

Summer/Fall 2020

From the President: Although forced to shut our office for several weeks due to Covid 19, we were able to have a limited food distribution in April and distributed over 500 pounds of pet food and cat litter to some of our lower income pet owners. We resumed operations in May and our volunteers never missed a beat! Our monthly spay/neuter (S/N) clinic numbers so far this year have reached a total of 362 stray cats and our regular program has treated 565 cats and dogs. We are so very grateful for the dedication of our volunteers and for all of you who continue to support our organization. Many assume we receive funding from the county budget or from national level animal associations -- we do not. We are an independent non profit and rely on donations and member support to provide low cost S/N services, a pet food pantry and investigation into calls related to livestock abuse or neglect. Every dollar we receive is used to improve the quality of life for the animals in Greene County and we appreciate all donations. **Cindie McCulloch**

We do not operate a shelter but we do have volunteers who foster abandoned or neglected dogs and cats and this pretty kitty is the lucky offspring of one of those cats. The stray mama had a litter in the garage of someone who was kind enough to care for the kittens and socialize them so they could be adopted. Mama was a bit shy but was fortunate to be taken in by The 10th Life, a local cat rescue group. The foster home kept this little one and can you blame them? "Jelly Bean" is safe and, needless to say, very lucky. The life of a stray or feral/wild cat is full of danger and the average life span is only 2-3 years. This is why we work so hard to promote the monthly cat clinic and, since starting them in 2006, 8,296 cats have been altered as a result. The clinic is for Greene County residents only. The cost is \$15 for males and \$20 for females and we have traps and carriers to loan out if needed. If you are caring for outside cats that are not spayed or neutered, please bring them to our cat clinic...it truly does give them a better quality of life, even if they continue to live outside.



Jelly Bean

A special thanks to Greene County Animal Control for donating several hundred pounds of cat litter to our pantry. It was truly needed for the many cat owners that use this service. And, if anyone is looking to adopt a new pet, remember our local shelter and check out their website as part of your search: www.co.greene.oh.us/113/Adoptions

Rural King in Xenia has also been collecting food for our pantry and with so many pet owners out of work, it's been an great help. Their collection box is at the front of their store so, next time you shop at Rural King, consider picking up a bag of dog or cat food to donate!

Ohio Pet License Plates raise money for S/N programs for low income pet owners and we were very fortunate to receive a \$2,000 grant this year from this program. Please visit **PetsOhio.com** for more information on how to purchase your next license plate to support this very worthy cause. It's easy to purchase them on-line and you can have them personalized as well!

Wish List: We are always in need of pet carriers and humane traps for our cat clinic, as well as dog and cat food, and litter, for our pantry. If you have any of these items to donate, you can drop them off at our office at 187 Bellbrook Avenue in Xenia on Saturday between 10 am - 2 pm and someone will be available to take your donation. We are located one street over from ACE Hardware and just off of 2nd Street in Xenia.



The Nose Knows: A dog's sense of smell is more than 44 times stronger than ours so it only makes sense that it's on constant alert, especially when outside. We've all seen the joy (or what we perceive as joy) on a dog's face with his head hanging out the car window on a drive. However, there are many dangers associated with this and, while you may not want to deprive your pup of his "ride in the car", it's important to be aware of some of these dangers. Your dog could actually lean too far and fall out of the window; jump out suddenly if you are stopped; get a bug or other object embedded in his eye and, the unthinkable, your car could be side-swiped potentially crushing him between the cars. Also, when your dog's ears flap in the wind the soft earlaps can easily become irritated and swell, especially those dogs with longer ears. A safer alternative is to crack the rear windows enough so he gets the breeze and all the smells that go along with it but keeps his head inside the car. You could also secure your dog and lower the back window for him, making sure he is not able to get his head out the window. Regardless what you do, be sure that **the rear windows are locked**. It's too easy for a dog to step on the automatic window button and get his head caught. If you're driving, it could be disastrous.

It's doubtful that you've ever seen a cat with it's head out the window (what a scene that would make!) but they have an incredible sense of smell also. A cat has anywhere between 50 to 80 million odor-sensitive olfactory receptor cells in its nose but, depending on the breed, a dog has an amazing 200 to 300 million with the bloodhound, of course, being the big winner. While the feline sense of smell is roughly 10-20 times keener than a human's, a dog's is much greater than that so that for every scent we notice, they're getting dozens or hundreds more. When you're out on a walk and your dog stops and smells everything in his path remember, he's smelling scents and odors you can't even imagine!

Stressful Times: Many people are feeling isolated this year and it's especially true for senior citizens living alone. Companion animals not only lift the spirits but, quite literally, give some pet owners a reason to get up and get moving in the morning. It's important to always pick the right pet but especially so for an owner who may be up in years or have limited mobility. While dogs make wonderful pets, they need a bit more attention than other animals, such as a cat, bird or even a hamster. It may not be an issue for someone who has a fenced yard but if they don't, walking a dog can be difficult for many seniors. An older pet that isn't so active can be a good choice and, as with any pet selection, the ability to care for an animal is important since many seniors are on a limited income. Pet ownership isn't for everyone but, for many, it can make life much more enjoyable and be a true comfort.



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

Susan Honeyman from Robert Stewart

Colleen Schuster from Chris Mignery

Eli Worrell, Jr. from Rob, Tammy and Renee

Phyllis Marshall from Dolores & Phil Frederick, Bill & Karen Barger, Daniel Heitkamp, Barba Little and Diana and Jim Dunn

Pets: Moses and Sassy from Theodore Binzer, DVM

Benny and Bailey from Carl and Carolyn Elliott

You can also donate securely at Network for Good at: 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.***