

Humane Society OF THE OHIO VALLEY

February News 2012

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 740.373.5959
Fax: 740.373.9060
Website: www.hsov.net
Email: manager@hsov.org

Shelter location:

90 Mt. Tom Rd
Marietta OH 45750

Mailing Address:

PO Box 5
Marietta OH 45750

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday 12:00-5:00pm
Saturday 10:00-4:00pm
Sunday Closed
(By Appointment Only Sunday)

SHELTER STATISTICS

January-December 2011

Incoming Dogs/Puppies:

Owner Surrender	748
Stray Surrender	350
County Dog Warden	197
Humane Officer	329

Outgoing Dogs/Puppies:

Adopted	549
Owner Reclaimed	164
Rescue Transfers	701
Euthanized	93
DOA/Died in Shelter	22

Incoming Cats/Kittens:

Owner Surrender	1029
Stray Surrender	765
Humane Officer	229

Outgoing Cats/Kittens:

Adopted	499
Owner Reclaimed	5
Rescue Transfers	304
Euthanized	964
DOA/Died in Shelter	63
Stolen/Escaped	7

**PLEASE VACCINATE,
SPAY, AND NEUTER
YOUR PETS!..**



A LETTER FROM OUR SHELTER MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year!

The year is off to a great start here at the HSOV. We'd like to extend a special thanks to those of you who help organize and run all the wonderful fundraisers for the shelter. Last year our volunteers were able to raise over \$60,000. Only one month into 2012 and they've already raised over \$4,000! Considering the cost of running the shelter is over \$25,000 per month, these funds were greatly needed! We are forever grateful to these amazing people who try so hard to help us make ends meet.

We would also like to thank our Corporate Sponsors, as their continued support helps keep us afloat as well. We welcome anyone interested in being a Corporate Sponsor to contact me, Steve, anytime.

As of right now, our numbers are very low. This time of year is typically the calm before the storm, right before puppy/kitten season starts. Thanks to the continued efforts of our staff, volunteers, and rescue groups, our euthanasia rates are among the lowest in the nation. A far cry from where we started years ago, this shelter keeps on growing and evolving by leaps and bounds.

Each day we learn something new about the animals and about ourselves. This work is some of the most difficult to do, yet it's also some of the most fulfilling. Without the support of our sponsors and volunteers, there would be many more homeless and neglected animals.

Thank you for helping us fight the good fight!

Steve Herron
Executive Director
Humane Society of the Ohio Valley

HSOV Board Meetings

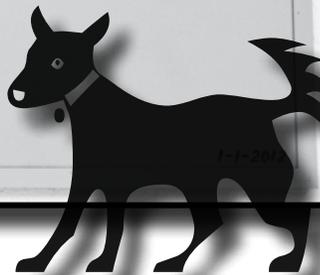
Our board meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month and are normally held at the Washington County Commissioner's Office, 223 Putnam Street, Marietta, Ohio. Meeting time is 7:00pm. Supporters of the HSOV are encouraged to attend our meetings, and you are not required to be a member to attend our meetings. Of course, if you'd like to become a paid member, we've conveniently provided a 2012 Membership Form in this newsletter ©

The next meeting is being held at our shelter (90 Mount Tom Road, Marietta, Ohio) at 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 6th due to the Washington County (Ohio) Primary Election that day.

Changes in dates/location are announced in the Marietta Times as well as our website/facebook pages.

NEW ADOPTION & RECLAIM FEES (EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012)

Adoption Fees	
Dogs	\$125
Includes first shots, wormer, dog tags	
Cats	\$30
Already S/N	only \$10
Includes first shots, wormer	
Reclaim fee	\$30
Dog tags	\$16.75



COMPARISON OF SHELTER STATISTICS FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2010-2011

	2010	2011
DOGS/PUPPIES		
Incoming	1469	1624
Adopted	495	549
Reclaimed	192	164
Rescue Transfers	634	701
Euthanized	46	93
Died In Shelter	9	12
CATS/KITTENS		
Incoming	1878	2023
Adopted	312	499
Reclaimed	20	5
Rescue Transfers	187	304
Euthanized	980	964
Died In Shelter	23	63



SHELTER STAFF

Executive Director/Manager – Steve Herron
AsstMgr/Adoption Clerk – Sharon Morris
Humane Officer – Dennis (Butch) Morris
Assistant Humane Officer – Levi Seevers

Kennel Technicians

Barry Boice
Mary Buck
Kory Gilbert
Bill Hagy
Rachel Leopold, Supervisor
Jacob Ridgway

HSOV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Jane Snell
Vice President – Carol McKittrick
Secretary – Marlene Delaney
Treasurer – Becky Johnston

Adam Johnson
Celeste Ridgway
Kelly Schubert
Chad Skinner

HSOV COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Building & Grounds – Ron & Juanita Becker
Canine Rescue – Celeste Ridgway
Feline Rescue – Sharon Paul
Finance – Becky Johnston, Steve Herron
Fundraising – To Be Appointed
Membership – Marlene Delaney
Newsletter Editor – Sharon Paul
Nominations – Jim Baldinger
Operations – To Be Appointed
Petfinder/Facebook Photographer – Sharon Paul
Spay/Neuter – Becky Johnston
Volunteer Coordinator – To Be Appointed
Website – Chad Skinner



ANIMAL ART WITH HEART – February 2012

The Riverside Artists Gallery, 219A Second Street, Marietta, Ohio is sponsoring a unique fundraiser during the month of February. "Animal Art With Heart" features original works of art created by local artists. These beautiful creations are available for purchase in the Riverside Artists Gallery and ten percent of the proceeds will be donated to the HSOV. The Gallery will also be collecting donations of items on our 'wish list' for the shelter animals. Please stop by the Riverside Artists Gallery to enjoy this special artwork and to thank them for supporting the Humane Society of the Ohio Valley ☺



9th ANNUAL FUR BALL - February 25, 2012

We remind you to mark a huge big pawprint on your calendar for Saturday, February 25th since that is the date for one of the best social events in the Mid-Ohio Valley. The 9th Annual Fur Ball will be held at the American Legion in Williamstown WV from 8pm-midnight. This is a fun-filled evening that you won't want to miss. There will be a live band, silent auctions, raffles, and door prizes in addition to great food and beverages. We will have our traditional slideshow which features shelter dogs and cats who are available for adoption. The Fur Ball is one of our major fundraisers and benefits the shelter animals in so many ways. For additional information, please contact Lisa Merrow by cell phone (740.516.3503) or by email (lisamerrow@msn.com).

