Life-saving in three parts. At Geauga Humane Society we know that no one person, agency or group can go it alone. When we pull together, sometimes we can work miracles—countless times we can offer hope.

These stories are about compassion that has no boundaries; about love that comes from all kinds of places; about extraordinary people and groups working together and sharing resources; about why we call this wonderful place on Chillicothe Road Rescue Village. It is all about the animals.

**PART 1**

If ever there were an odd couple, it was Ben and Jake, a senior pair with one slightly overweight Beagle and a tall German Short-haired Pointer. The duo, a challenge for adoption, came to us together from a family whose new home would not accommodate the pair. From April until November, Ben and Jake did not meet their match at Rescue Village. The staff then arranged for the dogs to be transferred to the Geauga County Dog Warden kennel; everyone hoping that in a new place they just might find their forever home.

This partnership and collaboration (which goes on 365 days a year) was the key to success! Ben and Jake went home together and are living the life of Riley.

**PART 2**

Happy Tails Cat Sanctuary is the tireless work of Jeanne Bones and her crew. At a time when the cat population is exploding, and homeless cats abound, it is part of a network devoted to saving lives. For our part, we work with Jeanne to spay and neuter scores of cats through our low or no cost Trap-Neuter-Return program. “We are extremely grateful to have a resource like Rescue Village in our own backyard,” said Jeanne. Jeanne, back atcha!

**PART 3**

GHS Humane Agent Sarah Westman’s cell phone rang at 10 pm on January 10th. The Portage Animal Protective League, near Ravenna, had taken four starving and ill horses into protective custody from a boarding stable in Brimfield, where five other horses were found dead.

A foster home had been found for two. Rescue Village immediately agreed to take the other two into our barn. Happy Trails Animal Sanctuary, a wonderful group which we had helped out weeks earlier, offered their trailer to bring the horses up to Rescue Village.

At midnight the horses arrived. Opie, a 20 plus year-old stallion and Anthony, a 10 or so year-old gelding were seen quickly by Dr. Megan Hura. Both horses were severely malnourished and neglected, and we learned that Opie had only a small chance of survival.

Calls for donations of funds and feed went out through the grapevines of compassion. By Friday afternoon, a wonderful equine vet, Dr. Pamela Hess, joined the medical care team. Saturday morning, a truckload of donated hay arrived.

Tragically, Opie passed away on Sunday, January 13th in his stall at Rescue Village, unable to overcome the devastating effects of starvation and neglect. For Anthony, the outcome of this rescue is not yet written, but for now his health is improving.

*Anthony with Sara Dillenkofer*  photo: Amy Sancetta
from the executive director

A friend gave me a beautiful journal last year. I write in it every night so that I will not forget the stories that fill my days as a humane society director. We write or take photographs to bear witness. After all, the animals cannot share their stories without our help.

It is one of those “glass half full” things… we can look at the pictures and hear the stories of animals that got a second chance at life with care, compassion and dignity. Like Nikko the horse and his new happy existence at the farm in Solon. Or Balbina the puppy who came to the shelter injured, had surgery, and was adopted. She came back to RV for a visit with a new name, Heidi, two happy human guardians, and the rambunctious joy of a carefree puppy. You can read the story of Paisley the cat in this newsletter. There are literally thousands of these stories every year at Rescue Village. These stories are a living documentary of who we are and what we do… all for the animals.

Yet sometimes we need to share stories that are hard to hear or see or to read about. These are the stories like the one on our front page about Opie, Anthony and the horses at the stable in Brimfield—the recountings that make you angry, or bring you to tears.

There will come a time in the future when people will treat all animals, including other people, with concern and respect. I truly believe this. And as we enter this new year, all of us at Geauga Humane Society’s Rescue Village renew our promise to do everything we can, every day of the year, to fill the glass to overflowing with stories of new beginnings and celebrations of the human-animal bond.

