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He stayed in a double-wide kennel and looked content.

But everyone needs a home. It anchors who we are and how we are in the world. Hercules had the gift of time, care, and love for as long as he needed it at RV. Still, nothing replaces being wanted...forever. His day came five months after arriving.

A young woman and her sister had been looking at Hercules on our website. It was perfect. They needed him and he needed them. It was as if they all sang the same tune, “It had to be you, it had to be youuuuu. I’ve wandered around, finally found some body who could make me be true...it had to be you.” Happy holidays everybody and a big hug to Hercules.

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from the executive director

Everyone Needs a Home

We live in a world where everything seems so complicated and life moves at the speed of light. There is an aching need for closeness and community and home. Yet, home comes in many shapes and sizes and, for some people, home may just be a temporary place to lay your head. “Home” is a central theme of life, work, and mission at Rescue Village. Everyone needs a home.

When our need for home connects with an animal's need for home, something extraordinary happens. Life becomes more simple, direct, and we create community. An aging woman who spends most of her time alone has a larger life after adopting a cat named Lucy. A young family from Burton, with a gaggle of kids, is tickled when a little shelter dog named Toby licks them all over and goes home. Our hearts swell when we learn that Sterna, a rescued horse, has been adopted. It has been a year filled with stories of hosting... needing them, losing them, going to new homes.

A wonderful cat named Lady Dy - she didn’t need a fancy home, she just needed to be loved for who she is and what she looks like. And a dear friend of the shelter, whose beautiful home felt empty when her beloved cat Chloe passed, found new love with a cat named Jack. Often “simple” feels so darn good. Doesn’t it?

Our home, our Rescue Village, is in the midst of a historic expansion and remodel. I cannot begin to describe how our home is hergen flugen (a great word I learned from a friend which means discombobulated). We have moments when we wish for the home we had. We’re feeling kind of homeless. Maybe this is what Lucy and Lady Dy and Jack and Sterna felt when they first got to the shelter.

But, like them, Rescue Village is all about the great things that are coming. So, hold this close to your heart: we are forever finding new homes. Coming late spring 2015 — a new Rescue Village, our own new home.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

—Hope Brustein, Executive Director

Geauga Humane Society/Rescue Village
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440.338.4819
info@geaugahumane.org
web www.geaugahumane.org

Geauga Humane Society does not accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Consult your veterinarian for animal-related questions...
By the time this newsletter is released, Robyn will have already competed. No matter what the outcome is, or which horse wins the challenge - we know Robyn already won. He finally was able to meet his full potential and show everyone the unbreakable spirit of rescue horses.

You can read about, and see pictures of Robyn’s incredible journey on his Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/jlflahertyEQC
Winter Care for Outdoor Animals

Every fall, we get numerous phone calls from concerned citizens about animals they see living outdoors. They are worried that the winter is coming, with very low temperatures, and are concerned for the animals’ safety. Whether you see stray cats in your area or you (or someone you know) has an outdoor dog, here are some tips that you can follow to help these animals through the harshest of weather this winter:

**FOR STRAY & FERAL CATS:**

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- Change water bowls twice daily to keep water from freezing. Use deep bowls rather than wide ones, and refill them often with hot or warm water. If the cats are close to an outlet, heated electric bowls will also do the trick.
- There are multiple low cost, highly efficient shelters you can build to give these cats shelter. Alley Cat Allies website is a GREAT resource and has a list of the various resources. Visit them at www.alleycat.org
- Stray cats may seek warmth underneath your car’s hood or in wheel wells. Be sure to bang on yours hood before starting your car to scare them away.

**FOR OUTDOOR DOGS:**

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- You only want the shelter big enough for the dog to stand up, lie down, and turn around comfortably. Any bigger and it doesn’t retain the dogs body heat properly.
- Houses should be layered with straw, not hay, to help insulate it.
- Also, ensure the shelter is facing away from the wind.
- Make sure the dog always has access to water that is not frozen.
- When the temperature is below freezing, if at all possible, the best option is to bring the dog inside.

TNR Winter Reminder

Don’t forget that TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return), our twice weekly spay/neuter program for free-roaming stray and feral cats, goes all throughout the year, regardless of the weather. There are many ways to safely trap cats during the cold. For more information on the program and how to sign up, contact Erin Hawes, Programs Coordinator, at 440.338.4819 ext. 14 or programs@geaugahumane.org.

