERFUL STAFF!

Check our Wish List, Updates, Volunteer Orientations & Events!

For current Animal Friends info, go to:

www.animalfriendshs.org



ADOPT
 VOLUNTEER
 DONATE

Hearts that care...

IN MEMORY OF DONATED BY

Amy Varacalli's father.....Ernest Spruill
 Richard (Dick) Cange.....Elizabeth End,
 Julie Samons, Morris Solomon,
 John Downey, Darlene Shaffer,
 Dennis and Jean Craft, Mickey Samons,
 Karen Donner, Joe Parsons,
 Duke Highfield and partners of YCR Law
 (Phyllis Walterhouse)
 Eleanor "Duffy" Stephens.....Wilda Clements,
 Mary Boyd
 Joyce Reis-Ackerson.....Sarah Squeri,
 Steve and Alice Gabbard and family
 Wilbur Cohen.....Sharon Alford
 Mary Puska Smith.....Ronald Puska
 Brian Dulle.....Darrel Rutherford, Sr.
 Luis Silva.....Beverly M. O'Flaherty,
 Judy Florio, Tim & Janet Gates,
 Howard & Nancy Weinberg,
 Steve & Jolaina Hartman,
 David Weinberg, Lorrie & Andrew Meyer,
 the Fox family (Gordon, Janet, Greg and
 Michelle (Miller) Fox)
 Terri Sue Price.....Marylyn Eggleston,
 Nancy Mitchell, Kris Keener Gregor
 Phyllis McGuire.....Rhonda Hubbard,
 Joyce Vaughn, Mary Owens, Teryl Talley
 BMC Henrique Couto, U.S.N., Ret. D.....Carol
 Couto
 Becky.....Connie Winne
 Duke.....Rich Walburg
 Bear.....Kate Petronis
 Rescued Doberman.....Jessica Bird
 Abygail.....Glenn & Betty Julian
 Susan Young's dog, Chaz...Timothy & Donna
 Darnell
 Cosmo.....Karen & Matt Fuchs
 Binx.....David & Rosa Schwartz
 Pug, Chewie.....Raymond & Deborah Weeks
 Marz.....Gayle Davis
 Charlotte Bonnie.....K.M.Hale
 Nikki.....Nancy Anderson
 Beloved dog, Brandy.....Beth Mason
 Rudie.....Christine Meer
 Casey, soft-coated Wheaten terrier.....
 Paulette McCandless
 Miss Kitty.....Constance Wyatt
 Granddog, Lola.....Sue Sowder
 Zach, a bishipoo.....Joan Crane
 Stuff and Dutchess.....Carole & J.B. Little
 Beloved black lab mix, Lucy.....Joan Crane,
 Carolyn Soupene
 Isabella.....Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Walker
 Willow.....Russ & Karen Obermeyer
 All their schnauzers....David & Billie Jo Spicer
 Bailey.....Doris Tuthill
 Chloe.....Karen & Matt Fuchs
 AJ.....Karen & Matt Fuchs
 Great dog, Philly.....Marian Frederick
 Pearl.....Jim Korb
 Chris Robinson.....Patricia A. Anthony

3-legged cat, Nemo.....Robin Matson
 Ty.....Judith & Stephen Gostowski
 Kitty Teddy.....Dann Anderson
 Brynny Kontul.....Carol Kontul
 Chas.....Courtney Parker
 Buckeye.....Jeffrey Thullen
 Kimberly Reynolds.....Erin Gerry
 Lavada Grubbs.....Billie Grubbs
 Dr. Donald "Rock" Alford.....Robert &
 Sharon Medlock, M.C. Schellenbach
 Mr. Robert Weekley.....Robert & Sharon
 Medlock
 Marg Miller.....Suzanne Dulaney
 Devoted Volunteer, Katie Strong.....Marjorie
 Ullman
 Irene Ryan.....Jennifer Vaughan
 & the MJW Companies,
 Vickie Short & ORAU Team
 Anamae Griffin.....Cindy Burke
 Glenna Morris, loving mom & grandmother..
 Teresa Mitchiner
 Dachshund Missi.....Aristea Argeros
 Walter Nephew.....Mary Ellen Nephew
 French.....Dick & Ervena Weingartner
 Pandora.....Michael Jones
 Nahla Dirks.....Sara Porter
 Elizabeth Murphy.....Cathi & John Gorman
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 Gloria Harris.....Maci Shoffstall
 Marylou Beddow.....Melissa Lobough
 William Williams.....Mrs. Pat Williams
 Diane Pfeiffer.....Regina Goller
 Albert D'Alessandro.....Carolyn Mallinger
 Tilly Hammann.....Heather Lamarca
 Parker James.....Katie Kennedy
 Skunk, a cat.....Martha Brown
 Gracie.....Chris Grimes
 Nikki.....Tim & Diane Meeks
 Shadow.....Karen Barber
 Tess, a beautiful lab.....Carol Thomas
 Dojo.....Ellen Popazivanov
 Baby Lola.....Mady & Blake Voiles
 Hollyanne.....Joan Kasfir
 Dodger.....The Driver Family
 Brillo Chin.....The Saechao Family
 Gordon.....Duncan Henderson
 Best dog ever, Rusty.....Jennifer
 Greenwell-Berry
 Pixie.....Deborah Speed

