



FROM A STORMY START TO SMOOTH SAILING

Penelope wins over hearts and finds her forever home

As hurricanes go, Irma was a big one—the first Category 5 storm of the 2017 season, heading across the Atlantic for Florida. As it barreled down on the east coast, volunteers from the League for Animal Welfare saddled up, getting the transport ready for a trip to bring a van full of rescue dogs and cats back home to Cincinnati and safety.

Hurricane Penelope—as she came to be named—was among the evacuees who came to the League from the Alachua County Animal Shelter in Gainesville that September. An elegant hound mix with a vanilla cream coat, soft brown eyes and a powerhouse personality, she came to make her mark on the League, and find her forever home.

“Everyone’s princess”

While Hurricane Irma hit Florida with wind gusts of up to 140 mph, Penelope was settling safely into the League, meeting and winning over volunteers in droves. But she was no pushover. Even at the young age of two, she had strong opinions about the folks she wanted to socialize with.

“From the time she came, she was reserved, hesitant,” says League trainer Donna Krauszer Moore. “She was selective with her people, and her dogs. She was a handful and a half. But she became everyone’s princess.”

Says volunteer Shannon Vontz: “Her eyes tell a story, and that story is, ‘I’m watching you’.” She likes to get to know people slowly. She hasn’t approved



Bronski – 2.5 years old, male

Bronski was adopted as a puppy, and was returned to us after a year in a home - and he came back with bad manners! Bronski is an absolute sweetheart, but he needs an experienced dog owner who knows how to physically and mentally challenge him. When Bronski doesn't have enough work to do, Bronski's naughty side comes out! If you're a dog lover who loves the challenge of a smart dog who looks to you for training and commands, Bronski will be your new best friend.



Somer – 4 years old, female

This buxom calico beauty with her stubby tail has been with us for two years - and we don't know why! Somer is our "helper" cat - she gets along with any other cat (like her best friend Rachele, pictured with her!), and is great at bringing shy cats out of their shells. She's a quirky gal, who likes to splash and bat around robotic fish in our kitty pool in the summertime (and sometimes stand in her water dish!). She loves comfy beds and bird watching. And she would be a loving and wonderful companion in any home.

[View all the cats and dogs available for adoption at LFAW.org/adopt](https://lfaaw.org/adopt)



Hurricane Mary - Adopted 2018

Mary, like our girl Penelope, came from Florida before Hurricane Irma in 2017. She was adopted in 2018 by the Folck-Poole family - and was loved fiercely. Sadly, Mary died suddenly in December of a fatal stroke. Mary's mom, Sara wrote "I've had plenty of dogs throughout my years. But Mary... Mary changed my life. Mary instantly brought peace and happiness into my home. She was unbelievably patient and loving towards my crazy kiddos. She was vehemently loyal to us. Mary was always there, for all of us. 3 years with her simply wasn't enough, and I wasn't at all ready for her to leave me. There's a hole in my and my family's heart that will never fully heal, I know this. You all changed our lives for the better.



Buffy – Adopted 2020

Pirate kitty Buffy (known as Kiwi at the shelter) decided to get all of her hardships in life out early! Found as a stray, this sweet kitten needed three surgeries to repair an umbilical hernia and remove a ruptured eye. It all prepared her to hit the jackpot with her new family - awesome League volunteers, the McClanahans. Her new parents wrote "this one-eyed kitty has been such a joy to our lives - she is the most playful, loving, happy cat, and she won our love from the moment we saw her. We're grateful that she was saved as a kitten and that we found her at LFAW."



Give an everlasting gift!

Saying goodbye to our beloved pets leaves such an unimaginable hole in our hearts and in our homes. Giving a gift to the League in memory of your pet, or in memory of the pet of a family member or friend, helps another homeless dog or cat find a family to love them as dearly as your pet was loved. Your gift will be recognized with a special card that honors the abiding love we have for our furry family members. The League is humbled to celebrate this bond, and your pet's memory, in such a special way.

*Forever would not have
been long enough.*

About Us

The League for Animal Welfare is a 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to reduce the number of homeless cats and dogs in Greater Cincinnati by providing a compassionate, no-kill animal shelter, and programs that promote responsible pet care. For any questions concerning the League's mission, history, or vision, please contact us at info@lfaaw.org or by calling us at 513-735-2299.

