

## From a Hoard to a Home: Bonita's Story

Bonita first met Bruce Walters last December. She and four of her sisters were voluntarily surrendered to the League from a hoarding situation in Indiana. A mix of Cocker Spaniel and terrier, they all had a variety of health issues, from hip dysplasia to kennel cough to a milky eye condition.

"The heartbreaking thing is four of the five sisters needed double hip surgeries because their bones and muscles hadn't developed correctly," says Bruce, who volunteers with the League's dogs and is on his second home fostering. "The vet thinks it was because they were kept in cages for an extended period of time."

Tapped to foster Bonita, Bruce arrived to take her home after her first hip surgery. "She still had a big bare patch on her hip with staples in the incision, and was on a daily regimen of pain pills, antibiotics, and eye drops."

Getting used to her foster home was tough for Bonita at first, Bruce admits. "She barked, and howled, most of the first five nights I had her, and then—BOOM!—she was comfortable here. I still remember the first time I could sleep until the alarm clock went off."

With the second hip surgery behind her, Bonita is well on the road to a full recovery. Gentle and ginger colored with earnest brown eyes, this petite girl has a fondness for soft afghans to sleep on, and a hand-knit sweater made for her by a friend. "She has a great attitude despite the first few years of her life, and particularly despite the medical care required her first month at the League," Bruce says.

"If she can be such a pleasure to care for under these conditions, she'll be a terrific dog for a family once she can put all this behind her," he said, adding, "but she can say here as long as she likes."

*Editor's Note: As we went to print, we are pleased to report that Bonita has claimed Bruce's home as her forever home!*



## About Our Canine Foster Program

We offer foster home placement for dogs from a variety of situations, including pregnant and nursing moms, dogs recovering from surgery or other medical issues, and those who are not thriving in our shelter environment. The League is always looking for foster homes.

If you would like more information, please email [volunteers@LFAW.org](mailto:volunteers@LFAW.org), or visit [www.LFAW.org/volunteer/fostering-program](http://www.LFAW.org/volunteer/fostering-program).



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# President's Letter



We've all heard it. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

That's certainly true here at the League, where lots of change is happening, but everything you love about us is staying the same.

By the time you're reading this, our "shelter shine" project should

be completed, or nearly so. A renovated, more efficient lobby area and additional offices to accommodate our growth is exciting, yet it overshadows a more fundamental reason for the changes you'll see – to rid the shelter of a serious moisture problem. Now, with new layers of sealant and epoxy flooring, the shelter provides a safe environment for all.

Yet amidst this change, in this issue of *League Lines* there are reflections of many of the things that make the League the special place it is, and these things have stayed the same for more than 65 years.

In the interview with volunteer Barbara Casciani, we all can recognize the passion and love that draws us to this place. Her description of walking Kristoff for the first time, when he

was uncertain where he was or what was happening to him, is one I'll never forget. It speaks volumes about what sets the League apart.

Bonita's foster story underscores this distinction in so many ways. When volunteer Bruce Walters picked her up to take home and foster, she had just had the first of two surgeries for hip dysplasia in both rear legs. Bonita was one of the Four Sisters who came to us from a hoarding situation in Indiana, all with the same costly medical issues. Thanks to the League's foster program, Bonita came to know what life could be like for her after adoption.

The League's foster program for both cats and dogs is always in need of volunteers, so if you're willing to share your heart and hearth with a loving animal in need, please call us! It can be one of the most rewarding things you'll ever do.

These are things that make the League unique – and that is definitely something that never will change!

For the animals,

## None Left Behind Program

### DID YOU KNOW...

1. If you adopt an animal in the None Left Behind Program there is no adoption fee.
2. Through this program the League pays for all post-adoption veterinary expenses at PetWowHighland Heights for the rest of the animal's life.
3. You provide food and love to a wonderful cat or dog for the rest of their lives.
4. None Left Behind Program used to be named My Last Hope Program.
5. Almost 100 hundred animals have found loving homes through this program.
6. Many of the animals in the program are just not happy in a shelter and do not show well in a shelter situation.
7. The animals may have a simple medical problem that just requires a pill or special food. Remember we pay for all medicines.
8. The cats or dogs might be a little older which makes them harder to adopt.
9. This fantastic program was the idea of a staff member who wanted every cat and dog in a home.

**Check our website for the wonderful animals in this program waiting for a home.**

The League for Animal Welfare is a 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to better the lives of cats and dogs in the Greater Cincinnati area. We provide animals with loving care and shelter until we match them with their forever homes. We promote a reduction in pet overpopulation and responsible pet ownership through public education and spay/neuter programs.