1st EVER MARIETTA MARKETPLACE

- March 10, 2012

This fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 10th from 1:00-5:00pm at the Ewing School, 1701 Colegate Drive, Marietta, Ohio and will feature boutique-style shopping at over 20 local vendors, a concession stand, and a 50-50 drawing to benefit the HSOV. Donations on our wish list will be collected and delivered to the shelter. Contact Carlie Ebra at (304) 481-2152 or by email (carlie.ebra@gmail.com) for additional information or to rent space for a table ☺ Thank you Carlie!

"THE PAMPERED CHEF" FUNDRAISER

– March 2012 (date to be announced)



This is a new fundraiser which should be fun! "Pampered Chef" kitchen implements will be available for purchase with 10 to 15% of the profits being donated to the shelter. Further details will be posted on our website and facebook pages as they become available. Thanks to Michelle Gaughan for coordinating this fundraiser ☺ Contact Michelle (mgaughan@suddenlink.net) for more information .

THROW DOWN FOR THE POUND 5: ROYAL BATTLE

- April 7, 2012

This fundraiser will be held on Saturday, April 7th at the Marietta Middle School Gymnasium, Marietta, Ohio from 5:30-10:30pm. The Remix Pro Wrestling events are always wonderful family entertainment evenings. Thanks to Adam Johnson for organizing this fifth in a series fundraiser to benefit the HSOV. For those of you who don't know Adam, he is manager of the We Lov Pets Store in Marietta, Ohio and one of our newest board members. Thank you Adam ☺

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT APPLEBEE'S

- April 28, 2012

This breakfast fundraiser will be held at the Applebee's Restaurant, Lafayette Center, Marietta, Ohio on Saturday, April 28th from 7:30-9:30am. The staff at Applebee's will be preparing breakfast and our HSOV Board Members and volunteers will be 'waiting tables' that morning. All proceeds will benefit the HSOV. We will need plenty of volunteers that morning if anyone would like to help. Thanks to Michelle Gaughan for coordinating this fundraiser ☺

Contact Michelle (mgaughan@suddenlink.net) for more information.

Humane Society of the Ohio Valley

Presents

9th Annual "Fur Ball" Dance and Silent Auction Fundraiser

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2012

Time: 8:00 p.m. – Midnight

Where: American Legion Post 159, Williamstown, WV

Silent Auction Door Prizes Music by: Loose As It Gets

"A Night at the Mardi Gras"



Tickets: \$10.00 available at the door

For ticket pre-orders or questions, call 740-516-3503 or 740-373-9503

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for Silent Auction
Donations of non-perishable items appreciated.

"Bonnie Fennell Fan Club"



I have been an unofficial member of the "Bonnie Fennell Fan Club" for several years and felt as though I knew her even though I had never actually met her in person until this past year. I'm sure that many of you have admired this charismatic lady who appears on WTAP-TV's Pet-Of-The-Week broadcast segment every other Friday with an HSOV dog. I had the pleasure of visiting with Bonnie after she returned from the WTAP studio on January 20th, 2012.

She had taken a small terrier named "Chip" with her that day, and he snuggled up on her lap during our conversation.

My first question was rather obvious since I wondered how long Bonnie had been the HSOV "Pet-Of-The-Week" ambassador and how she was chosen for the role. She gave me that beautiful smile and replied that she actually became involved in 2001 when she brought her son, Ian, to the shelter on Wednesday afternoons after school so that they could walk dogs together. During that time, she was asked if she might like to take a dog to Parkersburg for an appearance on WTAP-TV and that was the beginning of her long relationship with our shelter. In those early days, Bonnie recalled that there was a tall countertop with a marble surface that the dogs were required to sit/stand upon and it was very slippery. No matter how large the dog, she had to lift it upon that countertop. Things are much more relaxed in today's studio, and there are comfortable chairs and a carpeted area where she can sit with the dogs while talking to the tv anchorperson.

My next question was how she decided which dog would be chosen for a television debut. Bonnie was a little teary-eyed when she said that was very difficult. Sometimes the shelter wants her to take a particular dog, but most often she walks around the shelter and looks to see who is there. And most of them are begging her to "pick me, pick me". But she can choose just one, and there is something about that one dog which gets her attention. It might be their hopeful eyes, an expression on their face, or their personality. Though she loves all breeds, Bonnie admits that she particularly loves Pit Bull Terriers and Bernese Mountain Dogs.

I'm always amazed when I watch Bonnie on television with a dog that she has just met an hour or so beforehand and to hear how she knows about the dog's background and personality. Personally, I think they must have quite a conversation on that

drive from our shelter to the studio in Parkersburg ☺ If you notice, Bonnie never refers to notes while on camera, and she speaks from her heart about the special dog with her that day. She speaks so highly of each dog that I often find myself wanting to rush to the shelter and adopt that dog! Quite often the shelter begins to receive calls immediately after the broadcast and that dog is adopted quickly (as was the case with "Chip"). Please don't

let the shelter staff know, but Bonnie confessed that she treats each dog to a small Wendy's cheeseburger on their way back to the shelter. This is their little secret.

