Looking at all of the work that our volunteers do with much love and real skill, there is something very special and moving about foster care. To take a week old litter of kittens into your arms, your home, and your heart, may be emotionally challenging. If a dog is undergoing a two-month treatment for heartworm, we want them to live in a calm and quiet place until they are cured. 

Faces of Foster
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The faces of foster are the angels behind countless adoptions. That kitten you just adopted likely spent his or her first eight weeks in a home where she was kept warm, fed, and introduced to human touch and connection. That wiggly tail who just went home licking your kids’ faces spent weeks growing and playing with a foster mom, dad or whole family. Even horses who are being brought back to health are fostered for months to rebuild physical strength and trust. Last year 230 kittens, 186 puppies, 46 adult dogs, 26 adult cats, 12 rabbits and 2 horses thrived in foster care.

Purrfect Beginnings for Kittens
Foster moms are people like Diane Fisher. She is known for her extraordinary care of the “bottle babies.” Diane takes care of fragile little kittens - taking time to prepare bottles, to make sure their body temperature does not dip; and massaging them to help immature organs do their jobs. Erin Hawes, RV’s Program Coordinator, said, “Diane is the salt of the earth and when her kittens get a little bigger she might even take them to the library for programs where they can be socialized with kids.”

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• Piper is spoiled rotten (by me), completely manipulative, and not a "model" citizen
• Piper has "issues" and, as many who know her would concur, she is very unique.
• Piper is my heart and everyday for the past four + years, I have kissed her head and said out loud I love you sooooo much.

My Piper is far from "perfect," whatever that means. She looked like she was fawning as this photo was being taken. She uses her paw to tell you she wants to be petted and then will not let you touch her anyplace other than her head. When she is alone, Piper builds piles of things, as it keeps me close by until I get home.

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Still, every night I go to sleep feeling extremely lucky that she is my doggie and every morning when she cuddles closely with her tail wagging, she tells me that I am her best thing on earth. None of us are perfect. This is such a truism that it’s almost too trite to mention. I think that the universality of every bond between imperfect human and animal fuels our compassion. We come together at Rescue Village because we are in the “business” of saving animals’ lives.

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This little pigs were living in a barn. Or, it might be your typical stray pig, like Phillip, who showed up one day in someone’s backyard.

Our goal is to make sure that every pig (and every other animal) in need is rescued, rehabilitated, or adopted to a responsible sanctuary. Whether it takes a month or a year, their time at Rescue Village is very special.

If you want to volunteer in our barn, offer foster care, or are interested in adopting a barn animal, please contact Christian Courtwright at humaneagent@geaugaanimals.org or call 440.338.4819 ext. 41.
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After adopting an animal, people often ask the simple question: who saved who? Rachel Considder found herself asking this question after adopting her first kitten, Bear. A shy guy at first, Bear is now coming out of his shell and helping his “mom” along the way.

Rachel says, “Bear has given me the chance to find a new light at the end of a dark year. He is a funny little guy that keeps me inspired. After surviving a shooting, Bear has given me the passion to keep going. Keep up everything you do at Rescue Village!”

Sometimes, when we are least expecting it, we find a best friend. Now Rachel has a new zest for life and Bear has found his forever home.

Black Jack

Black Jack, formerly Vladimir, came to Rescue Village skinny and riddled with injuries. Even after weeks of care and rehabilitation, he was scared and nervous. It was obvious that Black Jack needed a patient, caring owner who could not only take care of him physically, but could also handle his personality.

Janet Hargave was more than willing to take on Black Jack’s quirks. After a short time, Black Jack (or “Blackie” as she fondly refers to him) started putting on weight and becoming more comfortable in his new home. He is now living the good life, complete with a special diet and lots of cuddling. His once tattered coat is now soft, plush and shiny, thanks to Janet.

Jay Bird

The only thing Jay Bird ever experienced in his life was being tied to a tree with little contact with other animals and people. Brought in as a neglect case, Jay Bird was extremely skittish, shy, and lacked basic manners. Through weeks of socialization and hard work with Rescue Village’s behavioral team, Jay Bird was ready to start his new life in a loving home.

Adopted by Robert Hayburn and fiancée, Jessica, four months ago, Jay Bird is now an indoor dog who passes his time cuddling and doing tricks for his favorite treat: hot dogs! He even has a 4-legged brother that he spends hours playing with. This timid guy, who was once afraid of stairs and doors, is now living a life filled with self-confidence and love.