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#### Hours of Operation:

Mon 11:00am-5:00pm  
Tue 11:00am-5:00pm  
Wed 12:00pm-7:00pm  
Thu Closed  
Fri 11:00am-5:00pm  
Sat 11:00am-5:00pm  
Sun 12:00pm-5:00pm

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League for Animal Welfare  
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Batavia, OH 45103  
513-735-2299  
www.LFAW.org










For your privacy, the League does not sell, rent, lend or exchange its mailing lists. Please notify us if you do not wish to receive future mailings and/or fundraising communications designed to support the League for Animal Welfare by calling 513-735-2299 or emailing [davina@LFAW.org](mailto:davina@LFAW.org).



# Do's *and* Don'ts

## for the Winter Months

For those *League Lines* readers who wait with baited breath for each issue to read Ms. Catty's wonderful advice column, she does not tolerate the winters in Cincinnati and is off sunning herself in Florida. But she has asked her staff to put together the following list of helpful hints to protect your feline and canine friends from the ravages of Old Man Winter:

-  While we always strongly advise against letting cats outdoors at all, it is even more important during the cold winter months. In addition to the normal dangers of being struck by cars, exposed to infectious diseases, poisoned, and stolen, cats also are susceptible to freezing to death when not given proper shelter from the elements.
-  During frigid weather dogs should not be left outdoors for extended periods, where they may succumb to frostbite, hypothermia, or death. After being taken for walks, paws and fur should be thoroughly wiped down to remove any dangerous substances that may be in the snow, slush, or ice, including melting chemicals and antifreeze. These can be ingested when your dog bathes.
-  Make sure that your pet has a collar and identification tags, as well as a microchip, so that you can be reunited in the event that Fluffy or Fido get lost.
-  If grooming your dog is your thing, remember that fur is also your pooch's natural insulator. Let that hair grow long during the winter months!
-  Provide a warm place for your pet to sleep. In your bed under the covers is always a nice touch. Or, their own pet bed if you prefer.
-  Older, younger, smaller, and short-haired pets are more quickly affected by the cold weather. Keep this in mind when exercising or walking them during the winter months.
-  Anti-freeze and coolants are poisonous to cats and dogs. Please make sure to clean up any spills of these toxic products.
-  Cats that live outdoors generally seek refuge in warm places, including engine compartments of cars, during cold weather. If you keep your car outside, you should bang on the hood to evict any sleeping kitties before starting the engine. Cats have been known to be seriously injured or killed when engines are started.
-  Do not keep your dog or cat in your car unattended, even for only a few minutes. Just as they can succumb quickly to hyperthermia in the summer, the risk of hypothermia is great during the winter months.

## REMEMBER:

If you are too cold outside in your winter coat, so is your pet.





# Volunteer Profile:

Meet

## Barbara Casciani



Meet Barbara Casciani, a League volunteer since October, and her little 4-year-old dog Joey, a rescue from a puppy mill.

### *You could volunteer any number of places, so why choose to volunteer at the League?*

I love all animals, especially dogs, and I had been considering volunteering at a shelter for some time. By chance, a friend was considering the same thing and had done some research. She found the League and so we agreed to volunteer together. That's how I got started, but I keep coming back again and again because I just love it. The environment is friendly, welcoming and positive. One reason that it took me so long to volunteer is that I really thought that I would want to take them all home. I still do! But I also know that they are all going to be okay and the staff will work for every animal until they find the right home for them. That's why I choose to spend my volunteer time at the League and why I keep coming back!

### *What would you say to someone who was thinking about volunteering here?*

Don't wait! This experience will absolutely change your life in so many ways! It starts with the animals, of course, but the people are so amazing. I look forward to the days when I can volunteer, and I am never disappointed in my experience. The staff and volunteers have been so welcoming to me and so patient as I learn. It has been so much more than I ever expected.

### *What have you learned about animals while volunteering?*

Oh, where do I start? I have learned that they are all perfect in their own way and circumstances have landed them in their current situation. We may feel sorry for them, but they don't feel sorry for themselves and are happy with the simplest, smallest things. They like to go on walks and run around the yard even when they aren't chasing anything or you aren't chasing them. They like to just sit and have their ears scratched and bellies rubbed and they like it when you talk to them even when they don't know what you are saying. Finally, I have learned that they are giving me far more than I could ever hope to give them in return!

### *What has been your favorite moment as a League volunteer?*

I really like taking long walks with the dogs and playing with them in the play yard. My most memorable moment is the day I walked Kristoff when he first came to the League. During our walk, he kept looking back at me, almost as if he was asking if he was doing it right. I realized that it must be very scary for him not knowing where he was or what was happening to him. But when he got to the play yard, he just jumped around in pure joy. I will always remember that moment when I realized how important the League is in the lives of these animals and how this amazing facility provides them with far more than just shelter.