When asked about the most memorable experiences during the past 11 years, Bonnie laughed and with her wonderful sense of humor said that she has been 'peed, pooped, and puked' upon before the broadcast, but the dogs are usually very well-behaved while on camera. One of her favorite stories was when she was taking a beautiful Pit Bull to WTAP's Friday broadcast during the Sternwheel Festival on the levee in Marietta. The Pit Bull rode in the front seat of her car and kept licking her hand as though he was thanking her for taking him for a ride. When they arrived in Marietta, the streets were blocked off for the Festival, so she had to walk him through the maze of food vendors. He was the perfect gentleman until they came to the fountain in front of the Lafayette Hotel and decided he would jump in the fountain for a quick swim prior to being interviewed by WTAP!

My last question for Bonnie was whether she had brought any of the dogs home with her that had appeared on television. Although the answer to that question was 'no', the family does have a dog and a cat. Bonnie and her son, Ian, volunteered to walk dogs in some of the parades in downtown Marietta, and it was during the 2001 Christmas parade that Ian fell in love with an Australian Cattle Dog named "Pointer" that the family adopted. "Pointer" is still with them today ☺ And they have a large tiger-striped cat named "Nege" whom they rescued from a horse barn.

Bonnie is accustomed to being recognized in public since many people feel that they know her from her appearances on WTAP. She smiled and said she loved to talk with anyone about the shelter animals. And I certainly enjoyed talking with Bonnie. If you have the pleasure of meeting her in person, please join me in thanking her for being such a wonderful voice for the HSOV and the shelter dogs!

by Sharon Paul

Two recent residents of our shelter required some special accommodations and were atypical of the normal faces you see on our listing of available pets ...

“Lucky” was a beautiful female Quarterhorse who came to our shelter during the month of November 2011. She was a lovely older girl who would soon be celebrating her 21st birthday. Our neighbors at the Washington County Home graciously offered a place in their barn as a temporary home for “Lucky” until she could be adopted. Our Humane Officers (Butch Morris and Levi Seevers) and two of our kennel techs (Mary Buck and Kory Gilbert) gave her the best of care each day. This sweetheart of a girl looked forward to her daily ration of grain and would follow her caretakers anywhere as long as she could see the bucket of grain in their hand. She made her photographic debut on December 7th when Levi walked her outside the barn and into a grassy area. “Lucky” appeared on our Petfinder listings and even had her own Facebook album with several fans who loved her and followed her story. This beautiful girl found a wonderful home on January 26, 2012 which was probably the best 21st birthday gift this girl could have received ☺



“Willy” was a handsome young Goat who made his debut at the HSOV on December 7, 2011. Although there was no red carpet rolled out or paparazzi at the shelter that day, this little guy made a grand entrance of sorts. Kelly Schubert (Washington County Dog Warden and HSOV Board Member) received a call about a goat who was spotted on a rural road in the County. Kelly quickly found the goat, put a dog leash around his neck and walked him to nearby houses. Upon investigation, it seemed as though none of the farmers in that area were missing any of their goats, so Kelly brought this handsome little “kid” to the HSOV and had already named him “Willy” by the time they arrived. The shelter staff was not surprised to see Kelly leading an animal on a leash toward the shelter, but they *were* surprised when they noticed what was on the other end of the leash ☺ The shelter staff quickly improvised and made a suitable housing arrangement for “Willy” complete with a huge igloo house and tons of hay/straw on the patio area. “Willy” quickly learned that by standing atop his igloo he had a view inside the laundry room window and loved to startle people when they saw him peaking in the window. This sweet boy was quite the clown and entertainer! We miss him these days but are happy that he found a great home in late January.

Remembering Miss Kitty

[Normally we print only one "In Memory" article about a shelter cat in our newsletter, but since three individuals have asked if we might also include "Miss Kitty", we are also memorializing her and using most of the wording that was suggested...]

"I met Miss Kitty for the first time on October 9, 2011 when I was volunteering to help with a dog wash fundraiser being held at the shelter that evening. It was kind of a slow evening, and I noticed another volunteer had started taking pictures of cats. Since I happen to love cats, I asked if I might help by holding some of them. I especially liked one of the younger cats and asked what her background was. I was told she was about 6 months old and came in as a stray from New Matamoras a few days earlier. She was so sweet and had so much personality. I noticed that she had several fleas, so I asked if I might bathe her to give her some relief. She didn't have a name and the other volunteer said she thought Miss Kitty would be a cute name for her. I went home that night and somehow could not stop thinking about that darling cat. I called the next day and offered to sponsor Miss Kitty and learned that the Friends of Feline Fund was having some shelter cats spayed/neutered and she could go with them on the next bus trip. I was so happy that day to help that precious cat. And I had persuaded one of my friends to give her a foster home! I came to the shelter as often as I could to visit with Miss Kitty and was very sad when I noticed she was not looking very well. I was told she passed away on October 25th as a result of a distemper outbreak. I wish that I had been able to save her and give her the home she deserved. I'll never forget Miss Kitty. Thank you for putting her story in your newsletter."



NEW INTAKE/ISOLATION PROCEDURE FOR SHELTER CATS

Following the recommendation of local veterinarian, Dr. Jessica Smith, the procedure has changed with the way we are handling the intake of cats who are surrendered to our shelter. Cats are being isolated/quarantined for a period of 14 days as a precaution to prevent the spread of disease. Cats receive basic wormer upon intake and healthy cats are vaccinated after the isolation period and moved to the Jungle Room where they are made available for adoption.

New procedures are also in effect for the care and handling of shelter cats. Only stainless steel pans are being used for litter boxes since they can be more reliably sanitized than plastic ones. (Thank you to the area businesses who donated those expensive stainless pans!) We ask that potential adopters take only one cat from its cage at a time and to avoid close contact with other cats while holding them. And we request that hand sanitizer be used each time another cat is handled.

