Friendship Animal Protective League of Lorain County

2024 Impact Report



LINCOLN IS ONE LUCKY PUPPY

When we look back on 2024, Lincoln's story is one that is hard to forget. Our community rallied behind him and our organization as we sought out treatment for him at Northview Animal Clinic. Learn about the care we were able to provide for Lincoln and how he shines in his new home on page 3.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GREG WILLEY



As I reflect back on the year that was 2024, I feel exhausted. Not just tired… but a deep-in-my-soul weariness from the past year.

When I spoke to classrooms full of bright-eyed kids in 2019, I told them that animal welfare was on an incredible trajectory. It felt like an issue that could be solved in our lifetime. Animal shelters and Dog Pounds, as we knew them, would be a thing of the past. We would explain animal shelters to our grandchildren like we try to explain rotary phones and VHS tapes. That was my hope …

Then 2020 happened. At first, it felt like a blessing. Shelters throughout the United States were literally emptied of every last dog and cat. It was eerie walking through the halls of our shelter with a single dog barking in our once-crowded shelter.

In 2019, a dog in a shelter throughout the United States would wait 36 days. Fast forward to 2024, a dog entering a shelter now spends an average of 57 days waiting for a family to give them a forever home. Three agonizing weeks longer. That restricts the available space to help animals in need and impacts both the physical and mental health of shelter dogs.

Why is this happening? We are truly dealing with a mental health crisis that results in more seized animals. In 2019, our part-time humane officer seized 47 animals. Last year, the three members of our humane team responded to 612 reports of animal cruelty and/or neglect and seized 1,304 animals from conditions you can't even imagine.

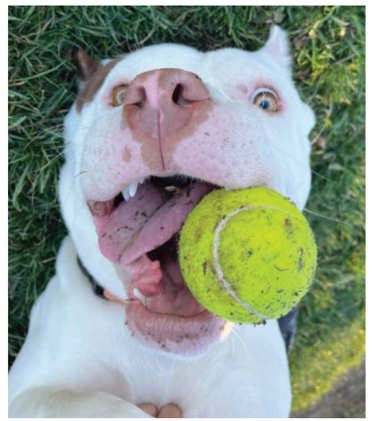
Animals coming from these circumstances are often traumatized and suffering from a wide range of health concerns. It takes our incredible staff and volunteers weeks, if not months, of heart-aching and backbreaking work to help these animals recover, let alone be ready to find forever homes. These cases test us and push us beyond our physical and emotional limits.

It is not all doom and gloom. Our passionate staff are supported by over 200 wonderful volunteers, dozens of foster homes, a growing network of rescues, thousands of awesome adopters ready to give an animal their homes and their hearts, and donors who make all our life-saving work possible. We were able to find homes for 4,359 animals more than 30 days faster than the national average. Our foster families provided temporary homes and tons of TLC for 1,039 pets. We opened up space to help animals impacted by hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Despite the aches and pains of the grueling work caring for hundreds of animals each and every day … despite all the awful things I have had to crawl through or climb up to rescue an animal … despite the emotional rollercoaster of comforting a dying cat hit by a car in the morning followed by hugging an adopter who has given a favorite dog a second chance in the afternoon … despite all of that, I love the work we do at Friendship. My staff and volunteers, fosters and adopters, and those who open up their checkbooks to keep our doors open — inspire me to get up every morning and start the work all over again.

Sincerely,

Executive Director



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MORE THAN JUST A WALK IN THE PARK



Lisa Molnar and our volunteer leaders brought the Monday afternoon Walk in the Park to life in 2024. This initiative has been beneficial to our dogs who enjoy getting out of the shelter and heading down the road to beautiful Rowland Nature Preserve. They take a stroll around the lake enjoying the fresh air and sun! This also doubles as a location for beautiful photos of our pets looking for homes. Lisa is our shelter photographer and helps post many of our pets on Petfinder, so changing things up by heading into the woods felt like the perfect solution. All the participating volunteers and staff loved the opportunity to spend some one-on-one time with the dogs.

2024 Volunteer Committee Members include: Lisa Molnar, Chris Hirschler, Missy McNamee, Donna Ponczocha, and Evelyn Williams.

We can't thank our volunteer committee enough for all their work in 2024. Their efforts resulted in over 30,000 hours of volunteer service in 2024. That is our highest total ever! And it could not have come at a better time with an increase in the length of stay for shelter dogs.

PACKING ON THE POUNDS FOR SKINNY PUPPIES

We see a lot of thin and underweight dogs at Friendship APL. The shelter saw dozens of malnourished dogs and cats thanks to the dedicated work of our humane team who work tirelessly saving animals from some truly horrible environments. Others are picked up by our local dog warden as strays. They have neither the staff nor access to critical care necessary to care for these unfortunate animals. Two dogs in particular spring to mind from this past year: Lincoln and Hank.





Lincoln when he entered the shelter and enjoying time in the park after receiving care at Friendship.

Lincoln was found wandering the streets of Lorain. This poor boy was so emaciated that he could not even stand when he first arrived at the shelter. He stayed at Animal Clinic Northview for weeks as he regained his strength and mobility. He was fed tiny amounts of food throughout the day to prevent his system from going into shock and return him to a healthy weight. Today, Lincoln is loving life in the lap of his forever family!

Our humane officers seized over 50 animals from a LaGrange property, including Hank. Hank was so thin he had open sores all over his body from bone rubbing against skin. The sad dalmatian was still so friendly despite the amount of cruel neglect he had suffered. One of our supporters saw Hank's story and stepped forward to foster him once he was released from the hospital.



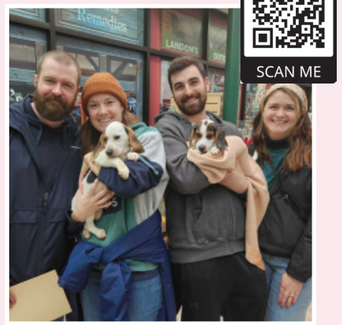


Hank arrived starving and neglected. Now he's with a family who loves him.

We are happy to report that thanks to the hard work of his foster family, his recovery was a complete success. But his foster family failed… to ever bring him back to the shelter. Hank gets to go to work every day with his Dad, riding shotgun in the work truck!

If you can …

ADOPT



SCAN ME

FOSTER



SCAN ME

VOLUNTEER



SCAN ME

DONATE



SCAN ME

6,242
animals came into our shelter in 2024

30,440
hours of service from volunteers

677
public animals spayed/neutered through our clinic

1,063
animals were fostered by our amazing foster families

1,304
animals were seized by our humane officers

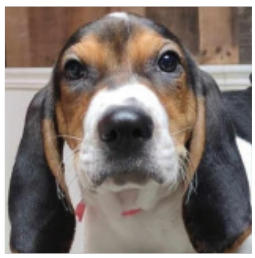
Average length of stay for dogs
22 days
for cats
18 days

4,359
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

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