ww.animalfriendshs.org

PUMPKIN

FRANCISCO

### THE NEWSLETTER OF

**SPRING 2021** 

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



# ONE YEAR LATER ...



It's the middle of March 2021 and a sense of normalcy is finally returning to Animal Friends. With some of the COVID restrictions being lifted, the shelter was able to open its doors to the public again at the beginning of the year. Previously, doors were locked and appointments were necessary to gain entrance for emergency owner surrenders, cruelty cases, and strays. AFHS staff and several volunteer programs had to be reduced early on. Although it was a struggle, the shelter team found new ways to care for and protect the animals in their care, while at the same time keeping the staff and community safe.

The initial response to the pandemic was to get as many animals as possible

1,198 dogs and 1,767 cats into new homes.

By Carolyn G. Kramer



SKYY









**#ForeverHomes** 

out of the shelter and into foster or adoptive homes. The action from caring people throughout the area was immediate and heartwarming. Sixty-three animals were placed in the first ten days (24 cats and 39 dogs). Also, 12 cats and 29 dogs were adopted into loving homes! Adoptions never slowed down as the pandemic continued, and by the end of 2020 the shelter had placed







Continued on page 5

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## Interview with the #1 Butler County Dog, Elsa!

By: Carolyn G. Kramer

 
 Name: ELSA
 Nickname: ELS

 Age: 11
 Breed: MINIATURE PINSCHER (Min Pin)

 Gender: SPAYED FEMALE

 Owners: ADRIELLE & ZACK HOMSHER, Trenton, Ohio

ELSA has lived with the Homshers for five of her 11 years. Adrielle found her on Facebook. It was apparent the former owner had been

using her for breeding and was no longer interested in her as a pet. The woman's vague answers to questions left Adrielle wondering about Elsa's sad past. When taken to a veterinarian, it was evident that Elsa had had multiple litters and had breast cancer. Immediate and continued care was given and finally the large lumps disappeared. After healing, Elsa was finally spayed.

**DAILY LIFE**: Elsa practically glues herself to Adrielle all day and at night. She loves riding in a car and goes with Adrielle to work at a local veterinarian's office. There she burrows under a blanket at Adrielle's feet when her mom is acting as a receptionist, and sleeps when Adrielle is assisting the vet during surgery. Back home she is a cuddly lap dog giving and receiving kisses. She will also cuddle up with visiting strangers and falls asleep in their laps. Such a sweet personality! She's loving, loyal and happy! At night she takes her medicine at bedtime and gets a treat. (Her favorite is Greenies, a dental chew.) And, just like glue, she sleeps next to Adrielle's face or on her head. "She must be touching 24/7."

**FAVORITE TOYS**: Pink seems to be Elsa's favorite color. She favors the pink blanket that she was wrapped in when brought home from the "back yard breeder." She loves and prefers her well-loved stuffed pink elephant toy that was her first gift. Even her crate is pink! She often wears a pink shirt to keep her warm. It has PRINCESS written on it. She also sports a pretty pink collar with a bone-shaped name tag, plus her new #1 DOG tag. Yes, she is a little princess pup and deserves to be called the #1 Dog in Butler County.

**TRICKS:** Elsa is very smart and knows what is being said. She knows "sit," "treat," "bed," "medicine," "work," "bye bye," and much more. She listens and is responsive to everything spoken.

**BATHS:** Elsa loves baths and enjoys her's with Adrielle in the shower. "She gets excited and is well-behaved even while being drenched with water."

**SIBLINGS:** Elsa's fur-family includes two other Min Pins: a red 7 yearold "Molly," and a black 1 ½ year-old "Cola."

(Adrielle says she wants more Min Pins.) Recently added are two tiny kittens---a 6 month-old "Blaze" from a super large litter, and another, "Brad Kitt," a one-eyed rescue that is also 6 months old. "Brad was only 3 months old and had only one eyeball when rescued by Adrielle. Another furry playmate is "Lola," Zack's parents' 12 year-old dog that had been adopted from Animal Friends when it was located in Trenton.

**AUCTION:** Every year in the Fall, Butler County dog owners may bid on obtaining the #1 DOG TAG for a beloved pet. Watch for Bidding Information on the Shelter's website, animalfriendshs.org, or check for information in an Animal Tales newsletter.



## ANNUAL BIRTHDAY GIFTS ~ A TRADITION SINCE 2015





On her fourth birthday, Juliet Steele's parents had decided it was time to teach Juliet that it was good to give as well as receive gifts. So, in 2015 the first of annual donations to Animal Friends became a tradition.