We are posting photographs of our cats in their cages on both Petfinder and Facebook as soon as they are available for adoption. We ask that if you have a missing cat, please call the shelter and ask the staff to check to see if your cat might be in our isolation room.

These procedures are in place to help ensure that we have healthy kitties for you to adopt.



IT'S LIKE HERDING CATS

We've probably all heard this phrase used in a figurative manner, but for Jo Ellen Gray, it recently became a literal reality. Jo Ellen (and also Marilyn House) are the "designated drivers" for most of our rescue operations, and they transport dogs and cats from our shelter for transfer to the next driver on their journey to their respective rescues. On the morning of January 12, 2012, Jo Ellen had agreed to drive eleven shelter cats to meet Lucy Betts near Cincinnati where she would pick up the cats and drive them to the Three Sisters' vet for a checkup and boarding. When Jo Ellen arrived at the shelter, things were well-organized as usual. The cats were in their cardboard carriers with names clearly marked and the paperwork was ready to go. The shelter staff provided carry-out service to Jo Ellen's car, and it seemed like a routine journey (insert some scary music here) ☺

Things were fairly routine until Jo Ellen was on Interstate 77 near Caldwell, Ohio and suddenly realized that there were several cats roaming freely inside her car. Fortunately, Jo Ellen takes things in stride and simply pulled over and put everyone back inside their carriers. Within a matter of minutes, the cats had made another escape. This time Jo Ellen decided to let them have their victory celebration, and she would simply drive the get-away car ☺ After a bit of exploration, the cats settled down and just sat atop their carriers or car seats and enjoyed the scenery as Jo Ellen drove.

We were thrilled that Jo Ellen snapped a photo of the cats with her cell phone when she reached her final destination and came to a full stop. Jo Ellen maintained her sense of



humor and remarked that several people in the parking lot were looking at all of the cats running around in her car, and she could almost hear them telling their friends later about "The Crazy Cat Lady" they'd seen that day

When we looked over the list of "suspects" who might have planned the escape, it seemed likely that two young male kitties (Petey and Teddy Bear) were the most likely instigators .. with a little help from a cute Siamese girl (Chatty Cathy).

After transferring the cats to Lucy Betts' car, Lucy had exactly the same experience on her drive back to Cincinnati, although she gave up quickly and let Chatty Cathy ride on her shoulders. Several of the other kitties were given permission to explore Lucy's car and to enjoy the scenery around the suburbs of Cincinnati.

Incidentally, Petey and Teddy Bear were neutered the following day, so we're glad they had a little "boys will be boys" fun on the transport ☺

We can hardly wait for the next feline rescue transport!



- Tax-deductible cash donations
- Sam's Club & Wal-Mart gift cards
- Gasoline debit cards
- Dog/cat food (canned & dry)
- Puppy/kitten food (canned & dry)
- Stainless steel food/water bowls
- Kitty litter
- Litter pans & scoops (stainless steel only)
- Pooper scoopers
- Dog leashes
- Dog collars (all sizes)
- Dog harnesses
- Dog/cat treats
- Dog/cat toys

- Kong dog toys
- Dog/cat beds
- Small & medium pet carriers
- Large & X-large pet carriers
- Blankets & towels
- Small rugs or carpet squares
- Pet shampoo
- Flea/tick medication
- Laundry detergent (liquid)
- Bleach
- Dishwashing liquid
- Window cleaner
- Paper towels
- Spray bottles
- Alcohol



WISH LIST

- Vaseline
- First-aid supplies
- Latex gloves
- Hand sanitizer
- Plastic watering cans
- Heavy-duty leaf/lawn bags
- Grooming supplies
- Nail clippers
- Office supplies
- Inkjet and copier paper
- Aluminum cans (for recycling)
- Newspapers w/o inserts

FROM “RAGS-TO-RICHES” - THE AMAZING STORY OF A DOG NAMED “PRETTY GIRL”



How we wish that this sweet dog could have told us her story in her own words when she arrived in our shelter on November 8, 2011. The little that we know about her

is truly heartbreaking, and we can only imagine what she endured during her lifetime. Our Humane Officers and the Dog Warden had answered calls over the past year about a mysterious dog in the Newport, Ohio area who was homeless and needed to be rescued. She was obviously accustomed to being cautious around people and her survival instincts must have told her to “run for cover” when strangers were near. And she eluded capture each time she was sighted. This lonely girl must have been very hungry when she was finally lured into a live trap on the morning of November 8th. She apparently couldn't resist the aroma of a chicken dinner which was too tempting to pass up on an empty stomach.

Butch Morris and Levi SeEVERS (HSOV Humane Officers) and Kelly Schubert (Washington County Dog Warden) were instrumental in bringing her to safety, and Butch named her “Pretty Girl”. She was a German Shepherd mix who was very frightened and terribly thin. When she looked up at her Guardian Angels, their hearts sunk when they realized that someone had shot her in the face with buckshot.

“Pretty Girl” was understandably quite afraid even after she settled into a large kennel in our shelter and was surrounded by soft blankets and plenty of good food. She preferred to make herself as small as possible, curl up in a corner, and avoid eye contact with anyone who looked at her. It was heartbreaking when we realized that she was probably blind in her left eye as a result of the buckshot. Gradually she began to respond to the kindness of our Humane Officers and shelter staff. “Pretty Girl” was especially attached to Butch and Levi, who had gained her trust. Butch spent countless hours with her as he spoke softly and told her what a good girl she truly was. And he always had a special treat in his hand as he gently stroked her head and talked with her. Levi faithfully took her for daily walks and gave her the confidence to leave her kennel while he encouraged her to learn to walk on a leash. Together they took ‘baby steps’ each day while looking forward to the day that Levi would be able to hand the leash to someone who would give “Pretty Girl” a good home.

