There is quiet beauty watching two aging horses frolic like kids in the paddock at Rescue Village. Horses enter our barn program when they are rescued from cruelty and neglect. Today, there is not a cloud in the sky and the sun is highlighting beautiful coats. Yet, in March of this year, the skies were gray. Snow and ice was still hanging on.

At a stable in rural Geauga County, animals were suffering. The weather was brutal for five horses boarded outside without food. Their water trough was frozen. Each was hundreds of pounds underweight. Survival was in doubt and rescue was urgent. And so, Chief Humane Agent, Christian Courtwright, brought them to us in a state of emergency... two coming to our barn and three to another stable.

Recovery starts now
A long road to recovery began. Dr. Averi Sauder, a wonderful equine vet, joined the team. She would lead us through the careful and slow rehabilitation process. What they needed most was food. Yet, introducing hay and grain to a starved horse can be fatal. RV staff and volunteers, led by Christian and staff member Adrianne Johnson, joined in their care. During this early stage, the horses were sluggish and depressed. Everyone was determined to turn this around and when all five started to put on some weight, the mood at RV started to brighten. Community members stepped forward to donate to Project S.A.V.E. for the horses. This was an enormous TEAM effort!

Far from fear
Winter oh so slowly changed to spring and the day came when the horses were ready to go outside. At RV, Beetle and Echo, both over 20 years old, stood still in the paddock. At a boarding stable in the county, Charles, Rockette, and Cowboy began to expand their activity. The days lengthened and their health continued to improve. A metamorphosis was taking place. Dull eyes turned bright. There was spring in their step. Hanging out was replaced by playing, snorting and tail-swishing joy.

Rescue Village is prosecuting the mother and daughter who owned these animals. This kind of cruelty is simply not acceptable.

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What we do at Rescue Village is as down to earth as it gets. The rescue and rehabilitation of the five horses (see front page) involved real people doing things as basic as feeding them after months where they had no food. It meant waiting until they were stable to even clean their coats. It required raising money and getting vet care and mucking stalls ~ hardly as romantic as the image of purple kittens.

It took a whole community with huge imagination to believe that Beetle, Echo, Cowboy, Charlie and Rockette could become powerful ambassadors of rescue. It wasn’t just our mission that told us it was possible. It was that sense of wonder that filled a young girl’s face when she held a black kitten and imagined it was purple.

We wanted to turn cruelty and neglect on its head. We sensed that if we could band together, imagine a future where they would never be mistreated again, we could save them.

There is no age limit on imagination. There is no animal that doesn’t deserve a chance. Every rescue takes a strong dose of imagination to win, that doesn’t mean any one of them doesn’t deserve a chance. Every rescue takes a strong dose of imagination to win, that doesn’t mean any one of them doesn’t deserve a chance. Every rescue takes a strong dose of imagination to win, that doesn’t mean any one of them doesn’t deserve a chance. Every rescue takes a strong dose of imagination to win, that doesn’t mean any one of them doesn’t deserve a chance. Every rescue takes a strong dose of imagination to win, that doesn’t mean any one of them doesn’t deserve a chance.
Caring for Your Senior Pet

When is your dog or cat a senior? Most people have heard the adage that one year in a dog’s life is the equivalent of seven years in a human’s life. This is a decent place to start but it doesn’t take into account all of the factors that contribute to aging. For example, a Great Dane is considered a senior at the age of five years while a cat or small breed dog is generally not in their senior year until they’re at least seven years old. At different rates, each is essential that we be mindful that the time will come when our pets need a little more attention and special care.

There are many factors that influence how well our pets age. These include genetics, body weight, nutrition, environment, and how much veterinary care they have received throughout their lives. Does that list sound familiar? The very reasons we are told about taking care of ourselves are the reasons we should be taking care of our pets. But there are three things that we should pay extra attention to as our dogs and cats age because our pets can’t take care of these things by themselves.