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Monday 12-7	Friday 12-5
Tuesday 12-5	Saturday 10-5
Wednesday 12-7	Sunday 10-5
Thursday CLOSED	

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An Amateur's Guide to Puppy and Kitten Adoption



It's springtime, the time of year when accidental litters of puppies and kittens are flooding into shelters! It's hard not to be tempted by these adorable balls of fluff. So, if you've decided that you're ready to bring a tiny and adorable terror into your home – but you want to mitigate the destruction and sleeplessness – read on! We can help you arm yourself (metaphorically ... and maybe literally) for the inevitable learning curve of training and development!

ADOPTING A KITTEN

This isn't just a marketing strategy – if you're adopting one kitten, adopt two kittens. Two kittens will keep each other busy and entertained – which is good for you, at 2am when they're in play mode; it's good for any adult cats in the house, who may not appreciate the relentless playfulness of a kitten; it's good for your furniture and breakables, when they can wrestle with each other rather than finding trouble; and it's good for the kittens, because they are social animals who will benefit from having a buddy. As young kittens, your pair will teach each other proper kitten manners and socialization (think bite inhibition!). And as old friends, they will always have each other to snuggle.

What are other tips for successfully bringing a fluffy ball of purrs and meows into your home?

- Make sure to spay/neuter before they're 4 months! This will avoid accidental litters and spraying.
- When you first bring them home, keep your new kitten(s) in a small room. Their new home can be overwhelming at first – so allow them time to get used to you, and new sights and smells before having access to your whole home!
- Introduce them to new animals slowly, and always with supervision. Let any current animals in the home meet your new kitten with a door or barrier in between first (have them sniff each other under a door; with the first face-to-face introduction, keep your new kitten in the carrier).
- Teach them good manners! Never use your hand as a toy – or they'll learn it's okay to bite and scratch human

hands! Redirect any improper behavior, like biting, by replacing your hand/leg with a toy.

- Keep their nails trimmed! Declawing is painful and can lead to behavioral issues. Instead, introduce your kitten to the painless process of nail trims!
- Wear pants. It's a cruel joke on humans that kittens are born in the spring and summer – because they *will* want to climb your legs, and when they do, you will regret being in shorts ...

ADOPTING A PUPPY

As with kittens, it's important that your new puppy be well-socialized to both humans and other dogs early on, to avoid problematic behaviors later! If your new puppy will be the only dog in the home, make sure to set up puppy play dates with friends' dogs, or enroll him in doggie daycare! Other dogs will teach your puppy about bite inhibition and other good doggie manners.

What else can you do to have a well-behaved new pup?

- Dedicate yourself to potty training! In the first few weeks at home, you'll want to take your puppy outside frequently (every 1- 2 hours) to avoid accidents, and teach them where to potty. Make sure to praise the puppy when he potties in the right spot!
- Crate train! Crates aren't puppy jail – they're a safe spot that will help puppies feel safe, and help you encourage proper behaviors and routines.
- Keep your puppy confined to a smaller area in the home at first, so he doesn't get overwhelmed or confused about where to go potty. Using doggie gates to keep him near you at all times will help!

It's important that your new puppy or kitten be well-socialized, to both humans and other dogs and cats

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- Puppies are chewers – make sure to consistently discourage mouthy behavior. Never allow your puppy to mouth people (it may be cute now, but it's not cute when he's 60lbs!), or chew inappropriate things. How do you avoid this? Redirect them by replacing the naughty chewing with appropriate chewing (i.e. stick a dog toy in their mouth when they're trying to chew!).



- Routine is your friend! Get your pup in a routine, so he knows what to expect from you and when.
- Most importantly, be patient and gentle. Your puppy will have accidents and make mistakes – use gentle and consistent language and redirection to teach him what you expect. NEVER hit a puppy or dog – using a calm but consistent voice will get you both where you need to go!

Most of all – enjoy them. You have just made your new best friend for the next decade or two. 🐾



FROM A STORMY START TO SMOOTH SAILING: continued from page 1

everyone ... so if she likes you, you're a superstar."

Since her arrival at the League, Penelope inspired nicknames from 'Pretty Princess Penelope' to 'Peepers' to 'Penelope Rose' to 'Miss P.' Her kennel

has been festooned with birthday decorations, complete with a crown, and she inspired poetry. Shannon composed a poem for her, posted on the League's Facebook page, paying a playful salute to her private nature: "She wants a place without a lot of noise; She doesn't want to party like the Beastie Boys."