Save the Date!

**Woofstock 2013**

September 22, 2013
Holden Arboretum • 9am - 3pm

Join us as we celebrate the lives of past pets by placing stones in the garden. This year’s event will be held at 7pm, July 14th, in Cody’s Crossing memory stone garden at Rescue Village - meet by the barn. This event is free and open to the public. Please bring your own stones that capture the memories of your beloved pets. We will have music and light refreshments and, if weather permits, the launching of sky lanterns.

For questions, contact Katie Campbell at marketing@geaugahumane.org
With “kitten season” fast approaching, Rescue Village is working to help curb some of the cat overpopulation problem in our community by taking a proactive approach to the situation. Since 2001, we have had our Catsmart TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) program in effect. Twice a week, our small but mighty clinic staff performs spay/neuter surgery, vaccinates, and ear tips free roaming and feral cats brought in by the public. The cats are then returned to where they originated from after they are fully recovered, now able to live out their lives without reproducing.

This year, we are trying to make the program an even bigger success with the help of fantastic volunteers. Thanks to a grant from the nationally renowned organization, Neighborhood Cats, we are carrying out a targeted effort to spay and neuter 100 cats in a concentrated area. Volunteers will be at the heart of the project – helping us trap these cats, bring them into the shelter for their procedure, and then safely return them to their colonies after they are fully recovered. This is a humane and solution-based approach to the exploding number of outside cats.

In this area, recent donations by Invisible Fence Brand have been made to the Twinsburg Fire Department as well as the Streetsboro Fire Department. The company is in the business of saving pets lives and strongly believes in programs that not only help keep pets safe in their yards, but safe from other hazards like house fires. Invisible Fence Brand is dedicated to initiatives that help pets, from Project Breathe donations to local support of time, money and supplies to shelters and rescue organizations, such as Rescue Village.

The good news is that preventing heartworm infection is very easy. There are many monthly heartworm preventives available only through your veterinarian. Additionally, many heartworm preventives also provide intestinal parasite protection and even flea protection, all in one product. To avoid confusion, discuss with your veterinarian the different options and ask what they recommend specifically for your dog or cat. With our increasingly warmer winters, mosquitoes aren’t “killed off” with the change of seasons. Giving prevention year round is not just keeping you in the habit, but is also essential protection for your beloved pets.
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Invisible Fence Brand, the brand vets recommend most for dog safety and freedom, has been quietly equipping stations for years. Recently, the company took the effort nationwide and to Canada, and called on others to help. The company has set up a website www.InvisibleFence.com/O2, where people or companies can support the effort. To date, Invisible Fence Brand has donated more than 10,000 pet oxygen masks that have been used by the fire departments to save a reported 80 pets thus far in the campaign.

An effort, called Project Breathe, is underway to equip every fire station in America and Canada with the equipment to give pets life-saving oxygen if they are rescued from a fire. An estimated 40,000 to 150,000 pets die in fires each year, most succumbing to smoke inhalation. In most states, emergency responders are unequipped to deal with the crisis. The loss is terrible for the family, heart wrenching for firefighters.

We used the playgroups to help the white shepherds that came to RV last year. None of these rescued dogs knew how to interact with humans or with each other. Even though they shared close quarters in a small barn, they never got to engage in play, or even touch.

Without this opportunity, many dogs, especially the shepherds, struggle to find forever homes because of their lack of social experience. It is no exaggeration to say that the playgroups at the shelter helped these dogs become adoptable.

The Doctor Is In by Medical Director Meg Volpe

At Rescue Village intake numbers are up, adoption numbers are up and lives saved are up! But so are cases of heartworm infection. We want to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the very real existence of heartworms in our area, the disease that they cause, and the way you can avoid this infection in your beloved pets.

Heartworms are parasites that are transmitted from animal to animal by the bite of an infected mosquito. Classically, in the dog, the heartworm parasites ultimately cause heart failure if left untreated. In the cat, the disease process is a bit different and often the only symptom of heartworm infection is sudden death. In the case of heartworms, an ounce of prevention truly is worth a pound of cure.

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GHS Upcoming Events

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September 22, 2013
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Zoey came to us from a major case of neglect where she was starved and near death. Although her road to Rescue Village was rough, Zoey is now flourishing in her foster home and enjoying her new life. She is currently pending adoption to a wonderful family who has experience with special needs horses. Adrienne Johnson, Zoey’s trainer, says it best by explaining, “Our perfect companions never have fewer than four feet or hooves.” Rescue Village is so grateful to be able to give Zoey a second chance at a wonderful, fulfilling life.
from the barn

These little piggies

Remember the little game you played with your toes when you were a kid? It included the line, “this piggy went to market.” Well, the first promise we make to every pig that comes to our barn is that they will never become a BLT.

