Friendship Animal Protective League of Lorain County

2023 Impact Report



A new family for Piper, thanks to Friendship and you!

Piper is one of many animals seized by our humane department in 2023. Our officers found Piper starving and living outside in squalor during the bitter cold of January. She waited patiently for her forever family to walk through our doors, and on April 16th, she finally went home!

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GREG WILLEY



I am truly passionate about Friendship APL and animal welfare in general. I have spent over twenty years watching animal welfare steadily improve both regionally and nationally. That is until 2023. It is the first year we witnessed a step backward.

We watched helplessly as our shelter slowly filled beyond capacity with pets that were bought or adopted during the pandemic. We lamented the fact that the length of time an animal waited in our shelter for a loving family slowly rose from 13 days in February to over 30 days in November. Like everyone else, we felt the impact of the rising costs of everything related to animal care, from food to veterinary care.

If you know me or any member of our staff or volunteer team, you know we are not going to take these changes lying down. We created programs designed to assist animals staying in their homes rather than seeing them end up in a shelter:

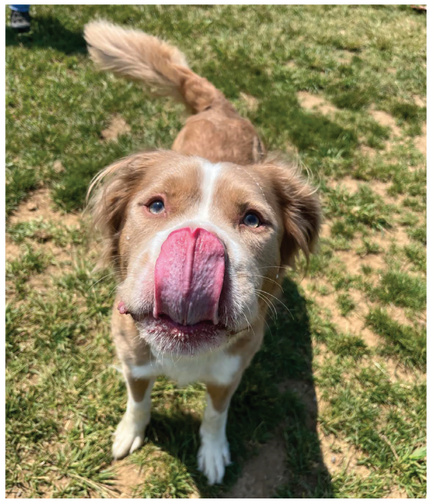
- We initiated a Pet Food Pantry that now serves over 90 families a month. Those families will be able to keep their pets in their homes rather than filling up our already overcrowded shelter.
- We expanded our low-cost spay and neuter services for the public, helping 1,162 companion pets receive affordable care.
- Our volunteers and staff are working harder than ever to promote the animals in our shelter. And although our average length of stay rose to 18 days for adult dogs, that is a full five weeks faster than shelters throughout the United States, where dogs wait 53 days to find forever homes.

Friendship APL is working harder than ever before to help impact pets' lives here in Lorain County and throughout Northeast Ohio. But we cannot do it alone. Now more than ever, we need your help. The cost of care and the number of animals needing our support continues to climb. If you are a pet lover, we know you have felt this pain as well. Everything from food to vaccines to treatment has gone up at a faster rate than other staples in our lives. Keeping up with that has been a challenge. You are the reason we are able to help so many — because you give. Whether it is the gift of time, food and litter, or money. It all makes a difference in our lives at Friendship APL. More importantly, it makes a difference in the lives of those in our care.

I want to take this moment to say thank you on behalf of our team of staff and volunteers, and thank you on behalf of all those who are unable to say thank you themselves. We are truly grateful for you and your support, without which none of our life-saving work would be possible.

Sincerely,

Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patrick Radachi, *President*
Spira Benefits

Remus Tomici, *Vice President*
RIK Enterprises

Kristina Sorenson, *Secretary*
ESIS Managed Claims Services

Lisa Parente, *Treasurer*
Neitzel, Luke and Salopek

Lisa Brown, *Trustee*
Lorain County Community College Foundation

David Humphrey, *Trustee*
Ohio Desk

Peter Izanec, *Trustee*
Jones Day

Sarah McCormick, *Trustee*
Honigman LLP

Dr. Hope M. Moon, DNP, RN, CNS, FAADN, *Trustee*
Retired
Professor Emeritus
Health & Wellness Sciences
Lorain County Community College

Zachary Simonoff, *Trustee*
Simonoff Law

Linda Stepan, *Trustee*
Brouse McDowell

FRIENDSHIP APL SEES AN INCREASE IN PET OWNERS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE

In 2019, animal shelters celebrated record adoption numbers and lower demand for intake. By 2020, many shelters were completely empty. People were stuck in their homes, and 20,000,000 of those people decided they had time to dedicate to a pet. They adopted from shelters, and when the shelters were empty, they bought from breeders. With cages empty, many animal welfare organizations across the country began to transition from traditional animal shelters to animal resource centers. They would provide their communities with access to affordable pet services from basic necessities like food to lower-cost training and veterinary care. It was incredible!

