

Winter 2024

From the President: 1,255 cats and dogs have been spayed or neutered (S/N) through our programs so far this year and a grand total of 10,813 outside/stray cats have been through the S/N clinics since we started them in 2006. Getting these cats to the clinic requires patience and determination and we are grateful to those who devote themselves to doing this, as well as our dedicated volunteers who give up part of their weekend to work long hours at the clinic. We also appreciate our Humane Agents who go out in all kinds of weather to investigate calls concerning the potential abuse or neglect of livestock. We couldn't do any of this without the generosity of those who donate to our organization, several of whom have supported us for many years. Every dollar we receive is used here in Greene County to help improve the quality of life for animals, and that includes keeping our pet food pantry stocked, as best we can, for low-income residents. Besides monetary donations, you can drop off pet food and litter at our office on Saturdays between 10 am - 2 pm. We appreciate your support more than you will ever know!**Cindie McCulloch**



This is Issy, a six-year-old Staffordshire Terrier and beloved pet of an active-duty serviceman who received orders to transfer overseas. Unfortunately, Staffordshire Terriers are not on the acceptable list for military transfers so Issy needed to find a good home—fast. Fortunately, one of our volunteers has a niece who was looking to fill a void in her life and, after hearing Issy's story, agreed to take her into her home. Our volunteer made the long drive to Knoxville, TN to take Issy to meet her niece and they bonded immediately. We have wonderful volunteers who go the extra mile, in this case 300 miles, to help animals and we are so grateful to them for their commitment. What a happy ending for both Issy and her new pet parent!!

Good News: The Ohio Supreme Court ruled in October that the state felony animal cruelty law also applies to **stray cats and dogs**. The court issued a unanimous decision declaring that a cat or dog does not need to be "kept" in order to be protected under the law. Ohio Revised Code Section 959.131 defines a companion animal as "any animal that is kept inside a residential dwelling and any dog or cat **regardless of where it is kept**, including a pet store." The Ohio Supreme Court noted "any cat or dog" means **all** cats and dogs, regardless of where they are kept as opposed to requiring the cat or dog to have a specific residence as a companion animal.

This was a unanimous decision...not something we see very often, so now there is no question that stray cats and dogs are required to be treated humanely, just like our companion animals. If you are aware of any abuse to these animals, call Animal Control at 937-562-7400 for guidance, your local police department or the Sheriff's office. The Humane Society has no jurisdiction over cats or dogs but responds to calls concerning the neglect or abuse of livestock. Our Humane Agents are volunteers but one is on-call and can be reached at 937-917-4373. Please leave a message and he or she will get back to you as soon as possible.

Winter Tips: All outside animals, including livestock, are required to have shelter, food and water. In cold weather, consider getting a heated water bowl from one of the local farm stores to keep the water from freezing.

- A cat's fur may get thicker in cold weather but that's not enough to keep it warm. Cats should not be left outside when it is below freezing and can only survive three or four days in such temperatures. If you can't bring them inside, there are easy instructions on how to build a simple shelter on our website (QR code next page). Scroll down to **Important Information and Resources** and download the PDF titled **Neighborhood Cats**.
- If it's too cold for you to be outside for long, it's probably too cold for your dog as frostbite can happen in as little as 20 minutes. If you see your dog lifting her paw off the snow or ice, it's time to go inside. Be sure to wipe off the paws when you do to remove any ice melt or salt picked up during the walk.
- Certain holiday-related food can be toxic to our pets. Avoid giving chocolate, walnuts, grapes, avocados, onions, raisins and alcohol and keep them away from the potpourri, tinsel and ribbons. Contact your vet or an emergency animal clinic if you suspect your pet may have been poisoned.



Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Xenia for donating \$500 to the Humane Society to purchase much-needed equipment for our monthly cat clinic. We appreciate their generosity in assisting us to help control the stray cat population in Greene County. These clinics are available to any Greene County resident caring for outside or stray cats. The cost is \$15 for males and \$20 for females. We have carriers to loan out, like the one on the right, since every cat must be in its own carrier. Register by calling our office and leave a message and a volunteer will call you back.



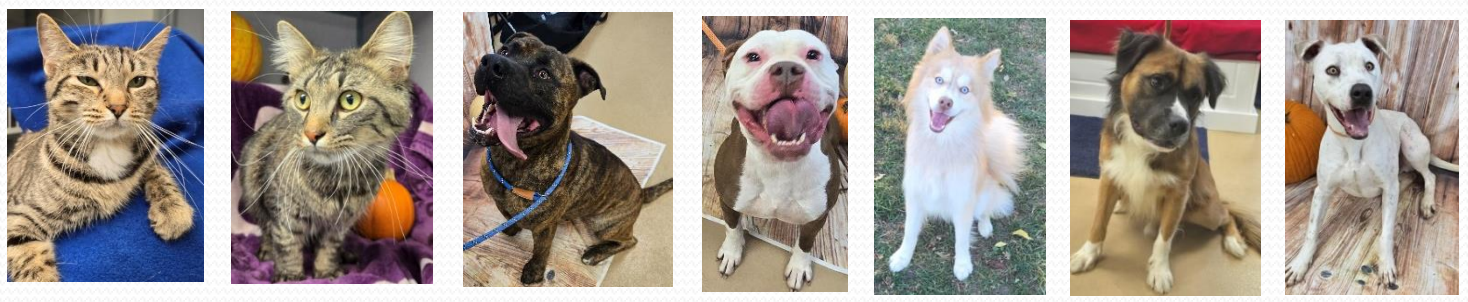
Lola's story is one we hear too often. When her owner died, she was left in a small space in the backyard where a caregiver brought food but had little interaction with her. She remained there until a neighbor got involved to find Lola a new home. She was adopted a few times but then returned because Lola had gone a long time without companionship and had behavioral issues. The neighbor placed her picture on the Humane Society website where it remained several months until a family took the shepherd mix into their home. Lola was difficult at first, but after a few months, and a lot of patience, she is now bonded with her new family---and lonely no more.



Lola

Lola's story is an example of what can happen to your pet if you are suddenly out of the picture. Please consider adding specific instructions to your will as to how you want your pet cared for after you are gone or have a serious discussion with a trusted family member or friend so you can ensure your wishes are carried out.

Looking for a new addition to your family? Visit the Greene County Animal Shelter in Xenia....Please!!



From left: Sunny, Anzar, Jager, Dalton, Fang, Sampson, and Stork. The Greene County Animal Shelter is at 641 Dayton Xenia Road in Xenia. See animals available for adoption at: greenecountyohio.gov/113/Adoptions or call the shelter at 937-562-7400.

We are honored to have been chosen to receive donations in memory of:

- Debbie Kayser** from Kathy Gray
- Martha Haines** from Sharon Newcomer and Dave & Cindie McCulloch
- Jackie Hammond** from Joan Hammond, Cynthia Smith, Mary Kay Zimmerly, Sharon Greitzer, Julie Holland and the Biteman, Amstutz and Dunphy families
- Sandy Lewis** from the Huff family
- Susan Honeyman** from Theresa Check
- Pets: Max** from Cathi & Dick Tschirhart
- Shilo** from Nellie Balogac



You can also donate by using the QR code on the right that takes you direct to our website and then click on Donate. We are also just as happy with **any other form** of donation you make.

Name: _____ Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Annual Membership Payment: \$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 non profit. All donations tax deductible. **We do not share your contact information.***