Upcoming Events

Presented in cooperation with LaPlace and ORG Property Management

**rescue village’s**

**ART from the HEART**

at LaPlace
2101 Richmond Road
Beachwood, OH 44122

FRIDAY
Dec. 12
5-9pm

coldcocktails,

SATURDAY
Dec. 13
10am-9pm

adaptable animals,

SUNDAY
Dec. 14
12-5pm

diagram for your pet, exclusive Rescue Village exhibit

shopping, raffle, live music

Be on the lookout
for brand new winter
and summer events!

www.geaugahumane.org
Although the day began with clouds in the sky, Woofstock 2014 was nothing but bright and exciting! As the sun peaked through, over 1,600 people and 100’s of dogs, and even a cat, came together to support Rescue Village.

People with their beloved furry friends, enjoyed food provided by Chefs for Hire and Java Express, music by Rusted Relic, games, contests, agility vendors and much, much more! The annual Blessing of the Animals was led by the venerable Shi Ying-Fa. As always, this was a crowd favorite and nothing short of a memorable experience. Cory Griffin and his dog Carl, top fundraiser for Woofstock 2013, led the mile long walk through Holden Arboretum’s beautiful trails.

The animals, staff and volunteers would like to thank you for your tremendous support year after year. With your help, we raised over $70,000 at Woofstock! We would like to give an extra thanks to Wendy Grellinger and her cat Steven for raising over $4,000 for Woofstock 2014!

See you next year for Woofstock 2015!

Sometimes, Even a Hero Needs to be Rescued

What is a hero? A hero may be a warrior, a person of strength and courage. Here at Rescue Village, we have our own hero... a different kind of hero. 

In March of 2014, three boxers, Colby, Rocket — and Hero, were transferred to RV from the Portage Dog Warden. They were found abandoned and freezing on a river. With such a troubling past, all three dogs were fearful and anxious.

After a few weeks of training with our Dog Behavior Specialist, Colby was adopted. Months later, Rocket was adopted. Then we discovered he had escaped from his owners. With everyone searching for Rocket, he was found and brought back to RV.

Soon, one of our volunteers, Sandy West, expressed interest in adopting Rocket. Sandy agreed to “foster-to-adopt.” Rocket fit right in and found his match.

After two “happy tails” we still had one lonely and frightened Hero at the shelter. Hero had begun to develop some courage and trust, but after his dog friends left, he went into a downward spiral. While he had been comfortable being outside for brief periods of time, he no longer tolerated more than a few minutes outdoors before dragging you back inside. As time passed, Hero became even more distraught being in the shelter.

Weeks passed and families came and went but no one was willing to take a chance on a fearful, flight risk dog like Hero. Tori, a RV staff member, caught wind of his distress and asked to foster Hero to see if he would be happier in a home environment. Sure enough, he loved being in a home and even formed a strong bond with Tori’s dog. It didn’t take long for Tori to realize that Hero had found his forever home and second chance with her.

Hero

In movies and stories, a hero is the brave figure that comes in to save the day. Sometimes though, it’s the hero that needs to be rescued. What a great happy ending!
Give the Gift of a Second Chance
Help serve and save nearly 300 animals this month!

Every single day of the year, we are rescuing animals from a lifetime of cruelty, neglect and homelessness. At the same time we are spaying and neutering hundreds more to prevent pet overpopulation. Donations play a huge role in sustaining our life-saving programs that create happy endings for the many innocent animals who have found their way to our doorstep.

Here at Rescue Village, 2014 has been breath taking. A bigger, better shelter is becoming a reality as our construction project is moving along quickly. Thanks to over 300 donors an amazing outpouring of financial support has been provided for the expansion and renovation of the shelter. Of course, even while walls are being built, all the daily feeding, care and medical attention for the hundreds of animals that come through our doors every month must continue.

The honest truth is we need your help right now to finish this amazing year of caring for over 3,000 animals. When you send your 2014 yearend gift, please consider doubling it or asking your employer to match your gift. The animals really need your support.

Remember - all gifts made before 2015 can be considered tax deductible for most every donor.

NEW CAGE SPONSORSHIP & ADOPTABLE ANIMAL SPONSOR PROGRAM

Rescue Village has two new programs to provide more gift giving options for our donors; an updated Cage Sponsorship Program with more opportunities for donor recognition and a brand new Adoptable Animal Sponsorship Program.

Adoptable Animal Sponsorship Program
A donor can sponsor an adoptable dog or cat for $15 per month ($180 per year) or a barn animal for $25 per month ($300 per year). Each month the donor, or gift recipient, will receive an email with a photo and story of an animal currently available for adoption. The photo can be printed out as well as shared on your social network so that you can help Rescue Village find its adoptable animals their forever home.

