

League Links 2.0

A quarterly newsletter from the
League for Animal Welfare



When Clairian's husband passed away in 2016, it was dog Ester that brought her comfort. In 2024, Ester was diagnosed with a painful eye condition. The treatment was a \$1,500 surgery that Clairian could not swing on Social Security.

Matt's best friend, for 10 years, has been his dog Rocky - especially after a car accident left Matt unable to work. When Rocky injured his back getting out of the truck, Matt couldn't afford the medication needed to keep Rocky comfortable.

Clarice's cat Onyx had a dislocated hip. Victoria cares for outdoor cat Rowdy, who came down with a nasty cold. Heidi's dog, Lacy, had a life-threatening infection in her uterus. Mandi's cat, Simba, had a urinary blockage that would prove fatal without quick intervention.

All live on limited incomes; all love their pets fiercely, and couldn't bear to watch them struggle with painful, treatable conditions. And all, fortunately, were referred to the League's Veterinary Assistance Program.

CARING FOR PETS & PEOPLE

Veterinary Assistance Helps Pets in Urgent Need

THE CATS OF NEW RICHMOND

LEAGUE FOSTER SETS SIGHTS ON FREE-ROAMING CATS IN HER COMMUNITY



Kathryn Murray, with one of her bottle-baby kitten fosters from the League.

Kathryn Murray is a problem solver. So when a post on her community's Facebook page, "Friends of New Richmond," mentioned the growing cat overpopulation on its streets, Murray jumped into action.

Within weeks, she had met the caretakers who were feeding free-roaming cats in their neighborhood; contacted the League for advice on Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR); and had a plan. "There's not a lot of '[foster] kitten action' in the winter... so the time I would have spent fostering, I still get to help cats," Murray reasoned.

It's a new venture for Murray, who has fostered 108 cats and kittens in her five years volunteering with the League - but had not yet been part of a TNR project. "I think once you foster, you know how hard it is to lose a days-old kitten, or the hard work it is to administer meds [to sick kittens] - so you really want to avoid kittens born outdoors, where it's so hard to survive & be healthy."

In addition to the League, Murray turned to other sources to do her homework on TNR. She found The Community Cats Podcast, hosted by TNR expert Stacy LeBaron. "I found [the episode 'Trapping Tips & Tricks Part 1 with Bryan Kortis'] very helpful regarding the steps to trapping (feeding schedule, types of traps, etc.)," Murray explained.

Once Murray understood the basics of trapping, "it seemed really doable!" said Murray. "My biggest ah-ha was that you only needed property owner permission to TNR on their property - and the League was willing to [help with] transportation and funding!"

Murray and League Cat Care Coordinator Sarah Smith began the work in December, and have trapped and neutered 15 cats in New Richmond so far.

Smith is grateful for Murray's can-do spirit. "TNR is a big focus for our work at the League," said Smith. The shelter can't take in every cat - especially ones who aren't socialized to humans. TNR is the best way to prevent the problem of cat overpopulation *before* it starts."



A New Richmond cat colony, enjoying breakfast. Murray has trapped and fixed the cats at this location.

The League provides assistance with TNR for Clermont County residents, in the form of TNR education; humane live trap rentals; and access to free spay/neuter surgeries for free-roaming cats. “The Joanie Bernard Foundation is an incredible local supporter of community cat programs,” explained League Executive Director, Devon Smith. “The League, and other area spay/neuter clinics, can provide affordable and accessible TNR services for free-roaming cats in our communities thanks to their work.”

Funding from the Bernard Foundation paid for spay/neuter surgeries and vaccines for all the cats Murray TNRed in New Richmond; and will fund TNR for 500 free-roaming Clermont County cats in 2024. “We have the funding and the traps,” explained Smith. “We just need more Kathryn Murrays to help us identify colonies, and get the cats in for surgery!”



A New Richmond kitty is suspicious of Murray's intentions!

"You really want to avoid kittens born outdoors, where it's so hard to survive & be healthy." - Kathryn Murray

For Murray's part, she's ready to do more. “We've TNRed 15 cats so far. I know there are a lot more out there.” Murray continues to try to connect with New Richmond property owners, whose properties are cat havens, to make the impact she hopes for.

But she's buoyed by the work she's accomplished so far. “It's the amazing care takers I've met - people who live in the Village, and feed and look out for the cats. They give the cats names, and know their stories. They really care about them.” Murray has started a private Facebook page to help connect all the caring people who do their best to keep New Richmond's cats safe, healthy - and spayed/neutered to prevent the cycle.