The first photos of “Pretty Girl”, which were taken three days after she arrived, were pretty sad. She still looked traumatized as she walked with Levi and looked to him for reassurance. We



wanted to give her some publicity on our Petfinder/Facebook pages for another sad reason. It was apparent that “Pretty Girl” was blind in her left eye as a result of that gunshot wound, and we wanted to ask for donations to cover her medical bills ☺

When “Pretty Girl” was examined by a local veterinarian, the diagnosis was that there was a buckshot pellet lodged in her left eye as well as a serious infection behind the eye socket. “Pretty Girl” would most likely require surgery for the removal of that eye ☺ Donations from several kindhearted people were received, but were not enough to cover the surgery. Our prayers were answered when another compassionate lady (who wishes to remain anonymous) said that she wanted to make a donation not only for Pretty Girl's eye surgery but to also have her spayed, hoping that would help her chances of being adopted!

“Pretty Girl” received extra TLC and loving attention from our shelter staff and volunteers while she gained the strength to undergo the surgical procedures. Butch continued to spend time with her each day, and she continued her daily walks with Levi ☺

On November 29th, “Pretty Girl” underwent surgery for the removal of her left eye and was also spayed. She was a real trooper and came through with flying colors. She was back at the shelter within days and was being pampered while she recuperated, and she made a remarkable recovery. A few weeks later, “Pretty Girl” was making her temporary home in the office of our shelter manager (Steve Herron) so that she could enjoy some extra attention and socialization when visitors came through the front door of our shelter. “Pretty Girl” was very lovable and melted everyone's heart who met her. She loved other dogs and puppies, and she absolutely loved cats! It was so touching to see her walk toward the Jungle Room and visit the shelter cats, almost as if it was comforting and soothing to be near them.



In our eyes, "Pretty Girl" had always been beautiful (both inside and out), but it was amazing to see the transformation and progress that this special girl made in just six weeks

after coming to our shelter. We took updated photos of her on December 21st and, as you can see, she was absolutely stunning. She had gained weight and once again looked like a gorgeous German Shepherd, which had not been apparent six weeks earlier.

We were anxious to share those new photos of "Pretty Girl" and to ask if someone might be interested in fostering or adopting her. We were amazed when a young woman called within a couple of hours to ask about "Pretty Girl" after she saw her updated photo album on Facebook and said her family would be interested in fostering her. That young woman, Annie O'Brien, arrived at the shelter to meet "Pretty Girl", and it was love at first sight! Annie explained that she would complete the foster application with both her name and her mother, Wendy O'Brien. Butch Morris spent about an hour introducing "Pretty Girl" to Annie (and vice-versa) and letting this beautiful dog know that it was time for him (and Levi) to hand her leash over to Annie. Butch gave "Pretty Girl" a hug and whispered some words of advice in her ear as he leaned over to tell her good-bye. And Steve was also there to give "Pretty Girl" a good-bye hug since he had become very attached to her as well.



The next chapter in Pretty Girl's life is being documented on her new mother's facebook page. As you might have guessed, the temporary home

didn't last very long .. Wendy O'Brien came back within a week and signed the official adoption papers ☺

Pretty Girl's life has been transformed into one that we would not have envisioned in our wildest dreams when we saw her on November 8th. Her first night in her new home was spent sleeping under a nice quilt with Annie and each day is a wonderful new experience. "Pretty Girl" shares her new home with another dog named "Daisy", and they dearly love each other. Their momma loves to knit, and she tells us that they are always beside her on the sofa, one on either side. "Pretty Girl" has learned to play with toys now, and she and "Daisy" partner up to get into mischief together! When "Pretty Girl" first came to the O'Brien home, she would often have nightmares, and Wendy wondered if she was having flashbacks of being homeless or being hit with buckshot. Happily, she is now sleeping through the night and hopefully realizes that she doesn't have to worry about those dark days in her past ever again. Pretty Girl's 'act of cuteness' starts early these days as she waits until the alarm clock goes off and then snuggles up right on top of Wendy so she can't get out of bed and go to work ☺

What a wonderful new beginning for "Pretty Girl"! Thanks to the many people who loved her at the shelter and her new forever family, Wendy and Annie O'Brien ☺ And thank you, Wendy, for the beautiful photos that you have taken of "Pretty Girl" in her lovely new home.

by Sharon Paul



WRITING OUR THANK-YOU NOTES

Celeste Ridgway and Kory Gilbert - Our shelter was the recipient of several new computers thanks to a generous donation made possible by Celeste Ridgway (HSOV Board Member and Canine Rescue Coordinator). And thanks to Kory Gilbert (HSOV Kennel Tech whom we affectionately call 'The Dog Whisperer') for spending countless hours transferring our computer programs and data from our old computers to the new ones ☺

Kiwanis Club of Marietta – Thank you for your generous donations during your December meeting!

Nancy Mendicino – Thank you and your committee members for organizing another successful "They Light Up Our Lives" fundraiser during the 2011 holiday season. This event netted over \$1,000 which was donated to the HSOV thanks to animal lovers who honored or memorialized their beloved pets. Thanks to American Flags & Poles for placing the Christmas tree in their store window and thanks also to these businesses which provided a drop-off place for collection of forms and donations: American Flags & Poles, Kelly's Shedding Shack, UPS Store, and We Lov Pets.

Jim Caporale – Thank you for your tireless efforts in providing so many donations for our shelter ... everything from gravel for our road and parking area to kitty litter and landscaping rock!

The Galley/Adelphia Music Hall – Thank you for organizing two wonderful fundraisers for the HSOV. During the month of December this local enterprise sponsored "Operation Santa Paws" and collected donations and supplies for the shelter animals. And on February 4th, they hosted a "Bob Dylan Tribute/Benefit Show" and donated the proceeds to the HSOV! This event raised nearly \$2500 for our shelter, and we want to give special thanks to Todd Burge who made this event possible.

