Let’s Celebrate!

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Happy Holidays to you all!

Hope Brustein, Executive Director

From the executive director

“In the ways that truly matter, we are all the same.”

These words, from a wonderful animal sanctuary in New York State, have become part of my guidebook at Rescue Village. I hope they have made a meaningful difference in the lives of the animals and people that we meet, help, support, and work with every day.

Regardless of our species – we all can experience love. When a friend challenged this perspective, I had, literally, thousands of stories to back up this claim. Even a pig named Bastian, found love and friendship in his foster family and with their dogs.

We all form friendships. Isn’t it amazing to witness the bonding that can take place between the most unlikely of friends? Dogs and elephants. My daughter’s cat December and the neighborhood skunk. Chances are you are as hooked as I am on the wonderful videos that delight and surprise us about “cross-species” bonding.

No two animals are exactly alike. A litter of ten kittens often include a shy one, a rambunctious one, and the sweet snuggler. That amazing diversity in people and other animals makes life and learning an interesting proposition. Taking kindness as the centerline means embracing what makes us all special.

Then there are emotions – the universal experience of excitement, frustration, joy, fear, safety, and, yes, even humor. I have watched thousands of people talking to animals, changing their voice, doing little dances, singing, and acting silly as all get-up in attempts to elicit the undeniable signs of happiness that we so value. We want and need that interaction that it’s hard to follow the signs on a new dog’s kennel that says “I’m new, please just quietly walk by.”

So, what is this all about? It is about the New Year that is emerging from the short days of winter. It is about craving warmth, light, and peace. We all know that the world can be an undeniable sign of happiness that we so value. We want and need that interaction that it’s hard to follow the signs on a new dog’s kennel that says “I’m new, please just quietly walk by.”

Companionship has no boundaries and the comfort, joy, and support that can be felt by creatures of all walks of life should be honored and shared. It is our dream that someday all animals are treated with the same respect — whether they have paws, hooves, talons, or fins. For information on RV adoptions and volunteer opportunities, please visit us at geaugahumane.org.
cold weather care

- Bundle up! Create a cozy spot for them inside using bedding or blankets. Make sure it is away from drafty areas of your home. See if your pet will wear sweaters and/or booties when going outside! Not only will they be more comfortable, they will also look pretty adorable.
- Puppy Pawdicures: Reduce the amount of snow that collects between your pup’s toes by clipping the fur between toe pads. Also, be sure to rinse your pet’s paws with warm water and wipe them dry each time they come inside.
- Holiday Hazards: Make sure to protect your pet from dangerous holiday décor. Holly, mistletoe, and poinsettias can be toxic for your pet. Keep them out of reach and take your pet to the vet immediately if you think they may have ingested one of these. Be mindful of small decorations and things like tinsel as well!
- Hey, More HAY! Make sure to have plenty of hay to eat and bedding for extra warmth for all of your barn critters! They will greatly appreciate a little extra lining in their stalls and in their bellies.
- Fresh never frozen: Make sure all of your animals have lots of fresh water (liquid not frozen) to drink, especially if they are outdoor animals. Use deeper containers and change frequently. If you are feeding an outdoor cat, feed it wet food and try to keep that food from freezing. It is easier for them to digest so they can save more energy for keeping warm!
- Pop your hood: Before starting your cat, give the hood a tap and check between the tires. Believe it or not, cats will sometimes crawl into the engine or hide underneath the car for warmth.
- Don’t forget the neighborhood stray! Stray cats need extra winter warmth too! Make a homemade cozy cat shelter by cutting a hole in a plastic container and a hole in a foam cooler, lining them with lots of hay for insulation, placing the cooler inside of the container and covering the container with its lid. While you’re at it, don’t forget to check the stray cat for an ear tip and if it doesn’t have one, bring it to Rescue Village on a TNR day for a low cost spay or neuter!

Got (outdoor) cats? Rescue Village holds a weekly $20 spay/neuter program for outdoor stray, feral or free roaming cats. There are NO county limitations. Through this program, each cat will be spayed/neutered, given an FVRCP & Rabies vaccine, and we will tip their left ear which identifies them as an altered outdoor cat.

