Friendship Animal Protective League of Lorain County

2025 Impact Report



8303 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, Ohio 44035
440-322-4321
For more information, hours, and directions, visit www. friendshipapl.org.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we close out 2025, I am incredibly proud of what Friendship Animal Protective League has accomplished together. This year reaffirmed a truth that defines our work: FAPL is not a typical animal shelter. We serve as a safety net for animals with nowhere else to turn, a haven for victims of cruelty and neglect, and continue to pull hundreds of dogs from overcrowded shelters — and we do so with compassion, accountability, and results. In 2025, we cared for increasingly challenging animals requiring extensive medical and behavioral support.

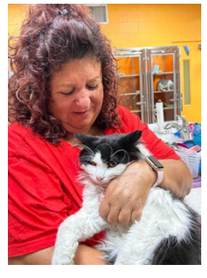
Our humane officers responded to 556 calls, rescuing 1,710 animals from cruelty and neglect. Our intake team brought in an additional 3,301 pets directly from the streets of Lorain County or from owners no longer able to care for them. Despite the growing complexity of our intake, our adoption team found homes for 4,996 animals, and our cats and dogs moved through Friendship three weeks faster than the national average.

None of this would be possible without our community. Volunteers donated more than 32,600 hours, foster families opened their homes to 1,410 animals, and supporters ensured we could continue operating a low-barrier, lifesaving model. Thank you for standing with us — and for believing that every animal deserves safety, care, and a chance at a forever home.

Sincerely,

Greg Willey
Executive Director







32,600 volunteer hours

Friendship APL volunteers provided a record-breaking 32,600 hours of labor and love to the compassionate care of our shelter animals!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Remus Tomici, *President*
RIK Enterprises

Lisa Parente, *Vice President*
Neitzel, Luke and Salopek

Tiffany Sekeres, *Secretary*
Tiffany's Boutique

Peter Izanec, *Treasurer*
Jones Day

David Humphrey, *Trustee*
Ohio Desk

Zachary Simonoff, *Trustee*
Simonoff Law

Linda Stepan, *Trustee*
Roetzel & Andress

More Than 500 Roosters and Hens Rescued from Cockfighting Operations

2025 was the year our humane officers uncovered a cruelty we never imagined was hiding in plain sight across Lorain County. Acting on tips, and working alongside the Lorain County Sheriff's Department and the Lorain Police Department, our team dismantled multiple cockfighting operations—ultimately rescuing more than 500 roosters and hens from lives of suffering.

We were stunned to learn these operations existed at all. But nothing prepared us for the sheer audacity and scale of what we found.

When our humane team arrived at the first scene in Sheffield Township on a bitterly cold February day, they were told to expect around 40 roosters. By nightfall, that number had grown to 250 birds seized—each one a victim. Tons of evidence revealed a sophisticated and deeply disturbing operation: birds imported from other countries, deliberately bred, raised, and brutally trained for blood sports. Fighting pits stood as silent witnesses to violence—marked by blood, feathers, and the unmistakable signs of repeated suffering.

And this was only the beginning.

Over the following months, our humane investigators continued to disrupt cockfighting operations across Lorain County, shutting them down one by one—large and small. These blood sports are not isolated acts of animal cruelty; they are often tied to gambling, gang violence, and drug activity. Ending them doesn't just save animals—it makes our communities safer for everyone.

What this year made painfully clear is that cockfighting has no place here. Not in our neighborhoods. Not in our values. And not in our future.

Thanks to the relentless dedication of our humane investigators, staff, volunteers, and law enforcement partners, hundreds of animals were given a second chance—and a powerful message was sent: cruelty will not be tolerated in our community.



