

Winter 2017

From the President:

I'm so very grateful for our volunteers and the generosity of our members and donors. Your donations have allowed us to have a very successful year, with over 1,200 cats and dogs spayed or neutered (S/N) through our low cost programs as of press time. Over 6,700 outside and stray cats have been altered through our clinics since starting them in 2006, preventing tens of thousands of unwanted cats left to fend for themselves. Of note, we've kept our prices the same since the program's inception because we believe that S/N is the key to keeping unwanted cats and dogs out of the shelter, or worse. Also, our pet food pantry has become an absolute necessity for many cat and dog owners in Greene County and, while we do our best to keep it stocked, the need is great and sometimes we run short. Any and all donations, no matter how small, are truly appreciated. We hope you will remember us during this season of giving and I wish you the happiest of holidays! --Cindie McCulloch

'Tis the season....for overindulging! With all of the holiday treats available, we're tempted to give our four-legged friends a few bites from the table. While a piece of turkey may be fine, keep your pet away from holiday staples such as candy, chocolate, coffee, macadamia nuts, walnuts and any type of alcohol. Keep all potpourri, ice melting products, mothballs and fabric softener sheets away from your furry friends, as well as tinsel and other Christmas décor. Avocado, salt, garlic, onions and raisins/grapes are also big no-no's for pets.

Healthy snacks include apples (no seeds or core), blueberries, frozen bananas, green beans, carrots, sweet potatoes (cooked or mashed) and lettuce, per PetMD. Of course, you'll want to give small pieces to prevent choking and be careful not to overfeed them. On a normal size cat or dog, the ribs and spine should be easily felt but not necessarily seen. If you have a hard time being able to feel or count your pet's ribs, or Fido's belly sags when you look at him from the side, it's time to make a plan to get a little weight off. We can all benefit from exercise, so bundle up and take the dog for a walk, or set aside ten minutes a day to play with your cat. Even an old cat can't resist being teased with a feathery toy!

Flea Season. The last two winters have been relatively mild, leaving us with a bumper crop of fleas. There are more than average this year and now is the time when they're typically most active. If you notice your pet is scratching more than normal, pick up a flea comb and check her out. Fleas like to hang out under the chin, behind the ears and on the back down by the tail. If you notice fleas, or their droppings, you'll need to treat them. Flea infestations will not go away on their own so seek guidance from your veterinarian for the best approach.

Dogs like to sniff everything they come across and, in today's world, that's problematic. We need to be especially aware of what they may be smelling or putting in their mouth. A Massachusetts dog owner was taking his 3-month old Labrador, Zoey, for a walk through their neighborhood recently when he noticed she had picked up an empty cigarette pack and had it in her mouth for, he estimated, about 30 seconds. He took it away from her but she soon collapsed with labored breathing. He rushed her to the animal hospital and, after telling the veterinarian about the discarded cigarette pack, she was given a dose of Naloxone, the generic for Narcan, a medication used to counter the effects of an opioid overdose. Even a single grain of fentanyl is enough to cause cardiac arrest, so please keep a close eye on what your dog is getting into, especially if you are walking away from home.

If you find injured or abandoned squirrels, rabbits, etc., contact the Ohio Division of Wildlife at 937-372-9261 or consult their website at www.wildohio.gov/staywild for guidance. Remember that some wildlife may not actually be abandoned and it can often be best to leave the young ones alone, unless they are obviously injured.



Special Thanks to the Clifton Music and Arts Festival for donating booth space to us during their annual festival this summer. We look forward to being there again next year and appreciate their generosity.

Looking for gift ideas? Consider making a donation to our organization in honor of a hard-to-buy for friend or family member. We will send you a personal thank you letter and a letter to your friend acknowledging that you gave a donation in their honor. You can donate securely by going to our *humaneocietygreeneconomy.com* website, clicking on **Contributions** and then **Donate**. Network for Good is a secure site, but you can also send a donation using the form at the bottom of this page.

Puppy Mills are a sad reality and Ohio has more than its fair share. However, progress is being made in regulating dog breeders. In September, animal rights advocates won approval from the Ohio Attorney General to circulate a petition to put an anti-puppy mill issue before voters in 2018. Stop Puppy Mills Ohio is proposing a constitutional amendment to require dog breeders (those with 8 or more un-spayed females and annual sales of more than 15 dogs) to meet certain animal care standards. The amendment spells out safe breeding practices, and calls for a ban on breeders who fail to meet standards requiring that dogs have adequate food, clean water, medical care, exercise and socialization. It also mandates that each dog have enough space to turn around and stretch in its cage. For more information, check out *www.StopPuppyMillsOhio.com*.

While it's difficult for many of us to comprehend why anyone wouldn't be willing to provide such care without being forced to, the profits from the sale of pedigreed animals are so large that certain elements of society will breed them endlessly, with no concern for their well-being or the genetic ramifications of in-breeding. Some pet stores get their animals from puppy mills and many of them simply aren't healthy (*Dayton Daily News*, Nov 19, 2017). Once you've bought one of these animals, fixing conditions such as hip dysplasia can cost you **thousands** of dollars. So, buyer beware! Do your research when buying from ads on-line and in the newspaper as well. If you suspect abuse or neglect of a cat or dog, please report it to Animal Control at 937-562-7400. If you're concerned about livestock, call our office 937-376-3001. You may report suspected abuse anonymously.

Ohio is not the first state to take action on animal mills. California has outlawed the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits bred in "puppy mills" starting on January 1st, 2019. This bill requires California pet stores to only sell those animals that have been obtained from animal shelters or non-profit rescue organizations.

On a happy note – if you're looking for a new four-legged friend, please consider a visit to your local shelter. There are some great cats and dogs here in Greene County (and wherever you live) waiting for their forever home.

"Total Cat Mojo" *The Ultimate Guide to Life with Your Cat* by Jackson Galaxy, host of Animal Planet's hit show, My Cat from Hell, is out and, according to a *Catster* review, explores everything you need to know to really understand your cats' behavior and build better relationships with them. He defines "cat mojo" as the confidence cats exhibit when they're at ease in their environment and in touch with their natural instincts. Sounds like an interesting read and a great guide for anyone who wants to understand their feline companions better.

We are honored to have received a donation in memories of:

- **Donald Conklin** from Ernest and Judith Conklin
- **Terry Tobey** from Joanne Denman

- **James A. Kendell** from Judith Conklin
- **Margaret Free** from Dolores Frederick.

Pets: Isis from Dr. Theodore Binzer, DVM

Membership Application / Renewal/Donor Form

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

We are a 501(c)(3) corporation. All donations are tax deductible.