Sincerely,

Hope Brustein

Save the Date—

Please join us March 18th, 2008 6:30pm at Rescue Village for the Board of Trustees Annual Meeting. The Humanitarian of the Year Award will be presented.
Listen Up! Keep Your Pet’s Ears Healthy

“My dog is always shaking his head.” “That cat won’t stop scratching its ears, and there’s a lot of black stuff in there.” “Buster’s ears smell simply terrible! What can I do about it?” Veterinarians often hear these complaints since ear problems in dogs and cats are very common.

The ear canal is a moist dark place where bad things like to grow. Bacteria, fungus, and mites thrive and multiply inside the ear, where they cause constant irritation. The endless scratching of the affected animal only serves to further damage the lining of the ear and promote more infection. The solution is to properly identify and eliminate the offending organisms by applying the correct medication.

Veterinarians have so much experience in treating ear infections that sometimes they can make an educated guess as to the cause. Often it is necessary to take a bit of the waxy discharge and grow it on a special surface to identify the exact organisms that are causing the problem. Some infections are caused by both bacteria and fungus, making a correct diagnosis even more complicated. Identifying ear mites is different from identifying other infections, since mites are easy to see under the microscope as crawling spider-like creatures.

Getting rid of ear infections depends on two things: using a medication that is effective against the specific cause, and using the medication for a long enough time to eliminate all the organisms. Unfortunately, pet owners cannot identify the cause of ear infections by themselves, nor can they buy over-the-counter products that will be curative.

The answer to shaking heads, constant scratching, black ear wax, and smelly ears is to get the dog or cat to the veterinarian as soon as the problem is noticed. Veterinarians have new drugs that are vastly superior to the old ones. With the newer correct medications, a few ear conditions, such as mites, can be cured in one treatment!
Upcoming Classes (in the Rescue Village classroom).
Visit our website at www.geaugahumane.org for class dates and times or call 440.338.4819, ext 10 for more information or to register.

Puppy Preschool A class to start you and your puppy (eight weeks to five months) off on the right track. You'll learn how to teach your dog basic manners, how to walk nicely on a leash, and how to greet people politely. Cost: $95 ($85 for adopters from Rescue Village). Fee includes a manual and treat pack. Registration is required. No dogs are brought to the first week of class. Sessions are six evenings.

Good Dog 101 A primer on positive reinforcement training for owners with dogs ages five months to two years. Basic commands are taught. Cost: $95 ($85 for adopters from Rescue Village). Includes a manual and treat pack. Registration is required. Bring your dog to all six classes. Each session meets six times.

Come When Called This command could be critical for safety and allow your dog some off-leash fun. No age limit for dogs. Cost: $40 and includes a manual and treat pack. Registration is required. Bring your dog to both classes. Sessions are two consecutive weeks.

I want to make a gift to help the animals

In □ honor or □ memory of
Name of □ person □ animal being recognized
Address for gift notification

Amount of gift $

Donor information
Name
Address
Phone

□ My check is enclosed
(make checks payable to Geauga Humane Society)

Please charge my □ MasterCard □ Visa □ Discover Card
Account #
Exp Date
Verification code
(last 3 digits of number in signature box on back of card)
Signature

Please return to: Geauga Humane Society
PO Box 116 Novelty, OH 44072
Your gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Double your donation with a matching gift—see your employer for details.

Dates to remember—

National “Spay Day” is February 26th. It’s not just rabbits that multiply like rabbits! Spay or neuter your pets. Help stop pet overpopulation.

“Lights in the Garden” Friday, May 21 at 7pm in the Kranz Family Celebration Garden at Rescue Village. An interactive celebration by candlelight of 365 days a year of life-saving. Admission: a donation of food for the animals.

For further event information be sure to check our website www.geaugahumane.org

Save the date!
The animals of Rescue Village invite you to

“A Doggone Purrfect Night”
an elegant evening of food, wine, live music, dancing, art auctions, and shelter tours. This new signature benefit for the animals will be held on

Saturday, June 21, 2008.
Rescue Village Wish List

- Heavy duty garbage bags
- Canned cat and kitten food
- Purina Kitten Chow
- Purina Cat Chow
- Small gently used cat trees
- Corrugated cardboard scratching posts
- Gently used sheets, blankets and towels
- Pedigree or Purina Puppy Chow or dog food
- Buster Cubes Treat dispensing toys
- Plush squeaky toys
- Pigs Ears
- Soft treats (Sniffers, Ruppersoni, Hot Dogs)
- Good quality Timothy Hay
- Feed scoops
- Nylabones