### *Who is/was your favorite League resident and why?*

Although a few come to mind, I have to say Bobo is my favorite. He is the first dog that I walked at my orientation, and he won my heart that day. I spend time with him every time I come to volunteer, and whatever is on my mind instantly vanishes when he charges across the lawn ready to sniff at every bush and mark every tree! I recently took him to an adoption event and he was all personality that day. I guess he wore himself out because he fell asleep on my front seat and snored all the way back to the League!

## Are you looking for a way to help homeless animals?

Please consider donating your time at the League for Animal Welfare. There is always work to be done, and the more caring volunteers we have, the better!  
We are always looking for volunteers to:

You Can  
Make  
A  
Difference!

*Solicit and pick up auction donations* **Bottle feed kittens** *Walk the dogs*  
**Accompany residents to off-site Adoption Events**  
*Check off items on our "Honey Do" list* **Foster a dog** *Greet visitors at the front desk*  
*Drive our mobile adoption RV* **Socialize the cats**  
*Work at our summer picnic, holiday party and Wine & Whiskers fundraiser* *Help beautify our grounds with some light yard work*

To learn more about any of these opportunities,  
please email [volunteers@LFAW.org](mailto:volunteers@LFAW.org)

## Ellie

Have you seen the paw-shaped bumper sticker that says "Who Rescued Who"? Deb McCarthy's adoption of Ellie in the fall of 2013 (LFAW name Rambler) is reflective of that question. After Deb's two elderly dogs had passed away within a year of one another, the thought of perhaps not getting another dog or maybe an adult dog changed when Deb met 5-month-old Ellie.

Deb had to do something with that young energy and the obvious intelligence that Ellie possessed, so they began training and became certified as a therapy dog team. That type of volunteerism not had occurred to Deb until Ellie brought that opportunity. They feel they are "rescuing" the people we are visiting every time the therapy vest is put on Ellie. Deb's life has been enriched by the volunteer work that a LFAW dog led her to, and she is grateful to Ellie for sharing the experience.





# Shelter Shout Outs!

The League for Animal Welfare would like to give special thanks to our generous community:

- More than \$127 was earned through a “dine & donate” fundraiser on November 10 at the City Barbeque location at Eastgate
- The fifth annual Alexander L. Baxter Memorial Benefit, held on November 29 at The Lounge on Beechmont, raised \$1,200
- Employees from Red Lobster on Ohio Pike and Proforma Albrecht & Co. in Milford remembered our shelter residents during the holidays with donations of food, litter, treats and toys
- Upstream 360 employees donated \$645 in a fun twist on their holiday gift exchange
- Water Tower Fine Wines in Mount Washington hosted a wine tasting event in December, donating nearly \$1,500 from the tasting fees and a percentage of the sales
- 10-year old Lili O’Connell has been selling bracelets at Park Plaza Animal Hospital and has raised \$126 for the League so far!

**We appreciate all those who help raise funds to support the League’s mission!**

## ResQwalk



### *Save a life with your steps!*

The League recently partnered with ResQwalk, a free app that tracks the steps you take as you exercise or run errands and donates money directly to the League based on the amount you walk. If you’ve been looking for an easy way to support the League, this is what you’ve been waiting for.

How to get started:

- You’ll need an iPhone or Android phone. Visit the iPhone App Store or the Google Play Store to get your free download.
- Designate the League as your charity of choice and start walking—that’s it!

Currently, the app only uses GPS tracking—so it’s best if you’re an outside exerciser or someone who walks a lot for work. If you volunteer as a dog walker at the League, this is the perfect way to double up on your service! Treadmill warriors, rest assured they’re currently working on an app update that will work for you, too.

It’s a new year, so we hope this will be some added motivation to get outside and get those steps in!

*We appreciate it—and the animals do, too.*





# Adopt Me!

## **Elsbeth**

*Born 8/2012; resident since 2/2014*

Elsbeth was pregnant when found as a stray. Her kittens have all been adopted but she is still looking for her forever home. She gets along very well with other cats, loves to play and is very chatty. She is also content to sit on your lap and loves to be scratched behind her ears. Elsbeth would be a great fit for just about any home environment.

## **Elsbeth**



## **Ming**

*Born 4/2010; resident since 3/2013*

Abandoned at a local business, this friendly Siamese is quite the talker! Ming lets you know when she wants attention, when she wants to be alone and when it's time to eat. You may say she's a bit fickle, but she simply knows what she wants and when she wants it! She would do best in a quiet home with no young children or other cats.

## **Ming**



## **Gwynneth**

*Born 3/2012; resident since 8/2014*

We're not sure why Gwynneth was left behind when her owners moved. She is a beautiful girl with lots of love to share. She happily greets everyone that visits her room and craves attention. Gwynneth tolerates children and other cats, but would prefer a home with low energy.



