Shelter from the Storm

When a blizzard blows in we like to think that every person and her or his animals are tucked safely inside. Yet, more than ever, Rescue Village is relied on to provide shelter from the economic storm. Often we are the only safety net for animals in urgent need. We are among the top 3 shelters, in size and services, in a region that has only 6 humane agencies serving over 1.5 million people.

A Few Words Tell a Big Story
The note explaining why Misty, a 5 year old lab, came to Rescue Village has just one word: “foreclosure.” When her owners lost their home, Misty was given to a neighbor. That decision was a far cry from the myth that people who give away their pets do not love them. In Misty’s case things just did not work out and the neighbor surrendered her to Rescue Village. Losing a family, then having to move again, and, now, waiting to be adopted from the shelter has turned Misty’s world upside down. Two kennels down, the sign featured just two words: “job loss.”

We Need Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Found abandoned after his owner moved, Martini, the pony, came to Rescue Village malnourished. Abandoning a horse condemns it to death. We are hearing about this happening more often as the economic crisis worsens. Our Humane Agent found Martini and moved him to the Rescue Village Barn.

Our Own Kind of Bailout
Murray is a tan and white cat who was found abandoned with his friends Monroe and Gino inside a house with a big “foreclosed” sign. It is hard to imagine packing up and leaving a pet behind. We encourage people facing hard times to think ahead and make plans for their pet’s care.

When they do not, Rescue Village goes into motion and enacts our own kind of “bailout.” We bring homeless pets to the shelter where they have warm beds, great medical care, lots of love, and most of all, the promise of a better life. Monroe and Gino were adopted. We hope Murray will not be far behind.

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The staff nursed him back to health. As cold weather came, Martini’s coat thickened and the Millers, who had adopted Fiona the goat, took Martini into their family.

Horses and farm animals require a lot of space and special care. They pose a unique challenge. Rescue Village has decided that we need to build a resource network, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, to address this emerging animal welfare crisis. This is the kind of compassion that love elicits.

With your support Rescue Village will help shepherd thousands of animals to safety and new lives.
Old deaf dogs are the best dogs and my Dublin was the best dog in the whole world.

Maybe it was the way he slept so deeply that sometimes I could not wake him. Maybe it was the way he looked like a puppy when he was groomed, and the doggie version of Father Time when his curly, unkempt fur stuck out everywhere. Maybe it was how he loved the Popcorn Shop in Chagrin Falls because he knew that every Thursday evening was vanilla ice cream night. Maybe it was his immediate love for Bob Simpson and the mutuality of it all. It was, simply, perfect.

Seven months with Dublin, my Terrier Ya Ya Ya, as I liked to call him, was just not enough. In November, when he died, he was surrounded by his people.

The wonderful thing is that there is room for every dog, every cat, every pig, pet rat, horse, turtle, and rabbit to be the best one in the whole wide world. I had my Dublin, Jan had her Sage, Kathy had her Simba, Cynthia had her Mr. Big, Sarah had her Phoenix, Sharnyn had her Jasper, Kathy had her Sancho, Timmy had her Benny, Heidi had her Bailey, and you, I am certain, have your own “best one.” All of them had their people who were, in their lives, the best people in the whole wide world. It is the magic that is made when love is unconditional.

Old deaf dogs are the best dogs and Dublin, my Dubbie Dubbs Dubbie, will always be in my heart. We come upon treasures here and there throughout our lives. They are not ours to keep.

But, for a while, they grace our world with uncommon light and joy.

Gratefully,
Hope Brustein

P.S. Thank you to Rescue Village and all of the shelters, good rescues, and foster homes that save animals’ lives and enrich our world.

A Fix It in the Farmland First

It was a sight rarely seen in rural Geauga County, Ohio—Amish horses and buggies bringing dogs and cats to Rescue Village’s “Fix It in the Farmland” low-cost spay/neuter clinic day has been held at an Amish farm near Middlefield.

