

# **Humane Society of Greene County**

## **2020 Activity Report**

The Covid-19 pandemic was a factor in everyone's lives in 2020, but the Humane Society of Greene County is proud of the fact that we continued our efforts to help the animals and the people of Greene County during this difficult time.

### **Services to the Community**

#### **SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS**

The Humane Society helps combat the pet overpopulation problem through two different spay/neuter programs, both of which were heavily used in 2020.

Our regular spay/neuter program gives assistance to low-income families in Greene County, based on a sliding income scale. Through the program we subsidize part of the cost of spays and neuters at the offices of several local veterinarians and organizations. We appreciate the cooperation of Airway Animal Clinic, Docton Animal Clinic, Pony Express Animal Hospital, Veterinary Associates Animal Hospital, His Hands Extended, The Pet Advocate League, and The Tenth Life. In 2020, 280 dogs and 851 cats went through the program.

Our cat clinic is our second spay/neuter program, which provides spays and neuters for cats that live outdoors. This year was a challenging one because of the pandemic. In spite of having to cancel our March clinic, our total numbers for the year remained high because of the willingness of many volunteers to make extra effort as we found new ways to meet community needs.

Dr. Harold Brown and Dr. Julia Huber continued to donate their time and expertise to spay and neuter cats in the clinic, and they have our heartfelt thanks. There was so much demand for the cat clinic that we had two mini clinics in addition to our regularly scheduled ones. Of course the clinics would not be possible without the hard work of the volunteers who provide support. It takes fourteen volunteers on each cat clinic day. This year the cat clinic provided spays and neuters for 637 cats. That brings the total since we began the clinic in November 2006 to 8,583.

#### **TELEPHONE RESPONSES**

Donna Hill plays an important part in our service to the residents of Greene County by answering our telephone line. She provides information and referrals regarding a wide variety of issues. In 2020 she answered 3,344 calls.

## **HUMANE AGENTS**

One of the Humane Society's most important activities to investigate reports of cruelty to livestock. Rick Bowman and Amanda Wissinger served as Humane Agents during 2020 to carry out this mission. In December we also welcomed three new volunteers to help with the work: Natasha Coppess, Debbie Mossbarger, and Kristin Puett. Humane investigators answered a total of 88 telephone calls during the year and made 16 visits to investigate complaints.

## **PET FOOD PANTRY**

Our pet food pantry provides help to low-income pet owners in Greene County when their pet food supplies run low. Besides funds that our organization contributes, we depend on donations by local businesses and individuals to enable us to make this resource available. Thanks go out to the local organization HALO (Helping Animals Lost and Orphaned) and to these businesses: Rural King, the Dollar General Store in Bellbrook, and Tractor Supply.

One of our concerns in this year of the Covid-19 epidemic was that as the virus became prevalent our office was not open as much as usual, making it harder for people to access the pet food pantry. To deal with this problem, we organized a curbside event to distribute pet food. In April we sent letters to 41 people who have received pet food in the past and contacted 4 people by phone. The letter told them that if they were in need of pet food, they could call the Humane Society phone number and register. Volunteers distributed about 500 pounds of pet food and cat litter food on April 17 to a total of 17 people.

## **Letting the Community Know About Our Mission and Services**

Three editions of our newsletter Paw Prints were mailed out in 2020 to around 300 people, as well as being available on our website.

Our website provides a description of our activities and information on how to contact us. We thank Steve Penn for acting as our webmaster. Our Facebook page also gives information about our activities. Thanks go to Dawna Andrews for maintaining it.

We switched our telephone service to Spectrum. Our business account with the company will increase our efficiency by allowing us to use numbered choices to route calls according to specific topics the caller can choose.

Similarly, we upgraded our email service and have a new email address: inquiries1hsgc@gmail.com. In addition, we are updating our procedures for responding to emails, using auto-responses to answer frequent questions and enabling a questioner to

specify the topic of the question so that the email will go to the person who deals with that topic.

An article in the *Xenia Gazette* on February 14 highlighted the milestone of the 8000<sup>th</sup> cat that went through our cat clinic.

We paid for monthly ads in the *Skywriter* newspaper on the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to give publicity to our regular spay/neuter clinic.

## **Financial Issues**

Our spending has increased as we have provided spays and neuters for a large number of cats, including funding more trap/neuter/release projects. This has resulted in our spending down some of the money in our investment account. In order to remain financially viable, we needed to change some of our practices. We have been spending a lot on veterinary bills to help low-income people, and we decided that we can no longer provide money for diagnostic veterinarian visits. Instead we will give people information about other organizations that may be able to help them. We also revised the amounts we charge users of our regular spay/neuter program in the various income categories, and those went into effect on August 1.

Pet Plates Ohio again awarded us a grant in support of our regular spay/neuter program, which helps low-income residents. This year the grant was for \$2000.00.

Our participation in the Combined Federal Campaign has been an important source of funding for us, although the amount has decreased. We were glad to receive approval again in 2020 to be on their charity list. The amount we received from CFC in 2020 was \$12,617.20.

Two other sources of funding are Kroger Community Rewards and the Amazon Smile program. Every year we receive some funds from both of those programs, and we appreciate the people who designate the Humane Society as their chosen charity. In 2020 we received \$319.28 through Amazon Smile.

A yard sale on August 22 was a success, earning \$916.00.

## **Volunteers and Staff**

Almost all the work of the Humane Society is accomplished by volunteers, so we owe a huge thank you to all of the dedicated people who make our activities possible through their hard work throughout the year. We are grateful to everyone who has volunteered time and effort.

We also have two paid staff members, both of whose work is essential to our operation. Donna Hill's expertise in dealing with questions on our phone line is invaluable. Julie Patten helps make our work go better by keeping the office clean.

The terms of five members of the Board of Trustees expired in April. In order to spread out the expiration dates it was agreed that two of the Board members whose terms had expired could volunteer to run for shorter terms than the three years specified in the bylaws. This was a one-time action which does not necessitate a change to the bylaws; in the future the terms will continue to be for three years.

Board of Trustees: May 2020 – May 2021

Term expires 2021

Karen Kimber  
Cindie McCulloch

Term expires 2022

Dawna Andrews (resigned from the Board in November 2020)  
Gail Schikora

Term expires 2023

Bobbie Purkey  
Cathi Tschirhart

Officers 2020-2021

President: Cindie McCulloch  
Vice-President: Cathi Tschirhart  
Recording Secretary: Karen Kimber  
Corresponding Secretary: Gail Schikora  
Treasurer: Bobbie Purkey

Email: [inquiries1hsgc@gmail.com](mailto:inquiries1hsgc@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.humanesocietygreenecounty.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Animal-Shelter/Humane-Society-of-Greene-County-851802224938570/>

12 February 2021