

Summer/Fall 2021

From the President: It's been a busy summer, and as of press time, 1,080 cats and dogs have been spayed or neutered through our regular program and monthly cat clinics. Our pet food pantry has given out hundreds of pounds of food to low income dog and cat owners and we sincerely thank everyone who has donated money, pet food, carriers and traps. While we don't always make it public, our volunteers spend countless hours involved in situations involving animal rescues, finding foster or permanent homes for those animals and giving guidance and advice on proper animal care to pet owners. I am very grateful for the volunteers we have and want to tell them how impressed I am that they believe helping animals is reward enough.**Cindie McCulloch**

Humane Agents are also volunteers that respond to calls concerning potential abuse or neglect of livestock in Greene County. Livestock includes horses, pigs and cows, but also goats, rabbits and other farm animals. Our agents enforce the statutes according to the Ohio Revised Code, and with this enforcement capability, are allowed to physically visit the site of the complaint and make contact with the owner. The agent will work with that owner and if assistance with food or veterinarian care is needed, we do our best to provide what is necessary to remedy the situation. In some cases, a neglected or abused animal must be transferred to foster care, and while we may seek reimbursement, more often than not we cover the cost of that care.

One such situation occurred recently when our agent responded to calls concerning neglected rabbits. The owner voluntarily surrendered the rabbits and they have been placed in either foster care or permanent homes. **Four were still available for adoption** as this newsletter went to publication. This is a happy-ending story, but only because someone took the time to call our office to tell us about the situation. If you suspect abuse or neglect of livestock, call us at 937-376-3001 and press 2 to leave a message. One of our agents will call you back as soon as they are able. As volunteers, they do not work out of the office so leaving a message is the best way to communicate with them. If you are concerned about the treatment of a dog or cat, call Greene County Animal Care and Control at 937-562-7400.



To Shave or not to Shave is a question many dog and cat owners ask themselves when the weather is hot. PetHelpful.com offers insight into this subject, and contrary to popular belief, there is often no benefit to shaving. Dog's coats are natural insulators and help the dog regulate his temperature in both hot and cold weather. Many dog breeds have a double coat that combines a layer of long, stiff guard hairs with another dense layer of short fluffy hairs. This double coat is waterproof and protects your dog from the elements. Short-haired dog breeds get no benefit from being shaved, which can put any dog at greater risk of sunburn.

Should cats be shaved? Cats do not need to be shaved to keep them cool in the summer for the same reason as dogs since their fur also provides insulation from both heat and cold. And like dogs, cats can suffer from sunburn if shaved. There are exceptions. In some instances, certain cat and dog breeds with thick coats may benefit from being shaved or trimmed as they may be prone to matting. Trimming is preferred over shaving since leaving at least an inch of fur helps prevent painful ingrown hairs. Your safest bet is to go to a professional groomer or you can talk to your vet about what is best for your dog or cat. Keep in mind that one of the best ways to protect your pet in any weather is to provide shelter and fresh water.

Special thanks to: The Shawnee Elementary Students who conducted a penny drive before school ended earlier this year and raised the impressive sum of \$300, which they donated to our organization. Those pennies do add up and we appreciate every one of them!!



100 + Women Making a Difference in Greene County selected our organization to receive one of their quarterly grants and we are extremely grateful to them. This money will be used to support our efforts to spay and neuter dogs and cats of low and medium income residents, as well as outdoor stray cats. This grant also allows us to replace old cages and carriers and restock our pet food pantry. These 100+ Women have certainly made a huge difference in the quality of life for the animals of Greene County and we thank them all!

Getting out more? If you've been spending more time at home this past year your pet has probably gotten used to having you around, and if you're going back to the office or just getting out-and-about more now, it's important to prepare your dog or cat for more alone time. While cats may feel stressed by the separation, dogs are much more affected by their humans' absence. It's worth repeating a few tips to help our pets adapt to longer periods of separation. If your dog or cat gets nervous when he sees signs you're getting ready to leave, like putting on your shoes or picking up car keys, go ahead and do this but then sit down and watch TV for a bit. Do this several times and then start leaving the house for short periods and build up to longer periods. Once your pet knows you're coming back, he may calm down. Exercise is very helpful so play with your dog or take him for a walk as often as you can. House cats love looking outside so a window perch or a chair placed by the window can make for an entertaining venue, especially if you put up a bird feeder! Consider leaving the radio or TV on, using food puzzles, frozen Kong-type toys or even a cardboard box with holes cut in it (cats love it).



Cipher



Gelato

We're waiting at the Greene County Animal Shelter for our new homes!



Eden



Tanya

If you have just one dog or cat and you think he or she might enjoy the companionship of another pet, head down to the Greene County Animal Shelter at 641 Dayton Xenia Road in Xenia or visit their web site:

greenecountyohio.gov/112/animal-control and click on the link

to **Adoptions**. You might find these adorable animals still waiting for a home or you may see others that you will want to give a "forever" home. It doesn't cost you anything to look --- but be prepared to fall in love!

When we think about adoptable pets, don't rule out rabbits. Bunnies are quiet (a plus if you live in an apartment), they have personality, can bond closely with their owner, need less space than other pets and can be trained to use a litter box. Rabbits may live 8-12 years and the smaller breeds often live into their teens. They come in all shapes and colors as there are more than 50 recognized breeds. They are also generally very clean pets. If you do adopt a rabbit, keeping it in a cage all day is not healthy. Rabbits, like all animals, need exercise so think ahead about your ability to care for your pet(s) before you adopt.

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

Diana from Philip and Dolores Frederick

Pets: Sherman from Dolores and Philip Frederick

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

Name: _____ Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Annual Membership: Individual \$20 Family \$25 Annual Patron \$100 Donations: _____

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

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