

Winter 2019

From the President: We're a small non profit but we have many devoted volunteers and members that make it possible for us to improve the quality of life for animals in Greene County. I thank all of you for helping us make that happen. This newsletter is often sent to business owners and others who may have used our programs, in addition to our donors, in the hope they will spread the word on the services we offer: low cost spay/neuter programs, a pet food pantry for low income residents, and livestock abuse/neglect investigation. If you do decide to donate, you will receive a letter acknowledging your generosity and, believe me, it comes from the heart. Please remember us in this season of giving and also remember that we receive no funding from any national-level animal organization or local government source. Every dollar we receive from you is used in Greene County, where it makes a difference, right here at home. You can also donate on our web site through Network for Good. Thank you and Happy Holidays!Cindie McCulloch

Protect Your Pets from Coyotes: Coyotes are common in rural areas but more and more have been seen in the suburbs as well. This problem is not going away, so pet owners must be on-guard to keep their animals safe. Coyotes can jump a 6-foot fence, and will scale even taller ones if they can get a foot hold. An 8-foot fence made of smooth material is the safest protection but, if you already have a fence in place, you can install "coyote rollers" on the top. They are rolling bars, so when a predator tries to jump on top of the fence, the bars spin and keep them from getting a foothold. Coyotes are attracted to all types of potential food so keep your garbage cans covered, don't leave your pet's food and water bowls out and clean up the seeds that fall out of the bird feeder. If you confront a coyote, the Ohio Dept of Natural Resources recommends making noise and try to make yourself appear larger, while holding your ground, to scare them off. If you're wearing a coat, open it and spread it with your arms Batman-style to help create an imposing silhouette. In every case, keep a close eye on your pets, especially if you have them tethered outside for any period of time. In that situation, they can't get away and it's imperative you watch out for them.

Animal Hoarding: There have been several instances in the news recently concerning animal hoarding and its devastating effect on the lives of both the animals and the hoarder. One such story occurred in Warren County this year with a woman who had 111 poodles in her possession, and was surprised when told exactly how many she had. (*Dayton Daily News*, 9/30/2019). Often socially isolated, an animal hoarder is typically described as someone who is unable to provide minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter and veterinary care to their animals and is typically in denial of their ability to provide such care. Animal hoarders, like the one in Warren County, may not even know how many animals are in their home, which is often dirty and deteriorated. To quote Dr. Stephanie LaFarge, ASPCA Director of Counseling Services, "Their mental illness allows them to maintain an absolute denial of the filth and suffering of the animals. They simply cannot see or smell or react to the situation as a normal person would."

If you suspect someone of hoarding dogs or cats, call Greene County Animal Control at 562-7400. Other agencies that might be needed for the situation are Adult Protective Services, 562-6000, and the Greene County Health Department, 374-5600. If livestock is a concern, call the Humane Society at 376-3001 ext 1.

The Cone of Shame: No one likes putting their beloved pet in a cone but there is a company that offers a more comfortable one than the hard plastic type typically used. The original Comfy Cone is advertised as a soft, cone-shaped collar that helps your pets heal and recover from surgeries, procedures, allergy flare-ups and hot spots in comfort. You can find out more on their web site: allfourpaws.com



Spay/Neuter Update: As of press time over 1,400 dogs and cats have been S/N through our programs this year and our November cat clinic hit a grand total of 7,903 cats sterilized since starting the clinics in 2006, preventing tens of thousands of unwanted litters.

Holiday Safety Tips: Remember that our pets can't eat the same foods we enjoy during this time of year. Candy, chocolate, coffee, macadamia nuts, walnuts and any type of alcohol can be dangerous for them. Also, keep all potpourri, ice melting products, tinsel, and Christmas décor away from them, as well as avocado, salt, garlic, onions, raisins and grapes. There are healthy snacks, though, that include apples (no seeds or core), blueberries, frozen bananas, green beans, carrots, and sweet potatoes cooked or mashed. A piece of turkey or two is fine, but be careful not to overindulge them. Just like us, there is a tendency to overeat during the holidays, so you may need to look away from those adorable, begging eyes rather than give in to them.

Outdoor Animals require certain minimum standards of care according to the Ohio Revised Code, and that includes food, water and shelter. In cold weather, the shelter should include some sort of additional warmth or insulation, such as straw or a heater, to be effective. This goes beyond dogs and cats that are kept outside and includes rabbits as well. If you suspect neglect of a dog or cat, call Animal Control, but if it's livestock, call our office at 376-3001 and hit extension 1.

Meet Willie! Willie was a skinny, roughed-up kitty living on the streets in east Xenia with a nasty abscess on his neck when a kind man and his mother took pity on him. They brought him to us to see if we could help him and help him we did. Willie was neutered at our Cat Clinic and, while he was there, his wound was treated and he received an antibiotic shot. Willie went home with his rescuers and, as time went on, became quite friendly with them. This is how he looks two months later! He's gained weight, has a beautiful coat of fur and his wound has healed to only a tiny scar! You are a handsome boy, Willie!!!



A Plant-based Diet may be beneficial to humans, but the jury is still out on whether or not it's the right food for your pets. While some veterinarians and animal nutrition specialists agree it is possible to cut out meat for dogs, who are natural omnivores, cats are "obligate carnivores," meaning they need certain nutrients only found in meat. Vegan cat-food makers add synthetic versions of the missing nutrients but the president of the British Veterinary Association has said that studies conducted so far have not proven that such synthetic nutrients are properly absorbed and that such deficiencies can cause eye and heart problems. (WSJ, 11/08/2019) So, do your research and talk to your veterinarian before you make the decision to switch foods.

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

- **Carolyn Lynn Goldenbogen** from Elisia Getts, Daniel Flight, Karla Wilson, Russell Seehafer, Linda, Scott and Chris Goldenbogen, Becky Tate and Kathy & Steven Fellingner
- **Phillip Edwards** from Debbie Edwards, Sherry Newcomer and Norma Abbott
- **Tom Wilson** from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zimmerman, Roger & Ronda Stephenson, Paul & Shawn Perry, Todd & Lisa, Dave & Ellen Henderson, Andy & Miranda White, John Case & Audrey McConnin, Carol & Dave Merenda, John & Diane Sefton, Cathi Tschirhart, Kent Jager and Matthew MacFarland

Pets: Callie from Exclusively Feline Kennel

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.