Says volunteer Brian Brezinski: "She was always a bright spot in my shift. As Shannon said, she was a bit particular with who she shared her trust with, and most certainly a diva (as she should be!), but once you gained her approval, she made you a friend for life."

Finding the right match

It was when volunteer Dave Hopper first met her, in late summer of 2018, that her life would take a new path. At first, Penelope wasn't on his radar, he says. But when the League organized off-site outings, where volunteers would take the pups to local parks to play, explore and socialize, he took notice.

"It became apparent that some dogs were always being walked, but some were left behind. It bothered me ... and I really wanted to change that. It was on these walks that I started to form a bond with Penelope. Within a few months, I knew that I had to adopt her."

True to her nature, it took time for Penelope to warm up to Dave. But he was patient, spending time taking her to the play yard, paying special visits, offering special treats, waiting for her to come around—which she did. "Eventually, I walked in one day to see bright eyes and a wagging tail. We've been friends ever since. I guess I'd finally earned her trust."

Settling into her new world

After three patient years waiting for the perfect match, Penelope has settled into her new home with Dave, loving walks and fetch, and bonding with her new brother Rusty. A handy teacher, Rusty has taught Miss Penelope the finer points of looking adorable while hoping for treats – and how best to dive into a doggie birthday cake.



Says Dave of Penelope's transition: "She's very sensitive and fiercely loyal, and she bonds deeply with 'her people'. She's stand-offish at first, like someone who's been hurt in the past but is slowly learning to trust again ... happily, once she lets you into her world, she shows you a happy, playful, fun-loving side that's reserved for people she's comfortable around."

A heartfelt League reunion

After four months in her forever home, Dave wanted to bring Penelope back to meet with the League team. "She certainly did win some hearts, and has quite a fan club," he says. "It's my intention to make sure these bonds aren't broken." 🐾



Give Them Hope, Every Day

Our Hope 365 donors provide monthly support that the League depends on to say “yes!” when a homeless animal needs our help.

Why Give Monthly?

It's Affordable!

You can help save lives in a way that makes sense for your monthly budget – monthly giving at any level makes a huge impact in the lives of homeless animals!

It's Convenient!

Sign up to have your gift automatically charged to your credit or debit card each month – know that you're helping homeless animals find their new families without even taking your credit card out of your wallet!

It's Reliable!

Monthly gifts allow the League to say “yes!” when animals need our help, without having to double-check our pocketbooks! Our monthly donors make planning and expanding our outreach possible, because we know we can count on your support.

It's a Team!

Our Hope 365 Community is a team of dedicated supporters who know the impact their compassion has on the lives of homeless cats and dogs. Receive regular updates on the lives you have helped save, and photos and videos of our awesome furballs that are not shared anywhere else!

How Do I Sign Up to Save Lives?

Easily enroll in Hope 365 at lfaw.org/monthly



\$5

helps a new puppy or kitten get rid of those pesky worms and fleas



\$10

provides a soft bed and a warm dinner for a new cat or dog



\$20

feeds an orphaned litter of newborn puppies or kittens



\$50

spays/neuters a shelter kitty

Volunteer Corner:

FOSTER HEROES, TOM AND KAY KUNTZ

When Tom and Kay lost their beagle, Bahama Mama in 2013, and their chocolate lab, Briscoe the next year, they decided not to add another “full-time” dog to their house. Wanting to travel more, the Kuntzes decided, instead, to get their dog fix at the League!

Joining us in 2015, Tom and Kay have done just about everything here – from walking dogs, to adoption events, to answering phones at the front desk, they have helped the League save lives in so many ways.

When Covid hit in 2020, they decided to focus their volunteer time on being adult dog fosters. They have been a respite for dogs who needed medical care (Nikon and Cashus were recovering from heartworm treatment; Mitzi from eye surgery). And they were a calm and gentle presence for dogs who needed a break from the stress of shelter life.

