“Hey, what else can we do now? Except roll down the window and let the wind blow back your hair. Well, the night’s busting open, these two lanes will take us anywhere. We got one last chance to make it real. To trade in these wings on some wheels. Climb in back, heaven’s waiting on down the tracks....”

-Thunder Road, Bruce Springsteen

There’s a ride to freedom and a way home for tens of thousands of homeless and unwanted dogs and cats criss-crossing this country. This is the transport network. By car, in SUVs and vans, carefully loaded into semis, or even by plane – hundreds upon hundreds of shelters and humane societies have banded together to save animals’ lives from needless euthanasia or warehousing in shelters. Agencies in need of relief and help become a source of animals perfectly fit for adoption. These wonderful animals are transported to destination shelters who have room, resources, and the resilience to save them all.

Rescue Village is a “destination” shelter. We have the expanded building, a wonderful medical clinic, and a compassionate community to make sure these animals get their second chances no matter where they were born, no matter their breed, no matter their age. Every Rescue Village resident is an individual deserving of dignity, love, and a place to call home.

continued on page 7
Fireworks in the Summer! That is how my heart feels when I see hundreds of dogs and cats looking so happy as they walk out of Rescue Village to new homes. The joy is contagious. The smiles (theirs and ours) are explosive. Seeing the magic that happens when people and animals connect is even better in the warm months. Long lines of adopters stretch outside the front door. Honestly, we can barely keep up with the growing desire to rescue.

We are always taking photos of adopters and their new best friends holding signs that say, “This is what love looks like.” We often get great “follow-up pictures” that say, “This is Peanut who loves our couch so much that he ate it” or “This is Nessie purring so loud she wakes me up.”

I am sure I hear the pups from Puerto Rico barking in Spanish! Don’t try to convince me that Rufus wasn’t the most wiggly, cuddly lab mix I’ve ever seen. He came from Tennessee. Does it get much cuter than Cillian the colt kicking up his heels? This little one is a local boy whose mom was rescued from neglect.

The practice of kindness that seems to come so easily is in stark contrast to what we so often see on the news. There is no doubt that bringing animals into our lives is healthy for us and reduces stress. Even though so many of these sacred souls have hard back stories, the way they can learn to trust and enjoy love says something about our own ability to heal.

We can take animals in need on a thousand-mile journey. We can have faith in the transformative power of our humane commitments. We can find new homes where there were none.

We save animals and we help people. Period. End of story? NO – JUST THE BEGINNING.

Sincerely,

Hope Brustein, Executive Director
Images change hearts and minds. Photography is a powerful tool to change the lives of shelter animals. In color or black and white, these captured moments in time can make the difference between going home or being passed by. A photo montage can capture the before and afters; a picture can make us well up with love, compassion, generosity, anger, joy, fits of laughter, or the need to act.

At Rescue Village, we start with the right photographers. We have a team of professional photographers who donate their time to capture photos of our animals. Many have been photographing animals for years and know how to show that perfect tongue out, smiling face, or look of yearning. Amy Sancetta, who has been photographing animals for Rescue Village since 2001, explains, “You have to be quick about it because that one best moment, when their ears are up and their eyes are locked on you and your lens, may happen only once and very quickly. They may be surprised by the silly sound you make or the ball you bounce, but then their attention seems to be anywhere else but looking at you!”

All of our volunteer photographers agree that taking pictures of animals is truly a labor of love. “Every shoot is fun, chaotic and silly. I just enjoy every session, especially the ones with rescue pit-bull mixes. They’re my favorite,” says Greg Murray, local Cleveland dog photographer, whose photography book Peanut Butter Dogs recently received national attention. Greg volunteers his time at shelters across Northeast Ohio and recently started helping out Rescue Village.

In animal welfare, good photographers are indispensable. The “adoptable dogs” page on our website gets over 1,000 hits each week so we know that people are looking at pictures of our animals online before they even walk through our doors. These first impressions matter. We cannot thank our photographers enough for sharing their talents and helping animals find their forever homes with their pictures from the heart.