Juliet Steele is a vibrant nine year old who attends third grade at VanGorden Elementary School in Liberty Township. Fourth grade and her 10th birthday are coming up in September, so friends are already asking, "What do we bring this year?"

For the first two years, kids brought a variety of gifts to the birthday party to donate to the animal shelter. Starting in 2017, every quest brought bleach for the next four years. Now,

in 2021, kids will choose their special gift from a wish List. Needed items include canned dog and cat food, soft dog treats, scoopable cat litter, liquid and powdered laundry detergent, postage stamps, gas gift cards for the Petmobile Adoption unit, and more.\*

Juliet has grown up with Vito the Pekingese, age 16, and Lucy the black Mini Dachshund, age 15. Vito, named after Don Vito Corleone of The Godfather, and Lucy, short for Lucifer (the devil) because she would bite, have now welcomed a new boy puppy. Archie is a red six -month-old Mini-Dachshund, who will watch Juliet grow up and go to college. The Steele's say they would also like to rescue another young Mini dog to be a companion to Archie.

In the meantime, Juliet has a lot of companionship with her three rambunctious fuzzy brothers and sister. After playing with them, she lists reading as her favorite thing to do. At her tender age, Juliet prefers non-fiction and has already read The Titanic and Anne Frankbooks.









\* Our complete shelter wish list on Amazon is <a href="https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/">https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/</a> genericItemsPage/2RM933XQ37OBM?type=wishlist& encoding=UTF8 and it will always display the most urgent needed items at the top. It is updated regularly.

















### SEPTEMBER 2020

### Tina Stroud and Wes Gruber

Congratulations to Tina and Wes! They have been volunteering with us since August of 2017. They have fostered over 40 single kittens/cats in that time! We thank Tina and Wes for their time they put into loving for the little ones and look for-

ward to years of fostering to come with them! "Wes and I are parents to Charlie, Roxie and Lainey-all shelter/rescue pups. Since large, black dogs are least likely to be adopted, that is all we will ever have. I've been involved in rescue (transport, fundraising, fostering, etc) for about 15 years and we've been kitten fosters for AFHS since 2017. We recently fostered an adult cat (Lily) which has turned into a hospice foster. We are so glad we have been able to give her a few months of the kind of life she deserved all along. It is so rewarding to see the kittens grow and develop personalities. To know that they got a good start in life and the cycle will stop with them, makes the tears shed when saying goodbye worth it."



### **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!"



### OCTOBER 2020

### Logan Colson

Congratulations to Logan Colson! Logan has been fostering and volunteering with us for a while, but most recently since January of this year. She has completed 195:12 hours in that time! You can usually find Logan working

hard helping the surgery clinic. We thank Logan for her time she puts into helping around the shelter and look forward to years to come with her! "My name is Logan Colson and I have been volunteering at Animal Friends off and on since 2017. I am a second year pre-vet student at Miami University, but the flexibility of remote classes has allowed me to spend a lot more time volunteering than before! I spend most of my time volunteering in the surgery clinic with the wonderful AFHS vet staff, but you can also find me hanging out with all of the cats in cat adoption! I have also had the rewarding opportunity to foster kittens for Animal Friends. I have 4 cats of my own, including an AFHS Alumni named Sammy! Sammy is the biggest ham who will throw an absolute fit if he is not in the same room as me at any given time. He lives for snuggling, and is the best thing to come out of my experiences at Animal Friends! I have immensely enjoyed my time volunteering, and I am so excited to continue volunteering in the future."



### DECEMBER 2020

Congratulations to Kathy Shepherd! Kathy has been volunteering with us since late 2019. She spends her time helping our front office with intaking TNR cats! We thank Kathy for her time she gives our shelter and look forward to years to come with her! "I became a volunteer at Animal Friends in the fall of

**Kathy Shepherd** 

2019, something I always wanted to do when I retired. I have done a few different things but this fall I have been helping intake TNR cats/ kittens on Tuesday & Thursday mornings. I love to see the beautiful animals that come in. Last March we fostered and then adopted our newest BFF Tucker, a shepherd/hound mix. It's been 10 years since we had a dog so it's been an adjustment, but one that's been a lot of fun. I am honored to be chosen as volunteer of the month and I look forward to volunteering for a long time."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Check our Wish List, Updates, Volunteer Orientations & Events! For current Animal Friends info, go to: www.animalfriendshs.org



### Continued from front page

Animal Friends is proud of its diverse programs that help meet the needs of its community and the animals that are brought to them in need. Animal care is top priority and animals are treated as the individuals that they are, with each of their needs met to the best of the shelter's ability. Of course, the final goal is adoption and the shelter's devoted volunteers play huge roles in helping make that happen. In 2019, the shelter had 722 volunteers log a total of 18,551 hours. With COVID disrupting their volunteer program, the shelter only saw 605 volunteers in 2020 logging a total of





13,055 hours.