Smith hopes that Murray acts as an inspiration to others. “It just takes one compassionate person to say ‘I'm the someone who can help!’” said Smith. An estimated 1,500 homeless cats will be sheltered at the League this year - at a cost of nearly half a million dollars. “TNR is the most effective way to get at the root of the homeless cat problem - the League can't do it alone,” said Smith.

If you are feeding free-roaming cats, or live in a community with a free-roaming cat population, you can help! For information on TNR, call the League at 513-735-2299.

TNR RESOURCES



Spay/Neuter

League for Animal Welfare - lfaw.org
Ohio Alleycat Resource - ohioalleycat.org
UCAN - ucancincinnati.org

Colony Care

communitycatspodcast.com
neighborhoodcats.org
alleycat.org
feralcatproject.org

If you are feeding stray kitties, or if you have seen a crew of free-roaming cats in your neighborhood or town, we can help!

The League provides free spay/neuter (including Rabies and FVRCP vaccines) for free-roaming cats in Clermont County; and has traps for rent.



Call us at 513-735-2299 for more information!



Lacy was suffering from a life-threatening infection of the uterus; surgery at the League saved her life.

Caring for Pets and People (Continued)

The League began the Veterinary Assistance Program in 2021, with a life-saving grant from PNC Charitable Trusts. The program has served 40 families, including 12 urgent treatments for imminently life-threatening conditions.

The Veterinary Assistance Program is one of five programs the League has to help pet owners in need. “Keeping pets with their loving families and keeping them healthy is vital to our mission,” explained Executive Director Devon Smith. “Shelters do not have the space or resources to take in every animal in need. But having a pet live in pain, or die from a treatable condition; and letting their loving family watch that happen - that’s anathema to what we’re about in the animal welfare industry,” she continued. “If we can help - we’ll help.”

The average cost per pet in the veterinary assistance program: \$300

A small sum to save a life.

The Veterinary Assistance Program focuses on urgent medical matters that significantly reduce a pet’s quality of life, and can be treated in one or two vet visits. The care is often done by the League’s own medical team, to reduce costs; but the League also partners with specialty clinics if the treatment is outside the League’s scope. The average cost per pet in the program: just \$300. A small sum to save a life.

The Veterinary Assistance Program joins the League’s other pet assistance programs, focused on keeping pets healthy and with their families:

- **Spay/Neuter Program:** The League provides affordable spay/neuter services 4 days a week. The cost ranges from \$25-\$70 for cats and \$50-\$150 for dogs.
- **Vaccine Clinic:** This clinic is held every Friday, with vaccines ranging from free to \$15; other preventative services also available (microchips; flea and heartworm prevention; dewormers).
- **Pet Food Pantry:** The League partners with human service agencies to provide local families with pet food; limited assistance available directly from the shelter.
- **Safe Haven:** The League temporarily boards pets for families facing housing or care hardships due to domestic violence; hospitalization; deployment; or acute homelessness.

Altogether, the League will serve over 2,000 Clermont County pets through one of its five public animal wellness programs - helping 2,000 local families rest easy, knowing their pet can stay with them, safe and loved.



JellyBean had a painful urinary tract infection that, left untreated, could have led to a deadly urinary blockage.

Help us save lives!

Make a life-saving donation at
lfaw.org/donate

The 1000 Outs Challenge

A DOG A DAY KEEPS THE KENNEL BLUES AWAY



Everest gets out of her kennel with hiking buddy, Liz.

At the League, a dog's "length-of-stay" went up 57% in 2023. Dogs spent, on average, 36 days in our shelter before finding a family - a long time for a dog who needs to run, dig, play, stretch, and sleep comfortably in order to stay sane!

Boone and Oberschlake don't know what the next challenge will be - but they know they'll come up with one! "We don't want people to forget - there are always dogs here, and they need attention every day," said Oberschlake. "Even 20 minutes a day with a person can make a world of difference for a shelter dog."

The League met the challenge on February 22, and reached more than 1,300 "outs" in total. 1,500 in March, anyone?

Last year was a tough one for shelter dogs. With adoptions down all over the US, dogs spent more time in shelter kennels than ever before. It was making them bored - and stir crazy.