Interested in photographing animals at Rescue Village? Email marketing@geaugahumane.org for more information.
We have had many great successes in the barn program so far in 2017. The most rewarding and exciting was the birth of our healthy foal Cillian to Nevra, a Connemara mare we rescued from a serious situation of neglect. Nevra came to us pregnant, and after months of care and close watch, gave birth to a healthy boy, Cillian, on March 29, 2017. Cillian enjoys being the center of attention and has confidently met hundreds of people while at the Rescue Village barn. We are so excited for Nevra and Cillian to move on to their forever home together. Their journey with us will be a reminder of the positive impact we have on the animals and people in our community.

Adoptable animal sponsors provide food, medicine and veterinary care for the animals in our shelter. Sponsors receive monthly photos and stories about animals they are helping.

Please sign me up for:

- ___ cat(s) for ___ months at $15 each
- ___ dog(s) for ___ months at $15 each
- ___ barn animal(s) for ___ months at $25 each

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City _______ State _____ Zip ____________
Phone ________________________________
Email ________________________________

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

Method of payment:
Check: Make payable to Geauga Humane Society
Amount enclosed $ ____________________

ONLINE option to sponsor
www.geaugahumane.org

Credit Card:
☐One-time payment $ __________________
☐Monthly payment of $ __________________
☐Visa ☐Mastercard ☐Discover

Account # ________________________________
Expiration Date _________________________

Signature ________________________________

Please return this entire form to:
Geauga Humane Society/Rescue Village
Post Office Box 116
Novelty, Ohio 44072-0116
ATTN: Adoptable Animal Sponsor Program

Your gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Double your donation with a matching gift — see your employer for details.

Weighing in:

Colby, who weighed in at 27 lbs while at Rescue Village.

Just like humans, animals can pack on a few too many extra pounds. The Association for Pet Obesity Prevention estimates that 54% of dogs and cats in the U.S. are overweight or obese. We’ve seen our fair share of animals who tip the scales come through the shelter and even though they went home to families who just saw more to love, we encourage adopters of overweight pets to incorporate a well-balanced routine of diet and exercise to correct their new friend’s waistline woes. For pets, just like people, extra weight can be linked to arthritis, diabetes and high blood pressure. And cats and dogs cannot exactly hit the gym or hop on a bike for a spin class. If your pet’s pudginess has you concerned, we suggest feeding them special weight control food and making sure to include lots of active playtime and (if possible) walking. Always ask your veterinarian before making any changes in your pet’s diet or routine. You can, of course, always tell your pet that they’re not fat, they’re just furry.
Who do ya love? Every year people fall in love and adopt dogs of different ages, sizes, looks, personalities and breed mixes. We are filled with “purebred mutts” like a lab-pit-shepherd combo or a Bassett Hound-Corgi short legged silly looking whatever-you-call it. And so it is with “Pit Bulls” who are overwhelmingly a mix of this and that. If you do a high-quality DNA test you would be very surprised at what you might find underneath the wide-set eyes and seemingly too big head. These features are just what they look like and not a sign of their nature. In studies where folks looked at these dogs and guessed their “breed,” they were wrong 90% of the time.

Pit Bull type dogs are the most frequently adopted mix many places. Here at Rescue Village, we partner with the Cleveland City Kennels City Dog program to transfer many of these great dogs into our shelter. Just like all the other dogs, Pit Bull type dogs need homes. From Sterling, a gorgeous silver gray “pittie” who was adopted many years ago (and still shows up at Woofstock) to Iris (a silly, sweet, spotted, dotted, white and black pit mix puppy) - these city dogs make great pets, including out in the country.

Just like the myth that Dobermans are born to be guard dogs, or Rotties are mean, the media has built unscientific reputation of dogs that look like Pits. So let’s help these dogs out of their bad rap. Each one needs to be considered as a unique animal. Rescue Village has long opposed Breed Specific Legislation because it is unscientific, has led to needless euthanasia of friendly dogs, and has stigmatized millions. We feel strongly about responsible pet ownership and take seriously public safety from dangerous dogs- regardless of breed.