1. Take your pets to the vet twice a year as they enter their senior years. Regular yearly, wellness exams allow your veterinarian the opportunity to identify any medical problems early. Your vet can then make recommendations that can significantly impact the length of your pet’s quality of life.

2. Good nutrition. I am a firm believer that you get what you pay for when it comes to pet foods. And I also believe that animals should not be fed the same way they are fed. Good nutrition is critical for aging pets. For example, a Great Dane is considered a senior at the age of five years while a cat or small breed dog is generally not in their senior year until they’re at least seven years old. At different rates, each is essential that we be mindful that the time will come when our pets need a little more attention and special care.

3. Exercise. What better way to keep ourselves moving than by moving with our pets? Our pets benefit from regular exercise. And regular exercise is good for our pets’ well-being too. It helps keep them limber and makes it easier for them to move. Regular exercise is also good for our pets’ weight management.

The discussion of aging in our pets doesn’t exist in any way that aging itself is a disease. It is a life stage. And as our pets enter into this life stage, we should be ready and educated that there are many things that we can do to make their senior years quality years.
Shields® Avoidance Solutions

Does your dog or cat shed all over your favorite chair? Do you need help keeping the dog out of the litter box? Shields® Avoidance Solutions from Invisible Fence® Brand are a quick, easy way to safely teach your pets to stay away from certain indoor or outdoor areas around your home.

Wireless and discreet, the units can be placed anywhere that your pets may get into mischief. After a brief training lesson with our certified trainers, the only thing you’ll notice are the results - better behaved pets that stay out of trouble.

Keep your pet out of harm’s way
$100 OFF* (for you) $100 DONATION (for Rescue Village)
800-824-DOGS
www.invisiblefence.com

*RV-0411 Offer valid on purchase of outdoor packages only. Must present this ad at time of purchase. Offer is not valid on previous purchase or with any other discount or promotion. Not redeemable for cash. Participating dealers only. Expires 9/30/13

from invisible fence® brand

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“Bossman's Birthday Party” has been benefitting Rescue Village for over 10 years and even though Bossman passed away, Sharon still had a birthday party in July with Riley, her new rescue "Bichon/Poodle" mix as the emcee. Sharon says, “Bossman loved greeting all of his friends at his parties and knew that the funds raised went to help the less privileged animals and he was grateful to have helped”. This little Bichon-Frise will forever be remembered by Sharon and by all of us at Rescue Village and beyond.

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*All prizes will be awarded based on money turned in on or before September 22, 2013.

Top Fundraiser Prize: Rescue Village vet for a day followed by a party at Rescue Village for you and 10 friends*

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Woofstock • Pledge Form • Sunday • September 22, 2013
For easy online fundraising, visit www.geaugahumanesociety.org or bring donations (checks and cash) and this form with you to RV before the event or on the day of the walk. $5 parking per vehicle.
Checks should be made payable to Geauga Humane Society.

Walker's Name
Address
City
State
Zip
Email Address
Phone

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Signature (parent or guardian if under 18 years)
As a famous (or maybe it's infamous) column writer for a much-coveted spot in our newsletter, Donna the Feral (loved by many/fearred by more) felt it was a bit of an injustice that she had not yet had the opportunity to tell of her life and times. With a few choice words and a flip of her tail she began to tell her story.


Every time Donna comes up to the shelter door, staff members try to meet her every need and desire. “Fresh water?” they question. “Fresh dry food?” “Another type of canned food?” “You need clean dishes?” Eventually they figure it out and then, and only then, are they allowed to touch Donna. BUT ONLY for a moment.

When questioned about her typical day she stiffens visibly, stating, “I am not keen on sharing acreage with dogs that walk humans. I do border patrol at night when all of the people and dogs go away.”