Fix It staff registered clients inside the farm’s workshop. The animals were carried into the mobile surgical van operated by Petfix of Northeast Ohio. This is the first time a spay/neuter clinic day has been held at an Amish farm in Northeast Ohio.

Fix It in the Farmland is part of Geauga Humane Society’s efforts to end pet overpopulation. We are so grateful to be welcomed by members of the Amish community.
I want to make a gift to help the animals

I would like my contribution to benefit—

[ ] General Operations
[ ] Cage Sponsorship
[ ] Cat cage
[ ] dog cage
[ ] Honor/Memorial

Donation Amount

[ ] One-time donation
[ ] Monthly donation for______months

Total Pledged $_________

Name

Street

City

State Zip Code

Phone

Email

Company Name

[ ] Check Enclosed (payable to Geauga Humane Society)

[ ] Credit or Debit Card Number

Expiration Date V-Code

If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of a special person or animal, please fill out the information below:

[ ] In Memory
[ ] In Honor
[ ] person Animal

Send acknowledgement letter to:

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Please return to:

Geauga Humane Society

Address

City

State Zip Code

To help the animals

Visit our website at www.geaugahumane.org for class dates and times or call 440.338.4819, ext 43 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 adoptees from Rescue Village).

Fee includes a manual and treat pack. Registration is required. No dogs should be brought to the first week of class. Sessions are six evenings.

Upcoming classes:

Sundays, March 1 thru April 5, 2:00–3:00pm
Mondays, April 13 thru May 18, 6:00–7:00pm
Thursdays, July 9 thru August 3, 6:30–7:30pm

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 adoptees from Rescue Village). Registration is required. No dogs should be brought to the first week of class. Sessions are six evenings.

Upcoming classes:

Mondays, March 2 thru April 6, 6:00–7:00pm
Thursdays, April 16 thru May 21, 6:00–7:00pm
Sundays, May 31 thru July 12 (skip July 5), 2:00–3:00pm
Mondays, July 20 thru August 24, 6:30–7:30pm

Rescue Village Wish List

- Laundry soap
- Paper towels
- Empty squirt bottles (not spray)
- 33 gallon garbage bags
- Lamb and rice dog treats
- White copy paper

Fostering Dogs for Rescue Village is a Constant Adventure

By Karen David

I signed up to volunteer as a foster home for sick cats in 2003. I heard from Rescue Village a few months later when the Dog Behavior Coordinator called to ask if I would take in a mom and her puppies. I said yes, and have been fostering momma dogs and their litters and dogs recovering from heartworm and other injuries ever since.

Currently I have 10 seven week old foster pups, along with my own four dogs, two cats and two horses. These puppies give kisses, have puppy tummies and puppy breath, and yes, they make a huge puppy mess!

Aside from the regular day-to-day care (feeding, grooming, exercising), the responsibilities of a foster home may include some basic training (housetraining, walking on leash, sit, down), medical care (dispensing medication given by Rescue Village veterinarians), and of course, plenty of playtime and snuggling.

Fostering a dog and puppies may seem like a daunting task, but it is very rewarding to assist animals recovering from illness. Everyone seems to benefit, especially the animals. People ask me if I get too attached to the animals. Many times I cry when I return them, but I know that Rescue Village will make sure they are placed in loving homes.

Looking Forward

Mark your calendar for upcoming events and activities.

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 6:30pm. Join us for our Annual Meeting at Rescue Village where our Members will elect new trustees and review the accomplishments of 2008.

Volunteer Appreciation Event

Saturday, April 25, 2009. To show our great appreciation for all the time, energy, and efforts given by our 400 plus volunteers, Location and time to be determined

Comedy of Errors at the Playhouse Square

Saturday, May 2, 2009. The balcony of the Hanna Theater will be reserved for Rescue Village friends to enjoy Shakespeare’s play about a zany cast of unforgettable characters and a myriad of mistaken identities. Private cash bar available. Tickets are $100 per person. 60% of the proceeds will go to Rescue Village. Call 440.338.4819, ext 19 for tickets.