Cage Sponsorship Program
A donor can sponsor the following cages:
- A cat or pocket pet cage for $50 per month (or a reduced 12 month rate of $500)
- A dog kennel for $100 per month (or a reduced 12 month rate of $500)
- A stall in the barn for $150 per month (or a reduced 12 month rate of $1,800)

Annual sponsors will receive recognition on a PVC cage/kennel/stall plaque and monthly donors will be posted on an honor roll of donors at Rescue Village. Also, beginning January 1st, there will be corporate opportunities for the annual sponsorship of the Dog Pavilion, Puppy Adoption Room, Cat Condo Room, Kitten Adoption Room, Pocket Pet Room and the Barn.

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact the development office at (440) 338-4819 or development@geaugahumane.org. We hope that you are as excited about these new ways for you to be able to give the gift of a second chance!

When Time Flies

It’s December. The campaign comes to a close the end of this month, the final day of 2014. Time flies. Give today if you haven’t already. If you have, then please send a year-end gift to help us take care of the daily needs at the shelter.

The shelter will see many more new chapters. But this one has been breathtaking. A bigger, better shelter is becoming a reality as our construction project is moving along quickly. Thanks to over 300 donors an amazing outpouring of financial support has been provided for the expansion and renovation of the shelter. Of course, even while walls are being built, all the daily feeding, care and medical attention for the hundreds of animals that come through our doors every month must continue.

The capital campaign to support this much needed expansion and renovation has been a time lapse of extraordinary proportion in its own right. It was March 2013 when the first lead gifts were being identified and sought. In just five months, almost $2 million had been given by those who shared their vision to save more lives. In the year since then, more than $1 million additional dollars from more than 250 generous donors have brought us close to the final goal. Gifts of all sizes have built this project.

We so wish we could see the end of this time lapse film right now. Have we reached the goal of $3.4 million? Are there folks still waiting to be a part of this exciting chapter? Are you a part of this unique moment in Rescue Village history? Please don’t miss it!

Time lapse photography reveals stunning transformations. Who hasn’t been transfixed by the images of a rapidly blooming flower or the high speed sweep of the Milky Way across a sky? Sometimes it has seemed that the Rescue Village construction project has been on fast forward. How quickly the earth was moved! Look at how much block is already set on the new footers! Where did the walls go? How much has changed in so little time! These photos tell some of the story.

Now heavy equipment has been replaced by hammers as the interior work begins in earnest. By the time you read this newsletter, the majority of the administrative staff will be working off-site to allow adoptable animals to be temporarily housed right in office space to protect them from construction noise.

The shelter will see many more new chapters. But this one has been breathtaking for all involved. So many generous people in so short of a time have helped. We send a heartfelt “thank you!” Each and every one of you has made this project a reality - all on a fast track to rescuing the animals who make our lives better.
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*Rescue Village’s*

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**FRIDAY**

Dec. 12
5-9pm

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Dec. 14
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- Shopping, raffle, live music

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TNR Winter Reminder

And please, if you or anyone you know needs help supplying their outdoor pet with proper shelter or supplies for the winter, contact us and we will help you in whatever way possible!

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Be on the lookout for brand new winter and summer events!  

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You can read about, and see pictures and videos of Robyn’s incredible journey on his Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/AHomeforEveryHorse

Special thanks to Jessica Flaherty, Robyn’s trainer and new “mom” for seeing his potential and showing the world what we’ve been saying all along.

Robyn is a very special horse. His history was one filled with neglect and hunger. He was the first horse that our humane officer, Christian Courtwright, seized in Geauga County back in early 2010. He was sent to a foster home, but he thrived, but it was never a permanent solution. We all hoped for a forever home, one that would work with and see the potential of the horse within, and not where he came from. We waited a long time.

Finally, in July of this year we were contacted by a Home for Every Horse. They were looking for a horse that would fit in their program, a horse that came from a rescue or humane society, a young, sound horse, a horse that was not trained under saddle, but a horse that had potential. We immediately knew Robyn would be perfect. He would be matched with a trainer, and that trainer would have 90 days to train him to ride and to pass a series of tests at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show. Robyn left for training in July and has been thriving and exceeding all expectations.

A Home for Every Horse
Every Day Needs a Home

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remembrances
June 1, 2014 - September 30, 2014

from the executive director
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