Chief Humane Officer, Vickie McDonald

Follow Us on Socials

Facebook.com/**FriendshipAPL**

Instagram **@FriendshipAPL**

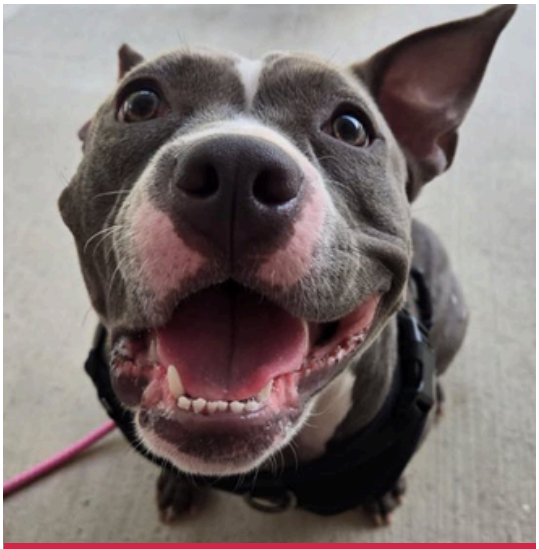
Ivi's Heroic Recovery

Ivi's spirit never failed her—even after the worst of abuses ...

On a quiet morning in May 2025, everything changed for an eight-month-old puppy named Ivi. Staff at Animal Clinic Northview called us in a panic after a dog was rushed to their emergency clinic with a severe gaping wound to her face. The injuries were the result of brutal abuse Ivi received after she had an accident in the house. Our humane team responded immediately, the owner signed Ivi over to Friendship APL officers, and veterinarians began lifesaving surgery.

Thanks to the incredible skill and compassion of the Northview team, Ivi survived, and Ivi's abuser was arrested on felony animal cruelty charges using evidence our humane officers provided to the Perkins Police Department. Ivi's recovery was long and difficult, but her spirit never faded. After surgery, she was placed in a foster home with one of Northview's veterinary technicians—where she eventually found her forever family. She's even come back to visit the staff who helped save her life.

While Ivi's past means she'll need patience, love, and understanding, she is no longer defined by what happened to her.

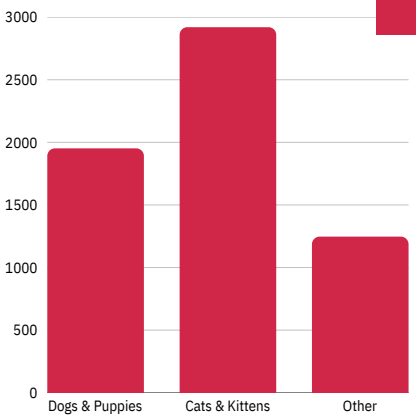


Friendship APL is proud to support her continued training and healing as she moves forward—safe, loved, and finally free.

1,410



Animals found temporary homes with our amazing foster familes!

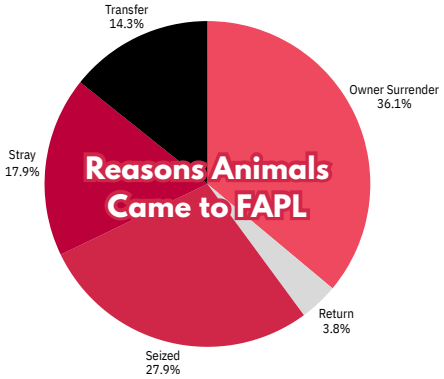


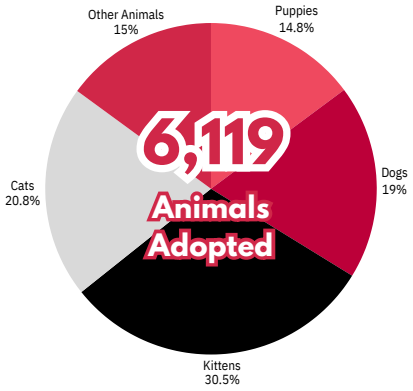
6,119 Animals were cared for by FAPL in 2025.

576



Our incredible veterinarians provided care for 576 community-owned pets!





108



Dogs graduated our Grafton Correctional Institute training program.