

## Spring 2020

**From the President:** We can all use some good news so let's start with this -- 2019 was our best year ever for our Spay/Neuter (S/N) initiatives with a total of 1,846 dogs and cats sterilized through both programs. That total includes 329 dogs and 996 cats treated through our regular program and 521 cats through our monthly clinics. These clinics started in 2006 and we reached a significant milestone in February this year when the 8,000<sup>th</sup> cat was treated. Preventing tens of thousands of unwanted litters, the S/N prices for the clinic haven't changed since 2006: \$15 for males and \$20 for females.

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus we suspended services in mid-March and will open again as soon as we are able. We will be extremely busy once we get back to normal, so please consider making a donation if you are able. You can send a check using the form on the back or donate securely through Network For Good on our website. We do not release your contact information and the money you give will be used here in Greene County. Thank you.

--Cindie McCulloch



*The 8,000<sup>th</sup> cat at the February clinic*

**Separation Anxiety:** Dogs are pack animals by nature and, whether you have one, two, or three dogs at home, you are part of "the Pack." If you've been working from home lately, or just staying home much more often than usual, you may notice signs of separation anxiety when life gets back to normal and you're gone for most, or part, of the day. Dogs that suffer from separation anxiety go beyond pouting or whining when you leave to destructive and even self-harming behavior when left alone. This behavior is often one of the main reasons owners become frustrated with their dogs and give up on them. If your pet shows signs of separation anxiety, the first thing to do is talk to your veterinarian to rule out any medical issue. Once you know he's fine physically, there are several things you can do to calm him when you leave. If the problem is mild, you can try giving your dog a special treat when you leave, like a puzzle toy stuffed with peanut butter, or put out some recently worn clothes that smell like you. If the problem is more severe, you will need to take further action. There are many tips on-line to check into, but here's a few to get you started.

If he gets nervous when he sees signs you're about to leave (like putting on your shoes or picking up your keys) WebMD recommends you go ahead and do these things, but then don't leave. Put on your shoes, then sit down for awhile. Pick up your keys then watch TV for a bit. Do this over and over throughout the day and, when your dog starts to feel less anxious, you can slowly start to disappear. Leave for short periods of time at first and then gradually build up to longer and longer times. Once he knows you're coming back, he may calm down. For all dogs, exercise is key as a tired dog will be less stressed when you leave. It may take some time but try to be patient with him and seek additional help or guidance as you move through the process.

Some owners see a crate as the answer but that's not really the best way to deal with separation anxiety. Keeping a dog in a crate may be a good way to train them to sleep on a schedule but is not the best situation if you are gone all day. Most experts seem to agree that the longest you should leave an adult dog (2-3 years old) in a crate is 8 hours, max. If you have a puppy you shouldn't leave them in a crate more than 3-4 hours. Their bladders aren't fully developed so puddles are certain to happen and punishing them for something they have no control over doesn't fix the problem. If you can't find someone to check on your dog when you're gone for long periods of time, try to close off an area of the kitchen or another room so they have a larger space to stay in. If you do use a crate, make sure it's large enough for your dog to move around in.



And remember, when you do get home, spend at least a few minutes of quality time with your pet. Go for a walk, play a game of fetch, anything that focuses on him. He's been waiting all day to see you and, in many situations you are, quite literally, his whole world.

**What about Cats?** There is a myth that persists about domesticated cats: that they are "solitary creatures" who can stay home alone for hours or days on end without human interaction. It's not true. If you are gone for long time periods, consider adopting two cats to keep each other company as they truly do crave affection and stimulation. If you have just one cat, give her something to do when you're gone. Put up perches at the window, like a cat tree or shelf, or anything your cat can climb or jump on. Establish a scratching area with a vertical and/or horizontal surface (carpet and some types of corrugated cardboard work), play with your cat regularly – it's good exercise and promotes bonding as well. Also, provide a hiding place for your cat, whether it's a box or even a carrier, somewhere your cat can go if she's scared. If you have multiple cats, make sure you have multiple litter boxes. One box per cat is ideal if you have the space.

**Who's a Good Boy?** Fritz is not only a good boy but also a very lucky boy. This beautiful Great Dane was in very bad condition when he arrived at the Greene County animal shelter. This story has a happy ending, though, since one of our long-time volunteers, who has had Great Danes in the past, took him into her home and gave him a fresh start. After extensive dental work and acupuncture for his arthritis, Fritz gained 15 pounds and is now living the good life with people who love and care for him. The Great Dane is commonly referred to as a gentle giant and his new pet parents say that's a good way to describe Fritz... a gentle soul who seems to know he's finally home.



*Fritz, a Greene County rescue success story.*

If you are looking to adopt, remember to check the shelter first. And, if you want a specific breed, there are rescue groups for almost any type of dog or cat, even birds or rabbits, you may want. In all cases, do your homework and find a legitimate rescue group as there are many dogs advertised on-line that come from puppy mills or may not even really be available.

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

- **Helen Gerard** from Lois McClellan
- **Susan Honeyman** from Robert Stewart and Theresa Check
- **Tom Wilson** from Barbara Wilson and Rob & Laura Sargent
- **Bobby Davis** from Ron & Betty Ann Davis and Latrelle & Carroll Kirkland
- **Carol Worman** from Charles Worman
- **Stan Pelfrey** from Raymond & Dena Doolin
- **Gail Long** from Carolyn Elliot

**Pets:** **Laila and Mozart** from Judy Conklin  
**Russell, Brandy, Muffy, Harley, Casey & Ginger** from Ben and Peg Wildman  
**Bud** from Sandra Steward  
**Muncie** from Theodore J. Binzer, DVM

*You can also donate securely at Network for Good on our website: [humanesocietygreenecounty.com](http://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.*