

Winter 2020

From the President: When we were forced to close our office for several weeks earlier this year I was very concerned about the number of animals that would not get the necessary spay/neuter surgeries needed without the benefit of our low cost programs. I'm pleased to report that, as of press time, we have facilitated the S/N of 976 dogs and cats from our regular program and 566 outside/feral cats through our monthly clinics. We've managed to maintain the pet food pantry (with help from HALO – see below) and the Humane Agents have stayed on top of calls related to possible abuse or neglect of livestock. I couldn't be more proud of the volunteers and all of our donors who have been so generous in remembering us. Thank you so much for helping improve the lives of the animals in Greene County. Stay well and Happy Holidays! --**Cindie McCulloch**

A Rocky Road: We've all had a bit of a "rocky road" this year with the pandemic and the many restrictions imposed on us so it's nice to be able to share a story with a happy ending. This handsome guy is "Rocky" and, although he had a difficult time when his previous owners couldn't care for him, after being fostered by one of our volunteers for a few months, he went to his forever home. The couple that took him in are empty nesters and it looks like they have a new baby to spoil!! As with most rescues, Rocky seems to know that he's safe and loved....a happy ending indeed!



Rocky

We do not operate a shelter but often encounter situations where a dog, cat, or horse may need to be in foster care until a good home is found. If you think you might be interested in participating as a foster guardian, please call or email and let us know. Our email address is: inquireHSGC@gmail.com and the phone is 937-376-3001.

A Special Thanks to HALO (Helping Animals Lost and Orphaned) for sharing their dog food with us for our pet food pantry. HALO has been very generous and, with so many people out of work, our pantry has become an absolute necessity for Greene County's low income pet owners. If you would like to donate cat or dog food, or litter, you can drop it off at our office in Xenia on any Saturday between 10 am and 2 pm.

The mission of HALO is to reduce the population of owner surrendered dogs in shelters. They do this by offering other options such as behavior modification, training tools, pet food, and assistance with medical treatments to those individuals facing financial challenges. They are located in Xenia and hope to inspire owners to keep the promise they made to their pets to care for them forever. HALO is a foster-based program, not a shelter. For more information on HALO, visit their web site at: www.halok9behavior.com

Holiday Dangers: Most pet owners know that holidays bring out certain treats or decorations that can be harmful to your pet (candy, chocolate, walnuts, macadamia nuts, garlic, onions, grapes, raisins, avocado, potpourri and tinsel) and now you can **add essential oil diffusers to that list**. Essential oils are concentrated liquids of plants which many people enjoy using to improve the aroma of their home or for relaxation but any use of these oils could be harmful to pets. Those especially problematic include peppermint, wintergreen, citrus, pine, sweet birch, cinnamon, eucalyptus, pennyroyal and tea tree. Even birds can be negatively affected by the toxins in these oils. Besides physical ailments, oils can cause changes in behavior and adversely affect the central nervous system. Before using any type of essential oil, please consult your veterinarian for guidance.

Cold weather can be difficult on animals left outdoors. Dogs, cats and horses require some type of shelter in inclement weather and all animals need fresh water, even with snow on the ground. If you see signs of neglect, call Animal Control at 937-562-7400 for dogs and cats. For livestock, please call our office to report it.



Injured Bird Guidance. Many of us have heard that sickening “thud” sound when a bird hits the window in your home and that recently happened to the author of this newsletter. A female cardinal collided with the glass and I found her lying upside down on the ground shaking and trying to flap her wings. I turned her over and, while stunned, she was still alive. Knowing that stunned birds may sit quietly for up to 2-3 hours after such a hit, I left her alone and 15 minutes later she flew away. (Note: She was in a safe place so there was no need to move her.) If the bird is obviously injured, though, call Bruckner Nature Center at 937-698-6493 for guidance. If you find an injured raptor, or bird of prey, call the Raptor Center at 937-767-7648. They can advise you if the bird needs help and what steps to follow. If you are unable to reach them, consult their web site for help: glenhelen.org/raptor-rehab. Keep in mind that the talons on a raptor can be quite dangerous.

Annual Vet Visits are an important part of taking care of your pet and a dental check-up during that visit can uncover issues you had no idea existed. One of the more painful conditions of the mouth is tooth resorption, which is a process by which the dentin (the hard tissue beneath the enamel) erodes and is eventually destroyed. Over time, all areas of the tooth may become involved. The exact cause of this disease is not known and it seems to be more common in mature cats (over five years) than dogs, but your pet may not even display outward signs that he or she is in pain. Some animals affected will show increase salivation, oral bleeding or redness of the gums and/or difficulty in eating but, in many cases, these animals suffer in silence. Annual exams are the best way to stay on top of this painful condition. Veterinarian care involving X-rays can be expensive so call us if you need guidance or a referral on how best to go about funding this treatment. Please remember that we are volunteers and our office isn't always manned so you may need to leave a message with details for your call and a member of our organization will call you back.

Tigger needs a home! This little boy is five months old and needs a “forever” home. He and his siblings were born in a local barn and he is the only one left. Tigger is currently being fostered and will be neutered and given rabies and FVRCP (distemper) shots before being adopted. If you are interested, or know someone who could use some loving company, call our office to see if he is still available. 937-376-3001



While it's very tempting to adopt a kitten or puppy for a lonely friend or relative during the holidays, please be sure to check with them first to make sure they are ready, willing and **especially able** to take care of a pet. Surprises can be fun, but it's not a good idea to “surprise” someone with a pet they weren't expecting and may not want.

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

Pamela Sue Miller from Erica Burrell, Ron & Sally Reasor, Arpad Varady, Stephanie Greene, Debbie Mann, Angela Woodson, Susan Reasor, Tisha Grant, Bonnie Orlins, Gayle & Rick Peters, Peggy Harner, Janet & Joel Miller, Cindy & Tom Gentry, The Schnorr Family and Zachary Hodges

Phyllis Marshall from Carol Lambdin and Charles & Joyce Sexton

Jim Kunce from Pragnya Shah

Susan Honeyman from Robert Stewart and Theresa Check

Thomas E. Marshall from Cynthia Marshall

Pets

Go Go from Dolores and Philip Frederick **Blue** from Dr. Binzer at Apple Valley Animal Hospital

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.***