Local Radio Personalities and **We Lov Pets** joined forces with the HSOV on January 31, 2012 for an Adopt-A-Thon which was held at the We Lov Pets Store, Layfayette Center, Marietta, Ohio. One tiny puppy found a home that day, while five shelter dogs and three shelter cats enjoyed their celebrity status as potential adopters oohed and aahed over them and treated them to walks. Thank you to **Froggy99**, **The Bear 103.1**, and **95XIL** for their live broadcasts throughout the day and good-natured challenges to encourage donations. Nearly \$1,000 was donated to the HSOV ☺

Gutberlet Auto Sales (Lowell, Ohio) – Thank you so much for the donation of the pre-owned Ford Astro van. It was very much appreciated!

We wish to thank **Mike Martin (Mike's Auto Body Repair, Marietta, Ohio)** for the generous "anonymous donation" while we were selling our Fur Ball Raffle Tickets :) Mike has been one of our most ardent supporters throughout the years though we've never published his name in our newsletters until now. Thank you Mike!!

The Marietta Tennis Center Senior Ladies League (Kim McGrew, Arlene Balfour, Joan Hushion, Barbara Hintz, Connie Devol, and Louise Holmes) met on December 14, 2011 at the river summer home of Ron and Louise Holmes for a Christmas party luncheon and get-together. In lieu of gifts, they brought "wish list" items for the Humane Society of the Ohio Valley. Barker, the big stuffed dog at the party, collected the items and thanked each lady for their donation. (Submitted by Louise Holmes)



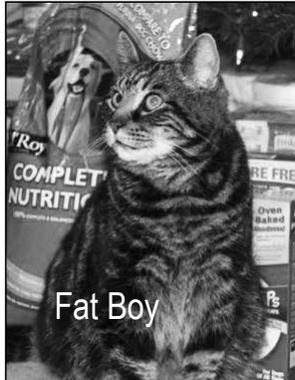
These Special Twins, Caden and Ava Gebczk, celebrated their 6th birthday in an unusual way for small youngsters. They had a traditional birthday party, but instead of asking for gifts for themselves, they asked if their friends and family would bring a gift for the dogs and cats at the HSOV. Their mother, Michelle Gebczyk, helped them deliver these generous donations, as well as cash contributions, on November 23, 2011. As you can see, there was something for everyone! Thank you, Caden and Ava, for sharing your birthday with the shelter animals. And we also want to note that their older brother, Jantzen, celebrated his 8th birthday about two years ago and also asked for donations for HSOV dogs and cats. What a wonderful family tradition ☺

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AND HOLIDAY VISITORS

Our shelter was beautifully decorated throughout the month of December, but it looked even more festive on Saturday, December 10th during our annual Christmas Open House. We're sharing a few photographs which were taken that day and, as you can see, there were many gifts under the Christmas tree for our shelter dogs and cats. And our 'people' visitors enjoyed gourmet refreshments thanks to Juanita Becker, Marlene Delaney, Carol McKittrick, and Jane Snell. Thank you to everyone who came to see us that day and also during the rest of the holiday season. We hope you realize how much your support means to the animals and shelter staff.



Our shelter mascot kitties (Fat Boy, Stripe, and Tiger) were the self-appointed foot patrol to check out gifts which were left under our Christmas tree ☺



Thanks to **Melissa Haessley** for hosting a Holiday Open House at her home during the Christmas season and requesting that her guests bring a donation for the HSOV. Thanks to their generosity, Melissa delivered a carload of gifts!



The Kitchen Family spent their Christmas Eve day baking special homemade dog treats and delivered them to the shelter that afternoon. What a wonderful surprise from this delightful family ☺



Thank you to **Carol & Randy Williams (Res-Q-Angels)** for sending the Christmas box filled with toys and kitty treats for our shelter cats. It arrived in the mail on Christmas Eve as if by magic!

It was a pleasure to see **Dr. Gwen McHenry** during our Open House. Thank you for your generous donation, and we know you loved seeing "Pretty Girl" again.



One family who brought donations and visited our shelter on December 21st went home with an unplanned addition to their family which is quite a story in itself. Jane Potter's daughter and grand-daughters, who reside in Boston Massachusetts, were in Marietta for the holidays and had a tradition of donating to a worthy cause as part of their Christmas giving. This year they chose the HSOV and brought their gifts to the shelter that day. It just so happened that someone else had left us a "gift" of three Boston Terrier puppies the preceding day. **Amy (Potter) DiRusso** and her daughters fell in love with one of those puppies and returned on Christmas Eve to adopt him. So that little Boston Terrier boy is now residing in Boston Massachusetts ☺ It surely must have been fate that brought this young family to our shelter!



HSOV "Victory Dance"

We always do a little "victory dance" when an HSOV cat is adopted or rescued, but there are some that just seem to deserve an extra celebration. We've decided to share some of those special kitties in this newsletter . . .

"Brown Brown" was a beautiful Tortoiseshell kitty who came to our shelter on November 28, 2011 after her mistress had passed away. Though she didn't look her age, this lovely girl was actually 19 years old. Older cats are often overlooked by potential adopters, and we worried about her chances of finding a home. A compassionate young lady (Rena Sampson) had been looking at the photos of Brown Brown and found that she was having trouble sleeping at night since she too worried about the chances of her being adopted. Rena's husband had quietly listened and decided that he would go to the shelter to pick up a very special Christmas gift for Rena. And you surely know 'the rest of the story' ☺ "Brown Brown" found a wonderful home on December 21st just in time for Christmas.