Although volunteer numbers are

slowly increasing as more people feel safe to get out, there's still a critical need for more volunteers to help aide the shelter staff and devoted volunteers who show up day in and day out. According to Tara Bowser, Executive Director, "We are on our way back to normal and are looking for a variety of volunteers to help us achieve our lifesaving mission." Bowser explains that they desperately need dedicated dog walkers. "We have a core group of volunteer dog walkers who put in full-time hours to ensure each dog at the shelter gets 3 walks and play yard time every single day, but they're exhausted and feeling the strain of not having enough help.

Even if you can only commit to one day a week, or a few hours here and

there, anything is better than nothing and helps to ease that burden."

Dog walking isn't the only volunteer opportunity at Animal Friends. Individuals are needed in each department to help with a variety of tasks. If cats are more appealing than dogs you can volunteer in Cat Adoption to offer some out-ofcage time and enrichment to the cats waiting to find their forever homes. Cleaning and laundry help is always needed to assist the kennel staff in getting the shelter in tip-top shape be-





fore it opens to the public each day. Interested in learning more about the medical aspects of animal welfare? Surgery volunteers get to learn from the medical team while they're assisting with tasks like sterilizing surgical instruments, taking animals back to their cages after recovering from surgery, and cleaning the cages in the surgery holding rooms. If you're more of a people person, you can train with the front office staff to help them assist customers who come in looking to adopt, or are possibly trying to find their lost pet who may be waiting at the shelter to be reclaimed. Spring through fall is the perfect time to get out and volunteer with the shelter's Petmobile crew, who go out each weekend to showcase adoptable pets throughout Butler County and beyond!

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Animal Friends. Their "pay" is the warm and fuzzy feelings of knowing they have provided help to animals that need their love when they are brought to the shelter when lost, abandoned, or in need of medical attention. You can learn more about ways to get involved by visiting the shelter's website - www.animalfriendshs.org/ways-to-help/volunteer.

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PhantomRon Shafto	
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### JANUARY 2021

### **Jennifer Goris**

Congratulations to Jennifer Goris for being Volunteer of the Month for January 2021! We are so grateful and delighted to have Jenn as an inspiration and teacher at Animal Friends. Here's what Jenn has to say about being a volunteer: "I became an AFHS volunteer five years ago and it has been such

a rewarding addition to my life. While I love helping care for, walking and playing with the shelter residents, I also feel a commitment to the animals to be their advocate. They have no voice in what happened to them in the past and what home they get adopted to. The volunteers try very hard to speak for the animals we have come to love and help them find the right family. There is no better feeling than watching a dog or cat you've become close to, walk out of the shelter and go to their new and better life! The people at AFHS, both staff and volunteers, are some of the most generous and compassionate people I have ever met. I feel fortunate to have become part of the 'family'!"



### FEBRUARY 2021

### Noor Asad

We would like to extend a warm congratulations and and a heartfelt thank you to February 2021's Volunteer of the Month, Noor Asad! Her dedication and love of animals is so very appreciated by all of us (including the dogs!) here at Animal Friends. She has spent so many hours devoted to making

sure these dogs get the love and care they deserve. Here's what Noor has to say about her time here at Animal Friends: "Hello, I'm Noor and I began my journey with AFHS around 2 years ago, and it was easily one of the best life decisions I have made. I met my own dog at AFHS, Daisy (who is pictured with me), around 9 months ago in the process of volunteering. She is my little sidekick in life! When I'm not at the shelter I'm with her, at work, or working on my degree. When I am at the shelter, I spend my time with the dogs and it brings me a different type of happiness, one that is free and fulfilling. Making these sweet souls feel loved and wanted as they wait on their forever homes and being part of the reason the sparkle returns to their eyes, is nothing less than magical. It's a wonderful feeling knowing I make the dogs days a little bit better while they're at the shelter, and the reward is watching them begin their new lives with their new people. It's bittersweet at times, some faces you'll simply never forget, but the joy is immaculate. I have also met so many wonderful people in my time and I am grateful to be part of such an awesome team. I look forward to continuing my volunteer journey at AFHS!"





Page Turners Book Club.....Julie Rooney

**Employees of Grand Valley Preserve** 

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-piving potions. AFHS is a \$01(c(3) donation dependent organization.