In a home environment, Kay and Tom saw immediate improvement in Becky Roo, a dog who was shutting down in the shelter. League’s Animal Trainer, Donna Moore, explained: “When [Becky Roo]



“We feel lucky to be able to help out the foster dogs who need some special attention. We are so glad to be able to nurture them until they are available for adoption.”



came to the League, she was in terrible shape. We had to teach her what a toy was.” As Donna worked with her to get her used to new people and the luxuries of dog life, though, Becky Roo started getting anxious – she was getting protective of her toys, and of the people she worked with. “When the Kuntzes offered to foster her,” Donna remembers, “it was perfect – we couldn’t make any more progress at the shelter.” Kay agrees: “She was definitely a different dog while in our home.”

Is fostering always such a clear success? Kay remembers one of her “Home for the Holidays” foster dogs, Jacks. Figuring they would only be gone for about 45 minutes to attend a Christmas Eve service, the Kuntzes left Jacks out of his crate. “When we came home, he had gotten cookies, his treats, and food off the counter and ate them all! We didn’t realize his legs were long enough to get stuff from the counter!”

“People always ask how we can foster, and then give the dogs up,” Kay says. “But we go into it thinking we are just a stopping point in their journey to a “forever” home. It is hard, sometimes, to give them up; but we are so happy, knowing they are going to a permanent, loving home.” 🐾

become a foster hero

Thank you to these foster heroes who opened their hearts and homes to animals in need from December 22, 2019 through January 26, 2021.

Josie Adams
Molly Adams
The Addis Family
Maggie Adkins
Heather Anderson
Nancy Averett
The Baker Family
Christy & Gemma Baldwin
Debbie Bates
Ashley Bedel &
Alan Eccard
Joanie Bennett
Jennifer & Lucas Boeckman
Kristen Brown
The Burnham Family
Barbara Casciani
The Cavanaugh Family
Christine Conlay
Anya Crutchfield
Christina & Daniel Cullis
Nancy Davis
Pat Dinnsen
Kathy & Makenzie Doherty
Patty Elwell
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Mike & Letitia Fulkerson

Tracey Griggs
The Groh Family
Jennifer Guido
Gunnar & Jean Hanson
Katherine Ivers
Erin Jennings
The Kimmerly Family
Angela Koenig
Christine Krill
Kay & Tom Kuntz
Bill & Carrie Leary
Autumn Lees
Stephanie Liechte
Julie Looch
Julie Lorincz
Tammy Madison
Becky & Mike Mannarino
Barb Matulionis
Deb McCarthy
Sara McElwain
Autumn McMichael
Madelynn Morris
The Murray Family
Lori Pelfrey

Laura Pennington
Patti Perkins
Karen Randall
Georgina Richards
The Rickert Family
Alison Rowland
Carol Sanger
Karryn Schultz-Stieby
Danielle Seurkamp
Toni & Katelynn Smith
Izabell Stidham
Elyse Stieby
Chuck & Diane Stockmeier
Belinda Stoner
Emily Stuart
Amber Thomas
Brittney Thomas
The Vaske Family
Andrew & Paula Vinson
Bruce Walters

Although great care is taken in gathering of this information, we know that errors or omissions inadvertently occur. For this, we apologize. We ask that you inform the League of needed corrections to our data by calling 513-735-2299.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING
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FAREWELL TO LEAGUE LINES

LEAGUE LINES



In an effort to be good stewards of both your generous donations and the planet, the League is discontinuing our printed version of "League Lines" with this last issue.

But we don't want you to miss out on updates from the League, and to see the impact you are having in the lives of homeless dogs and cats! Sign up for our online newsletter by enrolling online at bit.ly/LFAWnews; emailing us at autumn@lfaw.org; or calling us at 513-735-2299.

You can also follow us on social media at facebook.com/leagueforanimalwelfare



MADDIE'S STORY: Family finds perfect new home
A Washington Township Pit Bull puppy, with white and black markings and a white blaze on its face, was found in a dark room, but not the one it was in. In February, when the group of volunteers was looking for a new home for the puppy, they found Maddie. She was a sweet, playful puppy who was able to get along with other dogs and cats. She was adopted by a family who was looking for a new puppy.

DAFFY'S STORY: Volunteer gives senior cat a new home
Daffy is a 12-year-old tabby cat who was found in a dark room. He was a sweet, playful cat who was able to get along with other cats and dogs. He was adopted by a family who was looking for a new cat.

BOMBY'S SECOND CHANCE: A sweet senior finds her next life in a loving home
Bombay is a 12-year-old black cat who was found in a dark room. She was a sweet, playful cat who was able to get along with other cats and dogs. She was adopted by a family who was looking for a new cat.