“Lots of my friends are having babies. Not me! I was spayed at Rescue Village. It’s safe, it’s easy, and it’s cheap,” she stated (emphatically). With that, she held her head high and marched back into the woods to resume the "life and times of the rich and feral."
Mimi & ChiChi

Mimi and ChiChi may look like an odd pair, but they could not be better friends. Upon arrival to Rescue Village, it was clear that they needed to find a home that could take them both. It took no time at all for these unlikely friends to gain popularity. Can you imagine walking into the shelter and seeing a guinea pig and a rabbit snuggling and grooming each other? Though Mimi and ChiChi gained popularity because of their friendship, they had a hard time finding a forever home together. Days turned to weeks and weeks turned to months. Mimi and ChiChi still had each other, but could not find that special person to open their home to both of them. Finally, it happened. Mimi and ChiChi met the one who would let them be friends forever. The two are now living happily in their forever home together.

Georgie & Gracie

When you look at this pair, one thing quickly comes to mind: “Who’s who?” Georgie and Gracie’s fancy tuxedo markings aren’t the only thing they have in common — they both love each other dearly! When Georgie and Gracie lived at Rescue Village, they spent their days snuggling in the same bed while waiting for that special human who would rescue them both. Not only is it common to see an inseparable pair like Georgie and Gracie, but we also almost always advise that these pairs go to their forever home together. These two were lucky enough to find a nice couple of their own who also recognized the strong bond they had with one another. Their owner writes, “Georgie and Gracie have been wonderful additions to our family and I can’t imagine them apart. I hope that people will recognize the importance of adopting bonded pairs together.” We are so happy that this match made in heaven can continue living their lives, loving each other with their forever family.
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“One small cat changes coming home to an empty house into coming home.”

Pam Brown
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When questioned about her typical day she stiffens visibly, stating, “I am not keen on sharing acreage with dogs that walk humans. I do border patrol at night when all of the people and dogs go away.”

Donna lives a good life at Rescue Village. Like so many outdoor cats, she considers the neighborhood her home and the last thing she wants (or needs) is to come inside. We feed her and ensure she has warm and dry shelter at all times.

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*For every $250 raised, your name will be entered in a drawing for a weekend package

TOP FUNDRAISER PRIZE: You and your dog will be featured in the winter 2014 Rescue Village Reporter newsletter. In addition, your dog will be the chair-dog of Woofstock 2014.

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Special thanks to:
Special thanks to for donating Tiny Cat to the Burton Cat Seizure and transporting the cats. Thanks to for providing the tone and July Dog Workshop.
Volunteer Whitney Leffler, Abbie Lens and Gail Roscu for producing the Camps Guide Citizen video tutorials.
Office volunteer Josh Heffelfinger and Allison Mohney for help with the transition to the new volunteer management system, Velogistics.
Volunteers Gary Stepel, Kuchenbrocker and Brenda Dona for their communication and leadership with the volunteer mentoring program.
All of the staff, volunteers, and donors for their spectacular work.
All of the fantastic families that have been so helpful in the past few weeks. This has been the busiest year. Thank you.
To the best!
Shelia Simpson for being an amazing chair of Doggie Purrfect Night.
Katie Stamps for all her hard work for the rescue.
The entire Doggie Purrfect Night Committee.
Pam Pray for being an amazing office volunteer.
Jim and Connie Vass for fostering and caring for RV’s horses at Hidden Creek Quarter Horses.
Starr and Karen Schneider from American Glimmering Rescue for their generous donations.
Jane Geiger for not only taking care of the animals, but also taking care of the staff.
Kyle Brey for his hard work in the barn and keeping it clean.
Peggy Carter for generous donation to the horses.
Orange Animal Service Club for always being there when needed.
Elisabeth Soto for food, storage and Scratch & Stash for the cat cages.
Georgia Shoffstall for her hard work and all the hours.
Cleveland Metroparks Wildlife Naturalists
Dr. Martin S. Burton at Burton Vet Clinic
Susan and Betsy from Seeing Eyes Guide Dogs for the Blind.
Terri Varnek & her special needs cats.
Brenda Dona & Tammi Sherman
Amanda Lock
RV Ambassadors
Vol Camp Counselors
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