A Doggone Purfect Night

Join us under the beautiful white tent for the 2nd annual Doggone Purfect Night on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at Rescue Village. For more information call 440.338.4819, ext 19.

Special thanks to...

Sara Guren for volunteering her time and talents to shoot the beautiful photography at our Woofstock event in September 2008. Sara’s photos were featured on page 11 of our November 2008 Rescue Village Reporter

Blue Jay Orchard for donating fruit throughout the year for the barn animals and for providing apple cider for the Holiday Adoptathon event

Mary Hobbs for raffling off a beautiful art print to support Rescue Village

Darlene at Imagery Gallery for hosting the raffle

Jenny Campbell, Sally Biel Contizano and Amy Sancetta for their time and talents given to 2008 newsletters and appeals and more

Alan and Peggy Bialosky for helping to decorate the lobby for the holidays and for donating glass class

Myrna Papurt, volunteer DVM, for another record year of Catmat’s TNR program spay/neuters

Sharren Voelker for installing a wonderful sound system so that our adoptable dogs have great music

Bob Voelker for providing food and space at Blue Canyon for the Homeward Bound holiday gatherings

Brugmann Sand & Gravel Inc. in Mantua for donating several tons of gravel for the isolation pen

Buckeye Excavating in Chagrin Falls for picking up and delivering the gravel

The Pattie Group for donating the equipment and the man power to spread the gravel

Chargin Pet and Garden Supply for donating the wonderful Douglas Fir that hung upside down during the holidays

Paddock Saddlery for collecting items and monetary donations for us throughout the holidays

Flower Factory for collecting wish list items from customers

Caren Stutzman for making pirogies for the Holiday Lights In The Garden event

Ambassadors and their dogs for helping at the Holiday Adoptathon: Heather Lampman, Abbie Leska, Chrissy Valigore, Linda Godwin, Carla Newberry, Nancy Parker, Valerie Stefancin, George and Ginger Davis

Volunteer DVM, for another record year of Catsmart TNR

Adoptathon: Nancy Carleton, Enid Friedman, Anne Nelson, Genny Franzen, Cathie Czaga, Barbara Krouse, Peggy and Alan Bialosky, Carla Newberry, Nancy Parker, Marie Scheps, Sue Conover, Kathy Katz, Carol Perfetto (any one who we may have missed)

Lilly Pulitzer for holding a very special Rescue Village shopping day on Saturday, October 18

Rebecca Ray Designs for holding a very special Rescue Village shopping day on Thursday, December 4

Jim Jung for installing cabinets and hanging the holiday tree

Volunteer DVM, for another record year of Catsmart TNR

Animal and Art! Kids also go out to all of the artists who contributed time and talent to create such a beautiful fundraiser

Heidi Wormser for her outstanding assistance with the website
Adoption hours (Animal intake by appointment)
Mon. & Thurs. from noon to 7pm / Tues., Fri., Sat., & Sun. from noon to 5pm/Closed on Wednesday

Lonely Hearts Club—A club for extra special animals searching for VERY SPECIAL people. Lonely Hearts Club members get focused attention because they might be older, or bigger, or sight-impaired, or need some custom care. But, just like everyone else, they deserve someone to love them forever. This program devotes time to “getting the word out” about our most needy Rescue Village animals.

Black Jack—If you are looking for a happy, bouncy dog that will brighten up your day, Black Jack is your man. He originally found refuge at Trumbull County Animal Shelter and was transferred to Rescue Village on October 16, 2008. Black Jack, a sleek, handsome, lively Black Lab mix has a surplus of love to give! His manners are outstanding and he loves to show off how well he sits down and gives his paw (especially if you have yummy treats). The shelter life is just not agreeing with him, so he needs a home where someone will be patient and give him the time she needs to adjust and relax in new surroundings. If you have the love and understanding to give a true Lonely Heart, please come in and meet Black Jack today!