There is no one breed or type of dog that is dangerous. Danger can look like a Cocker Spaniel or a Lab, a Shepherd or a Bully breed type. Even Michael Vick’s “fighting dogs” were not born that way and after they were rescued many were rehabilitated and made great companions. At Rescue Village we are proud of our record of adopting out dogs that we believe will make good family members.

In fact, we realized that our own staff, while adopting all kinds of different dogs, seem to have adopted more dogs that look like pits than other mixes. So, we held a photo op for this newsletter and had an RV alum reunion of sorts. Take a look at the photograph - they are all smiling.

“We were only going to foster her for two nights,” says one staff member. “After the first night she had wiggled her way into our hearts and rendered us complete and utter foster failures. It has been a joy to share our lives with this sweet goofball!”

Temperament studies indicate that pit mixes are, on average, among the least aggressive dogs. Some may look tough but, like all dogs, choose the right one and you have a lover and not a fighter. Like all dogs, their personalities range from serious to silly; from couch potatoes to needing near constant play.

Let’s ditch the myths that leave so many of these dogs languishing in shelters. For RV staff, the stereotypes have dissolved over years and years of adoptions. The pit bull type dogs are a staff favorite. We hope you will open your hearts and minds. Just like the myth that black cats are more dangerous, the myth that bully breed mixes are born dangerous is fading.
When the transports arrive, Rescue Village staff and volunteers “stage” the welcome. It has surprised even our most veteran staff to unload cats in crates from vans from Tennessee. We assumed we would always be overrun with cats from northeast Ohio needing shelter. Happily, we have done so many spay/neuter surgeries that the cat population has declined. This does not mean that there aren’t homeless cats in our neighborhood. But, the new reality is that this problem we thought would be with us forever is starting to be solved. What a wonderful accomplishment!

With transports, we are building a library of stories of adoptions, medical treatment where there may have been none, and finding common ground between north and south, and urban and rural. When a southern hound (and no, they are not all hounds!) jumps into the car with his new family, the playing field is leveled, state of origin means nothing - it’s just simply about love.

Luna was transferred to Rescue Village by plane all the way from Puerto Rico! She was adopted in February by Megan Savransky who says, “She has been a great addition to our family!”
paws to the pavement
what it takes to run with dogs

Does your pup have what it takes to put paws to the pavement? Dogs make great running partners but, like humans, they need proper training, gear, and sometimes, even then, they may not be cut out to be a marathoning mutt.

If you have never run with your dog before, make sure to ease them into it. Starting slow will prevent injury for both your dog and for you, especially if you have never run before. Find a good “Couch to 5K” plan that incorporates walking and jogging to start. Always begin a run with a 5-minute walking warm up. This allows both your muscles to warm up and for Fido to sniff around and do his business before you pick up the pace.

Have everything you need before heading out on your run. Bring a good leash or harness, plenty of water and treats, and a collapsible water bowl for your dog. Always check weather conditions beforehand to make sure they are safe for you and your pup.

Even with training and proper gear, some dogs are just not cut out to be runners. For example, you would never see someone running with a Pug or a Chihuahua at their side. Certain breeds are prone to hip dysplasia or have flat faces that make it difficult to breathe when exercising. Consider your dog’s overall health, body build, and breed before attempting to run with them.

Ready to show off all of your hard work and training? Join us for our second annual Wet Nose 5K on August 6th! This dog friendly run/walk benefits the health of you and your dog and helps to support the animals of Rescue Village! Register at: www.greaterclevelandxc.com
Woofstock 2017 is *movin’ and groovin’* to a **NEW LOCATION:** Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field

Join us **Sunday, September 10, 2017** at Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field for Northeast Ohio’s biggest outdoor dog and family friendly festival and FUN-draiser! This new venue means more people, more pups, and more attractions than ever before, including live music from local musicians!