Homeward Bound/Enrichment Program Special Wish List

- Turbo Scratchers and refills/ PetsMart
- Cat grass kits
- Lazer lights
- Hide-Away or Pyramid cat beds
- Cat jungle gyms/Target
- Catnip
- Heavy plastic containers measuring: 16-18" length, 10"-12" wide & 8"-10" high
- Cat Greenies Treats
- Windex
- KittyWalk Outdoor Cat Run
- EDGE BOUND Carpet Squares

Special thanks to…

Ed Slaby for his compassionate help in our barn on a difficult day with our rescue horses.

Barb Stiebeling for transporting hay to Happy Trails and for her early morning work mucking the barn.

Everyone who brought and offered hay, feed, blankets, and donations for the horse’s care.

Sue & Don Conover for doing a major cleaning of our cat room.

Peggy & Alan Bialosky for providing dinner, twice, for the staff.

Lynn Dula for keeping Billy Boy in line in the kitchen.

Wendy Nelson, from Wags 4 Kids and Jeanne Dregalla, from Guidedogs for the Blind, for their wonderful presentations at Homeward Bound meetings.

Congratulations to… Carol Peter, Carole Nazar, Abbie Leska, Betsy Kubbins and Pamela Semanik for achieving their Certified Pet Dog Trainer (CPDT) Certifications.

Volunteers Ed Slaby, Marcia Grout and Ardis Danicic for their on-going behind-the-scenes support of our Cage Sponsor Program.

Dynamic Duo volunteers Jim Jung and Don Conover for their extraordinary handyman services around Rescue Village.

Myrna Papurt DVM for volunteering to spay and neuter 436 cats through our TNR program during 2007.

The visitors who filled Rescue Village with holiday cheer by generously donating food, bedding, toys, etc. for the animals.

All the volunteers and visitors who made our Holiday Open House such a festive event. Thanks also go to all of the artists, store owners, and friends who generously donated to and bid on the items in the Silent Auction.

Naming Opportunities Still Available in Celebration Garden

We are still offering a number of naming opportunities ranging from $250 to $15,000 in the Rescue Village Kranz Family Celebration Garden. One of these could be the perfect gift for the animal lover in your life. We would be happy to assist you with a tour of the garden. If you are interested in any naming opportunities and would like more information, please call 440.338.4819, ext 16.

Welcome Kate Koval

I came to Rescue Village at the end of October 2007. After growing up in Northeast Ohio, I moved to New England to attend the University of New Hampshire (UNH), graduating with a degree in Family Studies. Working with animals came naturally, starting at a very young age when I grew up with a working police K-9, Jake. From that point on, animals were the center of my life.

After graduating from UNH, I moved to Boston and soon obtained a position at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. I was an adoption counselor and also took part in animal care and assisting the vet team with surgeries and exams. Shelter life, I soon realized, was my second nature. I moved back to the Cleveland area in August and pursued a career in the shelter field. I am thrilled to be here and am looking forward to putting plenty of hard work and effort into making Rescue Village the finest shelter it can be.

Board of Trustees News

We welcome Dr. Julie Clayman to our Board of Trustees. Julie, a Cardiothoracic Surgeon, is also an avid horsewoman, gardener, and animal lover. Welcome, Julie.

Information in RV Reporter is believed accurate. Geauga Humane Society does not accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Consult your veterinarian for animal related concerns. It is our general policy not to sell or give away our mailing list. We do, however, reserve the right to share our list with certain strategic partners who are working with us to advance our mission. If you do not want us to provide strategic partners with your name, please send written notification to P.O. Box 116, Novelty, OH 44072.

Newsletter design by Sally Biel Contizano, contizanodesign@sbcglobal.net Illustrations © Jenny Campbell, Campbell & Co. Cartooning, jenny@campbellcartooning.com
Happy Endings in

Belinda was brought to Rescue Village because her owner had too many dogs and couldn’t care for her. She is an active young gal, and would love an active family who could run around with her and play all day long.

