

Spring 2021

From the President: 2020 was challenging for everyone but we had a successful year with a total of 1,768 cats and dogs spayed or neutered (S/N) through our programs. 280 dogs and 851 cats went through our regular program and 637 cats at our monthly clinics. Since starting the clinics in 2006, a grand total of 8,742 outside cats have been S/N, preventing tens of thousands of unwanted litters. S/N not only helps prevent pet overpopulation but also provides a healthier and better quality of life for the animals. Our pet food pantry was also in high demand but, with the support of our members and donors, we were able to keep a supply of food available for those most in need. We are a small, independent non-profit, and since we do not receive funding from the county or cities/townships in our service area, we are very appreciative of any and all donations from those who support our efforts--we couldn't do it without you. **Cindie McCulloch**

Bella Jane's owner recently passed away and she didn't have a place to go until one of our volunteers found her a (*dare I say it?*) **Purr..fect** home!! She's now enjoying life with her five feline brothers and sisters and looks pretty relaxed about it all. Although we do not operate a shelter, our volunteers reach out to a network of animal lovers and other non-profits to help find homes for unwanted or displaced animals and it's always a joy when we have a happy ending.



Bella Jane, at her new forever home

If you haven't made arrangements for your pet's care once you're gone, consider meeting with an attorney to discuss the various options available. In most states pets can't inherit money but an owner can designate a trustee and/or caretaker to use money left for the animal's care. At the very least, make arrangements with a trusted friend or family member to ensure your pet is cared for when you are gone.

Lyme Disease is a bacterial illness transmitted to dogs, as well as humans and other animals, by certain species of ticks. The ticks are especially likely to be found in tall grass, marshes and woods and will latch onto your dog when he passes by. According to Cornell University, a tick can transmit the disease once it has been attached to a dog for 36-48 hours. The early signs of Lyme disease will usually become evident within four weeks of infection: fever, lethargy, diminished appetite and painful stiffness and swelling in the muscles and joints. Left untreated, the disease can lead to serious cardiac and neurological issues, as well as kidney failure, which can often cause death. Blood tests can show if your dog has Lyme disease and the treatment is typically a 30 day regimen of antibiotics. The disease is not transmitted from one pet to another nor is it transmitted from pets to humans. Lyme disease is a dangerous infection for humans and dogs and, although the bacteria that causes this disease can infect cats and make them sick, it's not likely to cause them to develop Lyme disease. However, if your cat goes outside, she should be inspected for ticks on a routine basis.

To help prevent tick-borne illnesses be sure to check your dog for ticks after walks through the woods or grassy settings. A thorough inspection is necessary, so don't shy away from the ears, lips and even under the tail. If you find a tick, remove it immediately. You should use fine-point tweezers to avoid tearing the tick and spreading possible infections into the bite area. Spread your dog's fur, then grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible. Very gently pull straight upward, in a slow, steady motion. If you're not sure about being able to do this correctly, call your veterinarian. It's also important to check with your vet for the most appropriate flea and tick treatment, or collar, to use on your pet because some contain certain pesticides that can cause health problems for your dog or cat. **Note:** The Seresto collar has recently been suspected of causing serious problems and even death in some pets so definitely check with your veterinarian before using it.



Ohio Pet License Plates raise money for, among other things, spay neuter (S/N) programs for low income pet owners and we are very grateful to have received a \$2,500 grant this year from those sales. This will go a long way in helping us assist our low income residents with S/N services for their cats and dogs and we hope that you will consider getting one of these Pet Plates for your car. You can get them at the BMV Deputy Registrar's office or visit <https://ohiopetfund.org> The plates are \$25 and you can have them personalized as well!

Our Humane Agents serve on a volunteer basis and respond to calls concerning the possible abuse or neglect of livestock including horses, cows, goats, rabbits and even pigs. A call came in late last year requesting our assistance and resulted in one of our agents taking in a very malnourished horse. The normal weight for an adult horse is 900-1000 lbs. and this one, Pilgrim, was at least 300 pounds underweight. After much attention, and lots of good food, he has gained a lot of weight back and we are very grateful for the money, bedding and blankets that were donated to us to help him recover. A special "thank you" to **TJ Stables in Xenia** for their expert and loving care.



Pilgrim, above, is 24 years old and, while he still needs to gain a little more weight, he has been slowly brought back into riding. Although a bit rusty, he's proven himself to be that beginner horse that many people want, which is why he has already been adopted!

This story serves as a reminder that, while many people dream of owning a horse, there are **many things to consider** before getting one. The purchase price of a horse is often much less than the cost of caring for one for a year. An average size horse will eat about 20 lbs of food each day which means they need access to a pasture or hay, along with additional grain feedings. Horses may drink up to eight gallons of water daily and they require hoof maintenance every six to eight weeks. They also need to be vaccinated and they must have access to a dry and safe shelter. If you are thinking about getting a horse, it's important to know the costs involved in properly caring for one, especially since they can live to be 30 years old. If you don't have the right environment for a horse, check into stabling fees before you take the plunge. Horses are wonderful animals...just be sure you are ready to care for one.

Microchips are responsible for reuniting lost pets with their owners and one such case recently occurred when a cat, missing for five years, was located in Waco, TX and returned to his owner in Enon. "Bernie" the cat was brought back to his owner last month and she is ecstatic to have him home. Microchips are tiny transponders about the size of a grain of rice that are implanted in between the shoulder blades of your pet and the average cost is around \$45. It doesn't require anesthesia, but the best time to do it is when you have your pet spayed or neutered. Be sure to clarify the registration and monitoring process but don't rely on chips alone. If your pet goes outside or has a tendency to run for an open door, he or she should have a collar with your phone number on it and a county dog license tag, if applicable. Also, have a good photo on hand to hand out and post online.

In Memoriam: We are honored to have received donations in memory of:

Susan Shahan from Jim Shahan

Doreen White from Jan & Layne Peiffer

Keith Bradley from Fred & Phyllis Rohrback and family

Pets: **Ajax** from the Carman and Kitchen families

Chewbacca from Theodore Binzer, DVM

Isis from Dolores and Philip Frederick

Russell, Brandy, Muffy, Harley, Casey, Ginger and Tressel from Peg & Ben Wildman

You can also donate securely on our website: humanesocietygreenecounty.com

Name: _____ Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Circle one: Individual \$20 Family \$25 Annual Patron \$100 Donation: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Humane Society of Greene County or HSGC, P.O. Box 51, Xenia, OH 45385

*HSGC is a 501(c)(3) corporation. All donations tax deductible. **We do not share your contact information.***