**REGISTRATION FEES FOR WOOFSTOCK 2017**

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<td>Adult Ages 15 and up</td>
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We hope the registration fee will just be a starting point. You can be a successful fundraiser for homeless pets by asking people you know to support what you believe in. Just a little bit of money from a handful of people can really add up and help us give homeless animals a second chance!

**REGISTER AND START FUNDRAISING TODAY**

at GeaugaHumane.org/Woofstock or by filling out the pledge form below.

**REGISTRATION FOR WOOFSTOCK 2017**

**PLEASE CHECK ONE:**

- $25 - Adult Ages 15 and up  
  (Your gift includes the 2017 Woofstock t-shirt)
- $15 - Youth Ages 8-14  
  (Your gift includes the 2017 Woofstock t-shirt)
- $15 - Youth Ages 0-7 with t-shirt  
  (Your gift includes the 2017 Woofstock t-shirt)
- FREE - Youth Ages 0-7 without t-shirt

**T-shirt size:**

- Adult: S M L XL 2X 3X
- Youth: S M L

**NAME OF ATTENDEE**

**STREET ADDRESS**

**CITY / STATE / ZIP**

**EMAIL ADDRESS**

**PHONE NUMBER**

**PLEDGES**

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**TOTAL PLEDGES:**

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** $_________________________