## **Gwynneth**

## **Lorie**

*Born 5/2011; resident since 5/2014*

Are you the one to give this sweet pug mix the love she deserves? Our volunteers have been working very hard to help Lorie learn to trust people. Given the chance, she would love to become your lap dog! Her idea of a perfect day is to play with her favorite pig toy and then hang out and get lots of belly rubs.



## **Lorie**

## **Rosella**

*Born 8/20/12; resident since 8/2013*

Are you looking for a new best friend? Rosella is super smart, extremely loyal, high energy, confident and an all-around good natured girl. She would make a great exercise partner, joining you for daily walks to keep both of you in shape! As a border collie mix with a natural herding instinct, she would do best in a household with older children.



## **Rosella**

## **Smoothie**

*Born 1/2007; resident since 1/2015*

This adorable terrier/whippet mix will steal your heart! Smoothie's difficult past has left his fur a little raggedy, but a nutritious diet and a little TLC will do the trick! He is small enough to snuggle in your lap but large enough for an energetic walk. Smoothie doesn't know a stranger and is great with everyone...other dogs, people and kids!



## **Smoothie**

**These animals may already be in their forever home, but our website ([www.LFAW.org](http://www.LFAW.org)) is constantly updated with the cats and dogs available for adoption.**

# Shelter Shine Project



The League's Shelter Shine Project is well underway! Check out the progress we're making on our front lobby. We invite you to come see our renovations at an Open House on  
***Sunday, April 26 from 1:00-4:00pm.***



*Join us on  
Sunday, April 26  
from 1:00-4:00pm*





# Animal Talk Sessions

Join us the second Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm for our education series, Animal Talk, revolving around various topics in the animal world. For more information, visit our webpage [www.LFAW.org](http://www.LFAW.org)



## ***Animal Talk: Pet Emergencies with CareVets***

**Monday, March 9**

**Location: League for Animal Welfare**

In March, Animal Talk will help you get prepared! Learn how to deal with the most common pet emergencies so you can respond with a cool head and keep your pals safe. Plus, did you know your pet can be a hero? Pet blood donors are desperately needed and too few people know their pet can be a lifesaver! Learn about eligibility, blood types, donor screening and hear inspiring donor and recipient stories.

## ***Animal Talk: Mythbusters***

**Monday, April 13**

**Location: League for Animal Welfare**

Not only do Pit Bulls get a bad rap—too often the stigma limits their chances of adoption. Megan Smith and Kay Blanton with the Cincinnati Pit Crew join us to discuss the pioneering work they're doing in the tri-state to dispel the "bad bully" reputation and get more loving pits into forever homes. They'll be sharing the history of the breed, taking questions and doing a whole bunch of mythbusting along the way!

***Call 513-735-2299  
to reserve your spot!***





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# Lasting Gifts of Love

As a non-profit organization, the League's ability to give hope to homeless animals is only possible through the generosity of our community and the many volunteers who give of their time and talents. We simply could not do what we do without this support.

Since 1949, gifts left through bequests have made a difference in the lives of cats and dogs in our community. By naming the League in their estate plans, passionate animal lovers have ensured that homeless animals continue to find forever homes.

There are a number of ways to plan a gift to the League, many of which can provide you and your estate with significant tax benefits and help to meet other financial planning needs. People from all walks of life and all income levels can think beyond their lifespan and leave a legacy of love for homeless pets. We invite you to join other compassionate individuals and become a member of the League's 1949 Legacy Society.

For more information about bequests or to let us know that you have already included the League in your estate plans, please contact Marilyn Goodrich, Development Director, at 513-735-2299 or [marilyn@LFAW.org](mailto:marilyn@LFAW.org).



## Wish List

- 30 Gallon & Outdoor Trash Bags
- Hand Sanitizer
- Laundry Detergent
- Medium & Large Kong Wubbies
- Canned Cat & Dog Food (Paté Only)
- Peanut Butter (Creamy)
- Hypoallergenic Baby Wipes
- 6' Sturdy Non-Retractable Leashes
- Gift Cards for Wal-Mart, Lowe's, Home Depot, PetSmart, Office Max
- King-Sized Kongs
- Small & Medium Dog Collars
- Soft Beds for Cats & Small Dogs
- Letter-Sized File Folders
- AA Batteries
- 9-Volt Batteries
- Bleach
- Soft Dog Treats
- Comforters (Used is ok)





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[www.LFAW.org](http://www.LFAW.org)

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Help our cats score a slam  
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**\$20 ADOPTION FEE! \$30 FOR 2!**

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All adoptions include vaccinations, spay/neuter, vet checks, micro-chips and testing for FIV and Feline Leukemia. Each cat will also go home with a gift bag and bag of food.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1st-  
TUESDAY, MARCH 31st**



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**4193 Taylor Road, Batavia, OH 45103  
(513)735-2299 [www.LFAW.org](http://www.LFAW.org)**

The League for Animal Welfare reserves the right to refuse any adoption.