This program is crucial in helping end cat overpopulation. Help be a part of the solution by getting your “neighborhood cats” fixed!

For more information, contact Erin Hawes, Programs Coordinator, at 440.338.4819 ext 14 or programs@geaugahumane.org.

Daryll the not so feral

A “feral” cat is an unsocialized cat living outdoors who tends to be fearful of people. They keep their distance and are most often found living in groups or “colonies” due to the lack of population control. You may have seen Daryll, a black cat, roaming around Rescue Village’s barn. While you might think he is a “Feral” cat, Daryll is anything but! He is most certainly NOT afraid of people! We brought Daryll to our barn to reduce our mouse population but you most often find him lounging to his heart’s content! Daryll went through a TNR feral cat program similar to the one Rescue Village offers and he highly recommends it to any friends of feral cats out there!

“do no harm” the life of a shelter vet

Getting to know Dr. Meg Volpe, Director of Veterinary Services

A healthy shelter is a happy shelter. It is the job of Dr. Megan Volpe to keep Rescue Village healthy for animals and for the people who interact with them. Dr. Volpe has been the leader of Rescue Village’s professional shelter medicine program for over 10 years.

This bright, dedicated veterinarian built our in-house medical program at a time when shelter medicine was just getting started. Dr. Volpe emphasizes the best standards of care and bases her life’s work on the core veterinary belief “do no harm.”

She leads a stellar staff including Lisa Sideropolis, a Certified Vet Tech, and Grace Bramble, the senior Veterinary Assistant. Watching them work is inspiring and impressive. From spay/neuter surgeries to vaccinations - this team has helped tens of thousands of animals. And yet, Dr. Volpe, and her crew, connect with each individual shelter dog and cat. Their hearts ache in those cases where we cannot save an animal. Their hearts soar when there is an unexpected victory.

It amazes me how much support we get to do above and beyond medical care. Like the dogs that needed cardiac surgery (done by specialists) to a cat whose leg was so badly fractured we needed to amputate. Sometimes I wish there weren’t public expectations of adopting “perfect” animals,” Dr. Volpe went on to say.

There is no typical day for our Director of Veterinary Services. It could be a TNR day and she will spay or neuter 20-30 cats; it could be working to medically assess a group of dogs with behavioral problems; it could be containing a disease outbreak quickly and saving every kitten possible in the kitten isolation room in the face of a Feline Parvovirus outbreak. In the past, large numbers of animals may have lost their lives. “With good quarantine protocols and knowledge, we have the opportunity to save so many and prevent the spread of contagious diseases,” emphasized Dr. Volpe.

The truth is Rescue Village, in some ways, is like a big hospital. We are so fortunate to have a shelter vet like Meg Volpe leading our clinic.

- Do no harm to your fur kids!
- Keep your furry friends warm and cozy this winter! Here are a few helpful tips from Rescue Village to make sure the animals in your life have a safe and snuggly holiday!
- Stray cats need extra winter warmth too!
- Bring your feral cats to a TNR day for a low cost spay or neuter!
- Help be a part of the solution by getting your “neighborhood cats” fixed!
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- Don’t forget to keep your furry friends warm and cozy this winter! Here are a few helpful tips from Rescue Village to make sure the animals in your life have a safe and snuggly holiday!
Here at Rescue Village, we have lots of events throughout the year!
Mark your calendars for some upcoming furry fun times!

January 8th
– Resolution for Rescue at CycleBar Beachwood

February 25th
– Foot x Foot, Paw x Paw at Lowe’s Greenhouse

April 6th
– Paint Your Pet at Rescue Village

May 6th & 7th
– Rummage for Rescue Sale at the Geauga County Fairgrounds

June 17th
– Tails at Twilight at Rescue Village

volunteer appreciation

We had a wonderful time cheering for our volunteers in October at the Berkshire Hills Country Club during our annual Volunteer Appreciation event. So many volunteers do so much for us each and every day and it’s the one time of year we get to pamper them. We surprised Suzy Westcott with our Humanitarian of the Year award while Jennie Bixler was honored for 15 years of service. Connie Barrett celebrated 20 years of service and was recognized with a lifetime achievement award. Our Volunteers of the Year, Michelle Hegarty and Tami Thurman, got big rounds of applause. We are grateful to have so many dedicated team members that feel more like family, especially when we all come together in one evening to rejoice.