Brown Brown

foster care, so her foster mother decided she might have a better chance at the shelter and returned her on December 8th. We know how difficult it must have for her to have known a real home for seven months and to find herself sitting in a cage again. Another special lady (Lucy Betts) had been following Daffodil's ongoing saga for many months and was touched by her story. Daffodil made the journey to Cincinnati on January 12, 2012 to join the Three Sisters Rescue. Incidentally she was among the kitties mentioned in the 'It's Like Herding Cats' article in this newsletter, so perhaps she started to celebrate also ☺

"Hannah" was another mother kitty who had a long history with the HSOV. She arrived on April 11, 2011 with four cute kittens. Hannah was actually 'interviewed' in a feature story for



Hannah

our July 2011 newsletter, and she told the sad story of how she was separated from her kittens when she was spayed and didn't learn that they had been safely adopted until the interviewer shared that happy news with her ☺ Hannah was in a foster home for nearly eight months while she waited for someone to adopt her (which was very nice), but she was returned to the shelter in early December along with Daffodil. This beautiful 2-year old gray tabby girl's photos and story touched the heart of Lucy Betts (Three Sisters Rescue in Cincinnati) who decided that Hannah had waited long enough for a home. Hannah made the journey to meet Lucy on December 16th.

"Puss In Boots" was a debonair 9-year old male orange tabby who originally arrived at the HSOV on October 17, 2011. He was a gentle, big

pussycat of a guy (pardon the pun) who was so lovable, yet he was overlooked when his age was mentioned. A very special young man (Randy Williams) in Michigan had his heart set on adopting an older cat, and when he saw Puss In Boots on our Petfinder listings he somehow knew this was the cat who needed him. Thanks to Celeste Ridgway, transportation was arranged on February 2, 2012 and Puss In Boots is now enjoying a pampered life with Randy ☺

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Daffodil



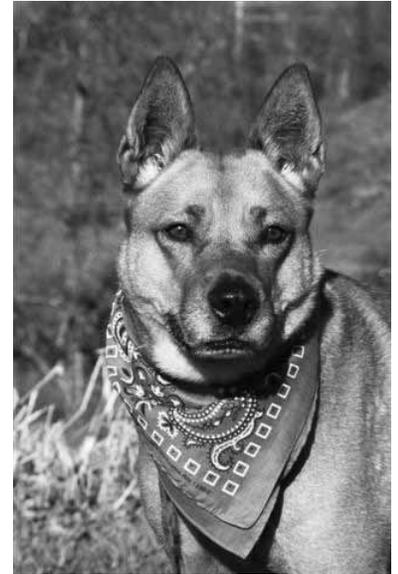
Puss in Boots

Please keep in mind that there are several very nice HSOV cats who are still waiting for a happy ending, including: Bozo, Cinnamon Bun, Cocoa, Curly, Daphne, Emily, Larry, London, Meatball, Mrs. Wilson, Smores, Tennessee Tuxedo, Tomacina, and Velvet. Several are already spayed/neutered and others may have sponsors for their adoptions.

Long-Time Residents Find Homes ☺

It makes us very sad when our shelter reaches capacity and dogs are placed on the “Urgent” list, and we know that it is difficult for you to see that word after a dog’s name on its Petfinder listing too. Those dogs are usually on that list simply because they have the most seniority and have been in our shelter for the longest amount of time. We rejoice when a long-time resident finds a good home, and we were happy indeed for each of these special dogs.

“**Lilly**” was a beautiful 6-year old Shiba Inu mix who was surrendered by her owner on July 13, 2011. She was a gorgeous young lady with a reddish-brown coat and a stunning face which could easily have graced the cover of *Dog Fancy Magazine*. Lilly was a favorite of the shelter staff and volunteers, and she loved to be walked, brushed, and pampered. Lilly adored her people friends but had a reputation for being selective about her canine friends. Sadly, Lilly was placed on the Urgent List in mid-September. Lilly had several admirers who worked tirelessly to find foster homes for her, but usually she was back at the shelter again through no real fault of her own. By mid-November, Lilly’s admirers decided it was time for a stepped-up marketing campaign when it seemed as though her time was running out. She donned a bright blue scarf for new glamour photos and posed with shelter mascot kitties Tiger and Fat Boy to give her a new image as well as an updated name. She was posted as “Lilly Marlene” and designated as Urgent, Urgent. It took Lilly seven months to find the home where it seems she was meant to be. She was adopted on December 4, 2011 by a wonderful couple in Marietta, Ohio who vowed to give Lilly the love and understanding she needed to help her become the perfect dog. We occasionally see Lilly taking long walks in downtown Marietta with her new ‘parents’ which is a happy sight to see ☺



Lilly



Oberon

“**OBERON**” was a magnificent Mastiff/Boxer mix who arrived at the HSOV on November 8, 2011. He had several ‘claims to fame’, among them being that he was the first dog that our Washington County Dog Warden, Kelly Schubert, picked up. She shared a special bond with him and truly loved that big guy. Oberon had the distinction of being the largest dog in the shelter since he weighed 92 lbs. He spent most of his time in the nursery room since it was our most spacious accommodation, and his big goofy face (meant in the most flattering way, of course) was always at the window greeting visitors. Oberon loved his human friends but didn’t tolerate four-legged friends, so he was very choosy about whom he could find the perfect home with. On February 4th Oberon found his new family who had fallen in love with him earlier in the week. Rachel Leopold, our Kennel Tech Supervisor, said it was very touching to see Oberon as he was getting into the car and looking back as if to say “Wait, I’m

supposed to go back in there [the shelter], I’m not supposed to leave the yard”. However, he left with his favorite fluffy bunny which had been his security blanket and quickly settled into his new home. His new family has posted several pictures on our Facebook page, and it is touching to see him looking out their window now ☺

URGENT LIST UPDATE .. Several dogs were placed on this list on February 15th including Arley, Bam Bam, Bismarck, Brooke, Montgomery, Nellie Bly, and Rascal. Their pictures and stories are posted on Petfinder/Facebook. Please take a look at their hopeful faces and help us write happy endings for these wonderful dogs. Several have been spayed/neutered and others may have sponsors. All of them deserve a good home where they will be loved.