Barron was a little itty bitty kitten when he came to us. We have watched him grow into a big beautiful young adult, but it is time for him to find a home. Barron needs an active household with lots of toys to play with.

Sassy came to Rescue Village because her owner was moving and could not keep the dogs at her new residence. She needs an active home with older children. Sassy knows a few commands like sit, lay down, and is working on roll over.

Anna came in as an injured stray cat. Her leg was badly broken, but with time and love Anna is feeling great and ready to get home. She has been here over a year and is looking for a home with many windows to watch the birds and wildlife.

Adoption Coupon

Bring this coupon to Rescue Village and receive any two cats for the price of one!

Coupon not valid with other offers. Expires May 1, 2008
Paisley was abandoned in a cardboard box in a staff member’s driveway. She was extremely shy. Elizabeth Wienstock says that Paisley came to life in her home, becoming the cat that we all knew she could be. She is absolutely inseparable from her other RV alumni sister Abby. They sleep together, play together and do absolutely everything together. Paisley has become the sweetest, most adorable cat.

Chicken came to Rescue Village after her owner ran into financial woes. She was very shy and scared when she arrived. But as soon as Rebecca Morton came to Rescue Village, she knew that Chicken was the right dog for her. Chicken now lives the life of luxury with Rebecca, going to work with her every day, enjoying all the people who visit her on a daily basis. Chicken loves to wear sweaters, and Rebecca swears that Chicken has more clothes than she does!

Bugsy & Milo came to Rescue Village in desperate need of a foster home. Bugsy arrived through the cat seizure of 2004, where we seized 113 cats from one home. Bugsy was underweight, sickly, and the smallest of the bunch. Milo came to us as an orphaned kitten, in need of some help. That’s where Laurie Byrnes and her family come in. She has been an AMAZING foster home for us for a long time. She took them in and fostered them into happy and healthy kittens. After thinking about it, they decided to keep both these little guys. So now Bugsy & Milo enjoy their new lives with the Byrnes. They play together like little wild men all day, romping around and enjoying their new start on life.

Heidi came to Rescue Village with her littermates after they wandered into someone’s front yard. When Heidi arrived, the abscessed masses on her side were removed in surgery and she recovered wonderfully. When Patti & Michael McColluch came in to Rescue Village, Heidi stole their hearts. She goes on long walks in the woods with Michael, and she has lifted his spirits so much since she has been with them. She loves to play with lots of different toys at once, and loves to go on car rides with her new parents.
In Memory of

Friends & Relatives

Lois Beattie
Bentleyville Road Neighborhood Club

Charles Blanchard
Ray & Maureen Godin, David & Deborah Blanchard, Kathleen Zawacki, Phyllis & Timmy O’Sullivan

Sally E. Broome Douglas Broome

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Richard Dixon Mary Murray Mayo

William Duff

Charles & Janer Danforth Belson, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Burke, Laura Brady, Michelle Burnett, Bruce & Barbara Cautner, Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center, Linda & Kevin lange

Christine Eder
Brenda & Jorg Barenwald, Doreen Petrosky

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Norm & Sheri Alexander, Anita & Howard Cohen, Bernice Hutkin, Michael & Carrie Leonetti, Dario & Dianne Lillibridge, William & Bonnie Patrick, Patricia Piazza, Cheryl Pope, Norton W. Rose

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Gary A. Walker Judith Walker
Pamela Ward

Mike Zampini Lynn B. Taylor

In Memory of Compasion Animals

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Mobile Veterinary Animal Care Inc.

Albert Tiffany Campbell
Allie
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Amy Margaret Friedman Bahleda
April Sherrill Garfield
Beavis Maria DeAngelis
Bitsy Nancy Gillombardo
Blackie Timothy Newland
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Boudette & Tommy Cynthia L. Woc
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Dingo Kitty Kathy Disien
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Kartoon Kathy Disien
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Tucker Kathy Disien
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Gwen Walsh Ouellette & Associates

Dr. Israel Walzer

Dive Weikel Douglas Broome

Gary & Margaret White

Brian & Susan White

Yogi & Dave

Karen Shaheen
We were thinking of adopting a cat or kitten from Rescue Village. We have never had one before. Our neighbor told us that all cats are basically the same. Is this true?