League Volunteer Sheri Boone partnered with Dog Care Coordinator Dawn Oberschlake to provide a creative remedy for a troubling crisis: the "1000 Outs Challenge." The goal: keep dogs spirits' up by getting them out of their kennels at least 1,000 times, collectively, in the month of February.

The reward: Boone, a Realtor with Comey & Shepherd; and colleague Steve Maloney of First Community Mortgage, would donate \$1,000 to the League if the challenge was completed.

Housing an average of 42 dogs daily, Oberschlake was determined to meet the challenge. "My goal is always to get every dog out of their kennel every day for quality time with people or other dogs. The '1000 Outs Challenge' was added incentive to give dogs what they all deserve: individualized love, time, and care. Even if - especially if - they're homeless." It couldn't have come at a better time.



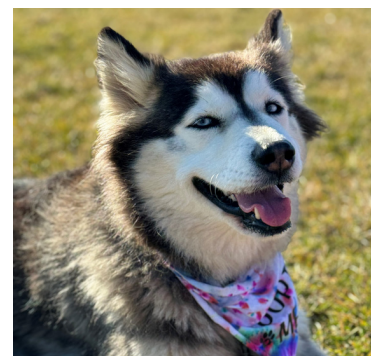
Syrax spends time on his field trip at a cafe with a Pup Cup.



Arlo's favorite way to get out of a kennel is PLAY GROUP!



Pig Pen spends his "out" going back in!



Lupe's smile tells the whole story: "out" is the way to go.

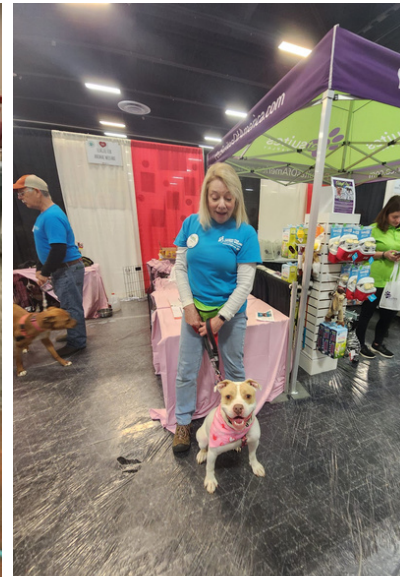
My Furry Valentine

MEGA-ADOPTION EVENT FINDS HOMES FOR 423 AREA PETS

“My Furry Valentine” is the Cincinnati-area’s largest pet adoption event, held in February each year at the Sharonville Convention Center. This year, 423 pets - including 6 of the League’s own animals - found families at this fun, vibrant, and life-saving weekend.

“My Furry Valentine is such a great way to introduce our pets to a new audience,” said League Volunteer Coordinator Carrie Leary. “And our volunteers do an amazing job at showing off how awesome our adoptable animals are!”

My Furry Valentine began in 2012, and has helped find homes for more than 8,000 animals in the Cincinnati area in its 12-year history. The League relies on offsite events, like MFV, to find homes for 30% of its adoptable pets each year. 🐾🐾



*Want to help showcase our animals at area events?
Contact us at carrie@lfaw.org to volunteer!*

ADOPT ME



Rascall - 9.5 years old, male

Rascall spent 8 years with a family - but when his bathroom habits got messy, his family brought him to the shelter. It turns out, Rascall’s litterbox issues were due to a health condition (the first thing you should always check if your cat’s routine or habits suddenly change!) - Rascall had developed diabetes. Now, he’s looking for a family that will stick with him through thick and thin. Rascall is part of our None Left Behind program - the medication for his diabetes is covered by the League for the duration of Rascall’s life (which we hope will be a long time!). Rascall is a sweet, cuddly guy who has plenty of love left to give to just the right family.



Zumi - 3 years old, male

Zumi has spent nearly all of his 3.5 years in a shelter. Transferred to the League as part of a court-ordered seizure for neglect in 2021, Zumi spent his first year at the League in a foster home. This big, fluffy boy (Zumi is 90lbs!) has some stranger danger fears, so introductions with this arctic bear are done slowly. But we know, in the right family, Zumi will thrive. Zumi loves other dogs, and loves outside time. The perfect home for him will have canine siblings and lots of room to play. If you’re a Great Pyrenees lover, Zumi might just be your guy - he’s half Great Pyr! (and also 1% Pomeranian, for the small dog lovers out there??). Your best friend is waiting at the League!

View all the cats and dogs available for adoption at [LFAW.org/adoption-center](https://www.lfaw.org/adoption-center)