I STOLE YOUR DOG TODAY

(Copyright Jim Willis 2002)

I stole your dog today. No, I didn't set a foot on your property, but from the condition of your dog, I can imagine what it looks like. The word "junkyard" comes to mind.

I found her along a road, with a heavy chain wrapped around her neck, still attached to rotten boards from her doghouse, with rusty six-penny nails protruding. Not only did I know that most of the town had already ignored her, judging by where I found her, but I knew that if she had gotten into the woods, the "cross" that she dragged behind her would have wrapped around a tree until starvation or thirst killed her. The local populace is usually deaf to the sound or blind to the sight of an animal in need, unless they decide to shoot one for trespassing.



That her ribs showed, that her ears were filthy, that her overall condition was poor and that her coat and eyes were dull, were good indications that you didn't deserve her. But just to make sure, I checked with the local authorities for a report of a missing (unlicensed) dog matching her description and to see if you'd placed a "lost dog" advertisement in the local newspaper. You hadn't, which I can only surmise means that you do not miss her. That's rather convenient, because the fact that she is not spayed, probably unvaccinated, and possibly heartworm positive means that restoring your health could cost me around a thousand dollars.

Perhaps it may be some small comfort to know that she doesn't miss you. In fact, her very act of escape made it clear that she'd had enough of your brand of pet guardianship. It took her about a day to realize that I'm not you, that I won't hurt her, that despite our brief acquaintanceship, I love her. It took two days for her to realize that the other animals who live here accept her and that one of the joys she has been missing has been the companionship of other dogs. It took three days for her to appreciate the ecstasy of a home-cooked meal and that a couch is meant to be reclined on, and that she no longer has to sleep outside – in fact, when the thunder starts, she'll get a hug and her ears rubbed, and I'll make a fool of myself with baby talk.

She has a beautiful name now. Already in the first week she has come to look more like she should. Her eyes sparkle and she has learned to wag her tail in greeting. She has stopped flinching when I make a sudden movement, because she knows now that I won't beat her. In fact, she rarely leaves my side. She's even become brave enough to bark at a cat and today I watched from the window as she initiated play with the other dogs. No, it's clear that she does not miss you or her former life of neglect on a chain.

Of all the things that have become apparent from my brief relationship with her --- such as the forgiving nature of the dog, their wonderful ability to heal and trust, the fact that love can work miracles – one of the most apparent is what a fool you are. She was possibly the most trusting, loyal and loving being in your life, and you consigned her to a life of filth and loneliness until she made the best choice she's ever made when she broke free. Perhaps her guardian angel helped her escape. Lest anyone mistake me for an angel, I will admit one day I hope to be as good as she. I believe she forgave you within the first twenty-four hours of her new life for the nearly four years of her previous "life", while I still try to wrestle with the part of me that hopes one day you will burn in Hell.

It's not clear yet whether she'll remain here or whether I'll find her a loving homes where she can count on more attention than I can give her. But one thing is certain, this is one bit of stolen "property" who is never returning to you. So sue me, prosecute me, plead with the courts that she is rightfully yours. I'm convinced that this is the best "crime" I've ever committed. Hardly anything has pleased me more than the day I stole your dog. I need only look into her beautiful brown eyes to know that she'd defend my decision with her life. If we have one prayer, it is that you will not replace her, and if we have one special day to commemorate together, it is the day I stole your dog and the day she stole my heart.



[Reprinted at the request of Jane Snell]

2012 Membership Form - Humane Society of the Ohio Valley

Complete this form and mail it with your check made payable to HSOV to:
HSOV, P.O. Box 5, Marietta, Oh 45750

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES NEW RENEW

_____ \$10.00 Junior Membership (Under 17 yrs. non-voting) (based on calendar year)

_____ \$20.00 General Membership (voting) (based on calendar year)

_____ \$500.00 Life membership (voting)

All members receive the HSOV newsletter. The newsletter may also be viewed on our website and printed out if desired.

SUPPORT CATEGORIES

_____ Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

_____ Enclosed is my contribution of \$300.00 to sponsor a CAGE or DOG RUN for one year.

Sponsor's name will be displayed on a plaque at the shelter.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Only Society can prevent what the animals cannot...please spay/neuter your pets!

Thank You! HSOV respects your privacy and does not sell or share donor information.



The HSOV always welcomes an "in-memory" donation for the passing of a friend, relative, pet or a special gift for celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other occasion.

This gift is given *in memory of* *to celebrate the* _____ *of*

Name: _____

From: _____

Address: _____ *City:* _____ *State:* _____ *Zip:* _____

Date: _____ *Sympathy Card* *Acknowledgement should be sent to:*

Address: _____ *City:* _____ *State:* _____ *Zip:* _____

Please include this form & gift in a stamped envelope and mail to: HSOV, P.O. Box 5, Marietta, OH 45750



Humane Society



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IN MEMORY OF "Cyrano de Bergerac"

This cute little black-and-white kitten was just 9-weeks old when he arrived at our shelter on October 16, 2011. He had an adorable face with a distinctive black nose and was given the name "Cyrano de Bergerac". Cyrano had a delightful kitten personality. He loved to play with a tiny stuffed mouse in his cage and amused himself until he met a cute little female kitten named "Roxanne" whom he fell in love with. Sadly, both of these youngsters were among the 1,027 HSOV cats and kittens who were euthanized or died in our shelter from January - December 2011.



PLEASE VACCINATE, SPAY, AND NEUTER!

THANK YOU TO THESE AREA BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS FOR SPONSORING DOG KENNELS AND CAT TOWERS AT THE HSOV

Dave & Terri Adams
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