Congratulations! Not only have you made the decision to adopt a feline friend, you have decided to adopt it from Rescue Village!

In order to make a match that will last forever, you have to decide what you are looking for. There are many varieties! Short Hair. Long Hair. Striped, Solid, Spotted, Tri-Color. Blue Eyes, Green Eyes, Yellow Eyes. Male. Female. Kitten, Young Adult, Adult, Senior. Just as there are numerous physical traits to decide upon, you will have to pick the personality type that appeals to you.

For instance Molly the Perpetual Couch Potato might not be the cat for you if you hope to spend a lot of time playing with your new family member. Molly ventures off the couch once or twice daily to eat and stretch. She is inactive, tends to be overweight, and demands little attention.

Then, there are the high energy cats. These cats want to be number one in your household. All activity must revolve around the high energy cat. He is mischievous, playful, and demanding of your time and energy. He needs a lot of stimulation to keep his mind occupied and to keep him out of trouble!

Or, you may fancy a timid, shy cat. The timid cat will probably run and hide each time company arrives. She spends most of her time out of sight. But, if conditions are right, and all is quiet, she will come out and bestow her affections upon you.

And then we have the DIVA. Generally female, she is the queen. She is petted when she wants to be petted. She blesses you with her presence when she feels like it. She goes where she wants to go and does what she wants to do. She is picky about everything. You will have to buy her a pink collar with rhinestones to honor her royalty. Yet, she will be expecting and may even demand diamonds.

We also see some cats that are extremely affectionate. They want to be petted 24/7. An extremely affectionate cat will follow you everywhere you go, taking every opportunity to jump on your lap, always demanding a “head, neck, and arm massage.”

Most of theses personalities evolve once the cat reaches maturity.

If you are going to adopt a kitten, you are taking your chances! Most kittens are playful and active and most often, an affectionate kitten will be an affectionate adult. However, kitten behavior isn’t always a predictor of adult behavior. Cat personalities are not limited to those described above. Some are “combos” and other cats seem to create a very definitive category of their own!

At Geauga Humane Society, the adoption counselors work hard to match distinct personality types to family dynamics. As many cats live fifteen years or more, a mismatch could lead to a very, very long relationship. Choose the right personality and you will find that you have made the purr-fect choice.

Casie and Callie, brother and sister cats, were adopted from Rescue Village in 2005 by Marcia Catalano of Hunting Valley. After Casie ran away twice, once for 3 days, the other for 5 days, Marcia decided enough was enough. She had an Invisible Fence® Brand outdoor safety solution installed in May 2007 and says “I have had such relief since.” According to Marcia, “(Casie & Callie) learned very quickly where the Invisible Fence (boundary) was and have not strayed since.”

In a letter to Invisible Fence® Brand, Marcia wrote, “Everyone is amazed that the fence can be used with cats...Thanks for giving my buddies the freedom to be cats outdoors and for giving me peace of mind!”
Cage sponsors help to provide food, medicine and veterinary care for the over 2,000 animals we rehabilitate each year. THANK YOU!!!
Together They Spell JOY

At 13, Simba, a big yellow Lab with arthritis, was used to spending each day surrounded by peace, quiet, and love from his “mom,” Geauga Humane Society Trustee, Kathy Leavenworth at their home in Chagrin Falls. Then one day, Kathy decided to take a look at a litter of Lab pups up for adoption at Rescue Village.

She was wanting a puppy, yet worried that introducing a ball of energy into Simba’s life might wear him out, cause him stress, and upset the apple cart. Looking at the litter of pups though, Kathy was all smiles, and picked out a happy and (sort of) mellow male with very large paws. That’s him in the picture. His name is Leno. And, as you can see, Simba and Leno have an “understanding.” Simba gets to be his senior self and a mentor! Leno gets to be a puppy and a gentle friend. Together, they spell JOY.

Leno with his new mom, Kathy Leavenworth.

Leno with his brother Simba.