(including registration fees)
Friends of Rescue Village for donations of monetary gifts
Proceeds
Fairmount Temple School for donation of Purim Carnival
Rescue Village
East Catholic Service Club for the special fundraiser for Dog Life in CLE
Etsy Shop for donation of sales proceeds
blankets and beds
Vintage Market Fair fundraiser
Chavez for Charity for donation of sales proceeds
Wallman, and Lisa Zucker - for their dedication and Sandi Einstein, Amanda Jacobs, Dottie Lofquist, Dana Danielle Agnello, Joy Anzalone, Elise Bennett, Barb Blake, and the entire Tails at Twilight Committee: Trish Adler, Danielle Agnello, Joy Anzalone, Elise Bennett, Barb Blake, Sandi Einstein, Amanda Jacobs, Dottie Lofquist, Dana Loparo, Mary Neidig, Shawn Russell, Erin Stay, Vadiane Wallman, and Lisa Zucker - for their dedication and yearlong planning in making this event a success
Chevy for Charity for donation of sales proceeds
Chez Chappin and Dottie Lofquist for donations from the Vintage Market Fair fundraiser
Church of Saint Rita for donation of handmade fleece kitty blankets and beds
Dog Life in CLE Etsy Shop for donation of sales proceeds
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Fairmount Temple School for donation of Purim Carnival proceeds
First National Bank for the special fundraiser for Rescue Village
Friends of Rescue Village for donations of monetary gifts and pet care supplies collected at special celebrations and occasions
Gary Bryant for filling in for Jim Jung
Gates Mills Elementary School for special fundraiser
Girl Scout Troop #90543 – Aurora - for donation proceeds from cookie booth sales
Greg Murray for his support with Tails at Twilight and for providing us with stunning photographs of our animals
Hershmann Architects - Rescue Village Annual Sponsor
Jenn McElhatten for money raised from her participation in the Cleveland Half Marathon
Jennifer Soos for her assistance with Special Events during her Senior Experience
Jenny Campbell for her irresistible cartoons
Help a Horse Seminar and Social Hour Presenting Sponsor, Schneider's.
Help a Horse Day Presenting Sponsor, Schneider's.
Hershmann Architects - Rescue Village Annual Sponsor
Love's Greenhouse for donation of sales proceeds for Chavez for Charity bracelets
M2M FR for donations from the Vintage Market Fair fundraiser
Mary Ann Hagen for her time and instruction at Paint Your Pet Mary Margaret Dorsey and Doug Fletcher for their work with the Development Committee
Morgan Church for donation of proceeds from sale of popcorn balls
Muson Girl Scout Troop #71436 for donation of hand crafted blankets for our animals
Notre Dame Cathedral Latin Heart of the Lion’s Fund for special fundraiser
Ohio Pet Fund for the Grant for our Spay & Neuter program
Our volunteer animal photographers for capturing our animals in the best light possible
Pam Kerr for our beautiful flowers at our front door and barn
Pam Wolf for donation of special gift basket with treats and toys for the dogs at Rescue Village in honor of Logan’s birthday
Pawsome Pets - Rescue Village Annual Sponsor
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PetPeople – Bainbridge - for the donation of pet food and pet care items
Pets For The Elderly Foundation
Rescue Village P.A.L.S. Club for all that they do and all that they are
Renata Cathomen and Thomas Strickey for their special donation for cats of Rescue Village
Rose Foundation for special donation to help our horses and cats
Samantha Senker – LulaRoe - for donation of LulaRoe sales proceeds
Solon Middle School for pet care items and handmade toys from the Make A Difference Day project
Suzy and Georgia Westcott, who will be sorely missed
Tails at Twilight Presenting Sponsor, Hardy Animal Nutrition a Magnus International Group Company.
Tails at Twilight Platinum Sponsor, Trish and Rob Risman.
Tails at Twilight Gold Sponsor, SP Marketing.
Tails at Twilight Silver Sponsor, Amanda and Jeremy Jacobs.
Tails at Twilight Bronze Sponsors, Enterprise Holdings Foundation and EQS Systems
The Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust for grant to support our Humane Education Program
The Hungry Bee
The Rummage for Rescue Committee and other volunteers for all of their hard work
University School for special fundraiser
Westwood Elementary School for special fundraiser
Wickliffe Middle School and Magnified Giving
Zinner & Co. LLP for special fundraiser for Rescue Village
Pawsome Pets - Rescue Village Annual Sponsor
in honor of companion animals
Bella and Rocco
Lydia and Todd Peter
Bob and Fran
Molly Barr & Family
Buzz
Char Hartsen
Casey
Melissa Brake
Drake
Virginia Morrison
Hershey
Thomas and Susan Massey
Lily and Finn
Elise McBride
Logan
Pam Wolf
Mitzi
Marjorie Knaus
Moose 2 and Little Gus
Linda and Gary Sprios
Noah and Gypsy
Deborah Paklo
Nutmeg
Christopher and Beth Welker
Schmoo & MiniMabel
Angela Syracuse
Tango
Sherry and Erica Epstein
special thanks
Alana Clark for her stunning photography work and support
All of our fosters for providing temporary homes before our animals go to their forever families
All Rescue Village Ambassadors and Volunteers
Amy Sancetta for her wonderful photographs and support of the animals of Rescue Village
Bob Serra and Culinary Occasions
Burton Health Care Center for residents’ fundraiser and donation of pet care items
Canterbury Elementary School for their special fundraiser and handcrafted items
Chairs Sophie Burkart, Sarah Oliverio, and Trish Risman, and the entire Tails at Twilight Committee: Trish Adler, Danielle Agnello, Joy Anzalone, Elise Bennett, Barb Blake, Sandi Einstein, Amanda Jacobs, Dottie Lofquist, Dana Loparo, Mary Neidig, Shawn Russell, Erin Stay, Vadiane Wallman, and Lisa Zucker - for their dedication and yearlong planning in making this event a success
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Lily and Finn
Elise McBride
Logan
Pam Wolf
Mitzi
Marjorie Knaus
Moose 2 and Little Gus
Linda and Gary Sprios
Noah and Gypsy
Deborah Paklo
Nutmeg
Christopher and Beth Welker
Schmoo & MiniMabel
Angela Syracuse
Tango
Sherry and Erica Epstein
Woofstock
THE DOG FESTIVAL
NEW LOCATION: Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field

SEPTEMBER 10th

Groove. Play. FUNDRAISE.
GeaugaHumane.org/Woofstock