Everyone sighed with relief … animal welfare, as we had known it, was over.

And then 2023 happened … pet surrender requests were beginning to rise. At the same time, the length of time that an animal waited in our shelter to find a family increased. By June of that year, our shelter was full. This was not just happening here. It was happening across the country. People in animal welfare were looking for answers. An increased cost of living, the expiration of the eviction moratorium, veterinarian shortages, and a growing mental health crisis might be to blame.



Bumble is one of 16 cockfighting roosters rescued by our humane officers in 2023. He required daily medical care and now lives happily with one of our staff members.

ANIMAL SEIZURES ON THE RISE

Our humane officers investigate complaints of animal neglect and abuse. Intakes of animals seized from inhumane conditions have risen 76%. Working with local law enforcement and child and adult protective services, we see a growing number of individuals living in homes with untreated or undiagnosed mental illness. Perhaps they were on the fringes before the pandemic, but the stress of isolation pushed them over the edge. What does this look like? Hoarding homes with people and animals living in spaces unable to move through the piles of debris and unable to breathe due to the unsanitary conditions.



Daisy was surrendered to us after she was found living outside, emaciated and with untreated ear infections. Daisy was adopted two weeks later and enjoys living inside with her furever family!



This is one of four goats surrendered after our humane officers investigated their owners for neglectful living conditions. All the goats had severely overgrown hooves, making it hard to walk. They were transferred to a farm sanctuary and are living happily.

Our humane officers have been hard at work. In 2023, they seized 710 animals. People in our community are evicted with no place to go. Many of them are not able to afford the cost of living for themselves, let alone their animals. There are more animals in homes and less veterinarians to provide basic medical support to pet owners. Costs for those services have skyrocketed.

A recent report in *Forbes* showed that 42% of Americans could not afford a surprise vet bill. What does that mean for our humane officers? It means they are seizing animals from homes with untreated illnesses and injuries.

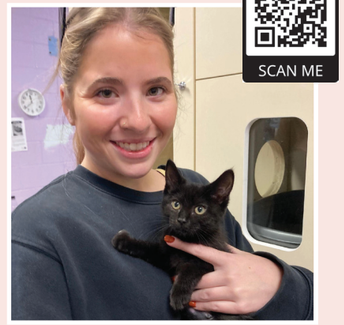
PET OWNERS AND FAPL NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Unfortunately, the trend does not seem to be slowing down. We are going into 2024 prepared for an increase in humane seizures and increased time in the shelter for animals waiting for that purrfect home! With your help, we can continue to build more programs for pet owners to prevent animal suffering due to lack of resources.

If you can't …

ADOPT

SCAN ME



FOSTER

SCAN ME



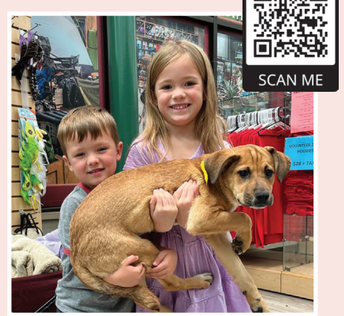
VOLUNTEER

SCAN ME



DONATE

SCAN ME



7,686
animals came into our shelter in 2023

26,880
hours of service from volunteers

5,075
spay/neuter surgeries performed

809
cats were fixed from our community

710
animals were seized by our humane officers

Average length of stay for dogs
18 days
for cats
17 days

572
individuals utilized our food pantry

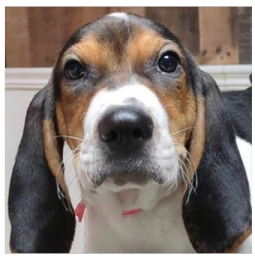
5,263
animals were adopted





MISSION

We are dedicated to ensuring that no animal should suffer without the basic necessities to live a healthy life, providing the education to promote and nurture the human/animal bond and treating all those who seek our help with kindness, dignity and respect.





CONTACT US

Friendship APL of Lorain County
8303 Murray Ridge Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035
Phone: 440-322-4321
Fax: 440-284-0251
www.friendshipapl.org

For hours and directions, visit our website at **friendshipapl.org.**

Follow Us

facebook.com/FriendshipAPL

Instagram @FriendshipAPL

You can donate safely and securely by texting ***Friendship*** to **41444.**