Sally—If there is a cat that fits the Lonely Heart description, it is Sally. Sally has been at Rescue Village for over a year. She is shy at first and has a difficult time trusting new people, but once she gets over that hurdle, she is a sweet and silly kitty. The way to Sally’s heart is through her stomach! She has taught us to cover our leftovers, or things have a way of disappearing. Sally’s heart is through her stomach! She needs a home where someone will be patient and give her the time she needs to adjust and relax in new surroundings. If you have the love and understanding to give a true Lonely Heart, please come in and meet Sally today!

Goose—Goose has been in search of her forever home for nearly a year-and-a-half. Two summers ago Goose was found as a stray along with her kitten, Turtle. They were lost and scared, wandering the streets in the hot muggy July weather. The person who found them had allergies and could not keep them. Soon after they arrived, at Rescue Village, little Turtle was adopted. But sweet, lovable Goose is still waiting. If you have a quiet home and lots of love to give, this Goose is just waiting to take off from her nest here at Rescue Village.

Rin, a gorgeous young German Shepherd, was rescued by our Humane Agent one cold, winter day. He was found running in a park with a large open sore all around his neck from a collar that was too small and too tight. On his first full day at the shelter, Rin had surgery to fix the injury. It took him more than three weeks to heal, but once he did he blossomed into a sweet, loving, gentle boy. Melanie Yatsko was fortunate enough to adopt Rin. He now lives his life very comfortably. After a very rough start in life, Rin has his forever home.

Rin with Dan & Melanie Yatsko and Smokey. photo: Ed Slaby

Muffin Man Max & James returned to Rescue Village when their owner decided two cats were just too much. They stayed at Rescue Village for almost 9 months before finding their new home with the Cowles family. James, the playful cat, craves attention and loves to take flying leaps all over the house. He loves to tackle his “brother” and have a good wrestling match every morning! Max, the sweet snuggly one, loves to sleep upside down in silly positions.

Muffin Man Max & James. photo: Ed Slaby
Cats love to be up high and survey their territory. A tree over six feet made DVD for cats. You can, leaving different things around the house for kitty to discover, have to be expensive. Cats enjoy playing with toilet paper tubes, artificial perfumed smell usually found in litter. Keep your cat’s litter tent. Once you have found the right food, always feed her the same. The Internet.

Windowsill perch. By Wendy Lewis, Cat Volunteer

Although your cat may seem to be relaxed and content, many cats suffer from unnecessary stress. This can show up in poor health, dull coat and bad litter box habits. Here are a few ways to reduce your cat’s stress and have a happier household.

Food: A good diet helps keep their coat and skin shiny and healthy. Unfortunately, there are many foods out there that have unnecessary additives, which may make your cat vomit. Be careful. Once you have found the right food, always feed her the same.

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Cage sponsors help to provide food, medicine and veterinary care for the over 2,000 animals we rehabilitate each year. THANK YOU!!

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Robert Sayle, DVM, William Sayle, DVM
Kara Malone, DVM, Jullian Mesnick, DVM,
Quick turn-around for Quackers

Some of us remember reading the book “Make Way for Ducklings” about a flock of ducks growing up at Boston’s Public Garden. Here at Rescue Village we do not have a flock. What we DO have is one duck, named Quackers, who was attacked by a dog; arrived at the shelter in a state of confusion; has a “quack” that is now a bit askew and who walks with a “da dunk da dunk”.

Quackers has never had a pond. He has had a plastic pool, though not in the winter. Quackers is a Pekin duck (NOT to ever be confused with a Peking duck!). In people speak, he is a beautiful plain white duck. And just like every other animal that has come to our barn, he needs to go home. In the words of staff member Susan Walsh, “He IS an awesome duck.”

The Rescue Village Barn offers horses, farm animals and, yes, even ducks, peace, safety, compassion, and second chances. Yet, living in a barn is not what Quackers needs. We are hoping that he will become one lucky duck and find the love, care, family, and pond, that he deserves.

Note: Quackers has found his forever home at Happy Trails Sanctuary.