Congratulations and thank you to Woofstock 2016 Top Fundraiser, Jori Greene!

On Sunday, September 16, over 2,900 people and 675 dogs joined us for a fun-filled day of canine contests, dog agility, pet-friendly shopping, adoptable dogs, and more! The day started off bright and early with our first ever Wet Nose 5K Run, where dogs and their humans alike enjoyed a beautiful run on the trails of Holden Arboretum. Through your dedication and generosity, Woofstock grossed just shy of $55,000! The animals, staff, and volunteers cannot thank you enough for your support!

We would also like to send a very special thank you to our presenting sponsor, The Augustus Family, as well as our other generous sponsors and supporters:

Platinum Collar Sponsors - Junction Auto Family and WIXY

Gold Collar Sponsors - Animal Clinic of Chardon, Stautzenberger College, Pet Palace, Benesch Attorneys at Law, PetPeople, Embrace Pet Insurance, and DeJohn Pet Services

Annual Supporters - All About Dogs of NEOH and Pawsome Pets

Other awards given included:

Welcome Desk Volunteers
Team Impact Award
Woofstock Committee
Team Awesome Award
Carol Marchione
Shining Star Award
Pam Kerr
Superstar Award, Above & Beyond
Carol Schulman
Ambassador of the Year
Michele Sobecks
Rockstar Rookie of the Year
Georgia Westcott
Rising Star, Teen Volunteer of the Year
Kathy & Maggie Renfro
TLC Team of the Year
This new volunteer program gives the shelter cats the one-on-one attention they need and helps socialize them so that they are more adoptable. The sound of a child reading is very comforting in the stressful shelter environment and mimics home life. The kids benefit as they learn about volunteering and doing good deeds while improving their reading skills without judgment. Cats don’t care if a word is mispronounced or if it takes too long to read a paragraph. While at first some cats are hesitant, it doesn’t take long before the furry listener is purring for more right by their side, or even in their lap!

This program is for kids from 6-12 years old. They may read a book in our library or bring their own. A parent must accompany these young readers. Currently the reading shifts are 30 minutes between 1:00 and 4:00 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and between 10:00 and 12:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information or to register for an Orientation, contact the Volunteer Assistant, Pamela Pray, at 440-338-4819 x 49.

It seems at least once a day there is a young person bringing in a donation for Rescue Village. From lemonade stand money to piles of pet food collected at school, every donation we receive puts smiles on our faces and wags in our tails. It is with the help of these little hearts and minds that we feel confident in the future of rescue. We are so honored to be one of the only shelters in Ohio to offer a Humane Education Program where we can teach kindness, compassion, and how to properly care for and interact with animals. During our Summer and Winter Camps as well as in our PALs program, we see firsthand how passionate today’s kids are about animals. We have so much hope that they will use the skills they learn through our programs and will grow up to treat all creatures with respect and dignity.

If you are interested in participating in any of our youth education programs, please contact Nicole Latosky at education@geaugahumane.org.

The future of rescue

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Make payable to Geauga Humane Society

- One Surgery Pack $500
- Dental X-Ray $10,000
- One Day Humane Agent Sponsorship $200
- One Summer Campership $250
- Rescue Village summer camps are fun and educational. Every year, this sold out camp is a huge success. However, there are many students that would like to attend camp but simply can’t afford the fee. With our expanded shelter, we are saving even more lives than ever. That means our clinic is busier than ever! More animals means more spays and neuters and the need for additional surgery packs. Your gift of a surgery pack will help ensure that our veterinarians have the tools and necessary equipment to provide treatment to animals with special needs. Donate Needed Veterinary Equipment

For Barn Animal Lovers

- Horse Halter and Lead $35
- Blanket for a Horse $100
- Feed a Horse/Month $150
- Two Weeks of Barn Bedding $250
- Help Bed a Stall

Vet Care for a Horse

- Dog Spay / Neuter $82.50
- Dog Vaccinations $15
- Dog Food for a Week $100
- Heartworm Treatment $500
- Provide a Horse with New Attire