Pigs find their way to Rescue Village through rescue. It might be a case of abandonment, as was the case of Henry who we found tearing up our own community room one Saturday afternoon. It might be a case of neglect, because Rosebud was brought to the shelter by our human agent. It might be a transfer from Cleveland’s inner city where Mohawk’s pot belly was living. Or, it might be your typical stray pig, like Phillip, who showed up one day in someone’s backyard.

Our goal is to make sure that every pig (and every other animal) in need is rescued, rehabbed, and adopted or brought to the right responsible sanctuary. Whether that takes a month or a year, their time at Rescue Village is very Soon-Wish!

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from the executive director

The “Business” of Saving Animals

For years everyone has asked me “Who is that dog in your picture with you?” “Oh, it’s not my dog, it’s one that I have in the shelter”, I would answer. Heads would shake and, invariably, folks would say, “get a new pic.” Ask and you shall receive... here it is, a new pic featuring my own dog, Piper Rose Pep.

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- Piper is my heart and every day for the past four + years, I have kissed her head and said out loud “I love you sooooo much.”

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Together we find beauty in this mission and in each other, just as I have found it in my Piper Pep.

In Memory of Companion Animals

Anne, Susan, and Bill Kirtland Jude, Max, and Louie Kalschip Patches, many many winters ago Stuart, der Kaiser Narr, and Bono Bono, please give at least one happy memory to our rescue and volunteer friends.

Special thanks to:
Lori Gorrell for her DISC training Pamela Pray and Arlene Pincus for help in the office
Susan Healer for Dunkin Donuts coffee and donuts
Julie Clayman for selling Benfica and giving proceeds to RV
Paula Kern and Beca Bendick for the spread and knowledge of Raser’s Edge
Elisabeth Farmer for the aftermovie cat donations
Paul Wokoun for fixing things when needed
Cat’s Den volunteers for donating and planting stickbolls
Chagrin Valley REACT for help with the February Volunteer Fair
Pet Smart National Adoption Weekend event volunteers: Kathy Braun, Char Hartson, Griffin Shapiro, Brenda Donahue, Nancy Parker, Trent Ford, Linda Solomon, Lulu Nix, Shawn Russell, and Shelley Ghrist
February Volunteer Fair volunteers: Tara Kuchenbecker, Lisa Kriwinko, Abby Lees & KGW, Ginny Tomaro, Karen Tomaro, Adam Anderson, Moreau, Emily Unkrich, and giving proceeds to RV
Lori Gorelick for fixing things and allowing us to use the print shop
Tara Kuchenbecker for helping with the February Volunteer Fair

Happiness is seeing a success story and knowing that all is well.

Geauga Humane Society/Rescue Village
Post Office Box 76
Novelty, Ohio 44072-0076
15463 Chillicothe Road, Russell Township
440.338.4819
email info@geaugahumane.org
www.geaugahumane.org

Volunteer: Hours
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Tuesday: no show to 5:00pm
Wednesday: closed
Thursday: noon to 7:00pm
Friday: no show to 7:00pm
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adoptions stop at 45 minutes after posted closing time

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**The Puppy Express**

Who are these volunteers? They are people who find meaning and joy in shepherding animals to permanent homes.

**Cori and Jeff Woof, and their four daughters, bring litters of puppies into their home. For the Woofs, the foster experience is about learning kindness and compassion...as a family. When the pups are eight weeks old they come back to Rescue Village where they are spayed and neutered and, almost always, quickly adopted. Are you wondering if you could give up puppies after you have loved them? Just remember, knowing you have helped so many pups on their journey to permanent loving homes is incredibly satisfying!”**

**Diane Fisher with foster kittens**

**The Datkers with foster puppies**

**We love all of our animals...**

...no ifs, ands, but lots of butts!

**Faces of Foster**

“Keep smiling and keep shining. Knowing you can always count on me, for sure. That’s what friends are for. In good times and bad times I’ll be on your side forever more. That’s what friends are for...”

from “That’s What Friends Are For” lyrics by Dionne Warwick

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“From That’s What Friends Are For” by Dionne Warwick