IN HONOR OF DONATED BY

Nancy Ayers.....Christopher Ayers
 Claire "Paint Supplies" Willis.....Jackie Boyer
 Lorraine & Bruce Benskin.....J. Benskin
 (TEM, LLC)
 Winnie (formerly Roxy).....Alexis Hill
 Evan Dramis' high school graduation....Chuck
 & Lynn Rist
 Beagle Rescue, Honey.....Richard Watson
 Hazel.....Megan Duskey
 Angel Lagoe's special birthday...Lynne Siegel
 Onyx the cat (formerly Gangster).....Cynthia
 Schoolcraft

Alainna Jackson.....Andrew Nichols
 Lou.....Marikate & Robert Carter
 Ken Vordem Esche and dog, Booker.....Janet
 Schehr
 Hershey cat, Charley beagle.....Patricia
 Sizemore
 Bruce, fostered pit bull.....Patricia Sizemore
 Adopted terrier, April.....Mary Ellen Nephew
 Bella.....Edith Panozzo
 Molly.....James & Sheila Poynter
 Her "Furry friends".....Barbara Windholtz
 Scott Faucett's birthday.....Krissy Dyehouse
 Eli's birthday.....Erika & John Tawning
 Dixie.....Jeff Millner
 Tom Carmichael.....Ashley Ebersole
 Lil Fesperman & Nancy Meeker.....Ashley
 Ebersole
 Leonard Kuertz.....Gregory Kuertz
 Mallory, Steve and Ollie.....Kristie Roberts

DONATIONS, DONATIONS, DONATIONS!

By: Tara Bowser & Ashlyn Varacalli

Want to know where your donated items go? Most of the time, items donated to the shelter are used and enjoyed by the pets in our Adoption Program. AFHS also receives

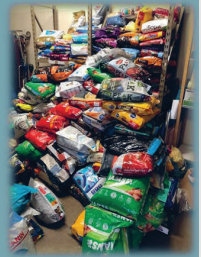
donations from local businesses and/or supporters which may not be needed by our shelter pets. This pet merchandise is offered at a discounted price in our front lobby.

The money raised by selling these items goes right back into funding the various programs that AFHS offers to our community.

Extra items that can't be sold or used by our shelter directly are given to families in need as part of our Pet Food Pantry.

AFHS' Pet Food Pantry was started with a mission to keep pets with their families. We believe that no one should have to face the difficult decision of having to surrender their pet because they are

unable to purchase food for them. This program is offered 7 days a week on a first come, first serve basis for those in need. Food donations for both cats and dogs are always welcome. Your donations are what helps keep this vital program up and running!



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



Paws to Celebrate



ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

September 28 - October 4

All proceeds benefit local animals in need.
Bid online at www.animalfriendshs.org/PawsToCelebrate

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.

SIT...STAY...SMILE!

HOLIDAY PET PHOTOS!

Saturday, November 21
and
Sunday, November 22
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Animal Friends Humane Society
1820 Princeton Road
Hamilton, OH 45011

NEW DATE
March 20, 2021

THANK YOU to our Sponsors!

BLACK FRIDAY ADOPTION SPECIAL

November 27, 2020
11:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Adopt . . . don't shop!

\$25 ADOPTIONS
on predominantly black dogs

\$5 ADOPTIONS
for any cat or kitten
- any color!

\$50 ADOPTIONS
on all other animals