Keep a Puppy or Kitten Cozy

- Snuggle Safe $25
- Pack of Cat Castles $25
- Bottle Feeding Formula $50
- Cat Food for a Week $75
- Keep a Kitten or Puppy Warm and Cozy

For Cat Lovers

- Cat Treats and Toys $15
- Cat Adoption "Make Ready" $150
- For Cat Lovers

For Dog Lovers

- Heartworm Treatment $500
- For Dog Lovers

Help/Mailing/Postage

- For the Shelter

This is a gift. Please send to:
Name ________________________________
Address  ______________________________
City ____________ State _____ Zip _________
Phone ________________________________

ATTN: Gifts to Pawnder
Novelty, Ohio 44072
Post Office Box 116
Geauga Humane Society

Scan here to give online

5 shelter

Help a Horse Receive Basic Care

Feed a Horse for a Month $150

Help a Horse Eat and Drink

Two Weeks of Barn Bedding $250

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5 shelter
Keep a Dog Healthy
by covering the cost of one dog’s vaccinations

Help keep a dog in our shelter healthy by sponsoring vaccinations for one dog. Vaccinations are vital to keep our dogs happy and healthy.

Dog Vaccinations $15

Put a Smile on a Dog’s Face
by donating toys and treats

Life in a shelter environment can be challenging which is why every comfort of home provided can go a long way in keeping homeless dogs happy and healthy. Yummy treats to taste and fun toys to play with provide happy moments for dogs as they wait for their forever homes.

Dog Treats and Toys $25

Support a One Week Stay at the Shelter
for a dog while they wait for a home

From feeding, walking, cleaning, playing and providing medical attention, taking care of all the dogs at the shelter is a huge job! Support a week’s worth of care for a dog waiting for a home and feel good knowing that they will receive the best care possible until adopted.

One Week Shelter Stay for a Dog $75

Prevent Unwanted Litters
by sponsoring a spay / neuter for one dog

Help prevent unwanted litters by sponsoring a spay / neuter for a dog. Although puppies are cute, there are already too many dogs waiting for forever homes!

Dog Spay / Neuter $82.50

Fill Our Dogs' Tummies
by donating food for a week

With thousands of animals coming through our doors each year, we go through a lot of food. Help fill our dogs’ tummies by donating food for one week.

Dog Food for a Week $100

Heal a Broken Heart
by covering the cost of a heartworm treatment for a dog

With increased transports from other shelters, we are seeing a greater number of heartworm cases in dogs. Help us, help them by sponsoring heartworm treatment for one dog.

Heartworm Treatment $500

For those hard-to-buy-for humans
We all have those hard-to-buy-for humans in our lives. Every holiday you struggle to figure out exactly what to give them but not this year!

With this catalog, you can give the gift that keeps on giving and feel good about supporting the animals of Rescue Village. You’ll make an immediate difference by shopping in our gift catalog and donating items or services for the animals instead of (or in addition to) providing gifts for your friends or family.

Please consider giving a gift that truly matters.

With gratitude,
Rebecca Bendlak
Director of Development
Geauga Humane Society’s Rescue Village

For those hard-to-buy-for humans

For the Cat Lovers

For the Cat Lovers

Cat Food for a Week $75

Cat Treats and Toys $15

Pack of Cat Castles $25

Help a Cat Find a Home
by donating a cat castle

Cat castles provide a safe and secure place for cats to relax and hide, and minimizes the stress that comes with shelter life.

Pack of Cat Castles $25

Help a "Bottle Baby" Survive
by providing bottle feeding formula

Every year hundreds of orphaned kittens who are found helpless and alone depend on the staff and volunteers at the shelter to survive. By providing much needed feeding formula, you’ll give these vulnerable animals the chance at survival by receiving the critical nutrition they need.

Bottle Feeding Formula $50

Fill Our Cat's Tummies
by donating food for a week

With thousands of animals coming through our doors each year, we go through a lot of food. Help fill our cat’s tummies by donating food for a week.

Cat Food for a Week $75

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Rescue Village Pawnder

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