

League Links 2.0

A quarterly newsletter from the
League for Animal Welfare



A Year for the Books

LFAW has record adoption year

With a month still left to go, the League has already adopted out 1,474 cats and dogs in 2022 - an astounding 35% increase over last year's adoption numbers, and *the most adoptions in League history!*

This was an important year to have a banner year. Following on the heels of a challenging 2021, this year continued the trend of more animals coming into shelters than being adopted from shelters.

Shelters and pet owners have struggled, post-pandemic, with the need far outpacing shelter capacity. Among other things, it is the result of a veterinary shortage that left too many animals unneutered. The result of a housing crisis that left pet owners with few housing options. The result of inflation that left owners unable to provide adequate care for pets. The result of work and school and travel schedules getting back to normal, making it seem impossible to add a pet to the home. And when you added all those challenges up with the usual reasons animals become homeless, the sum overwhelmed the system.

And the League kicked into overdrive.

EAGLE SCOUT GIVES BACK

Labor of love raises more than \$4,000 for the League

Shane Hall's parents had a surprise in store for him. On the way home from a soccer game in 2019, the family took a detour to the League for Animal Welfare— unbeknownst to Shane—to pick up a new furry family member.

The Halls brought home Scooby, then a five-week-old mixed-breed puppy. The Halls consider Scooby a gift to the family, and Shane was inspired to give a gift back to the League.

“I have very fond memories of the League; they did so much to make sure that Scooby was the right match for us and that we were the right match for him,” says Shane, who is also a long-time member of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).



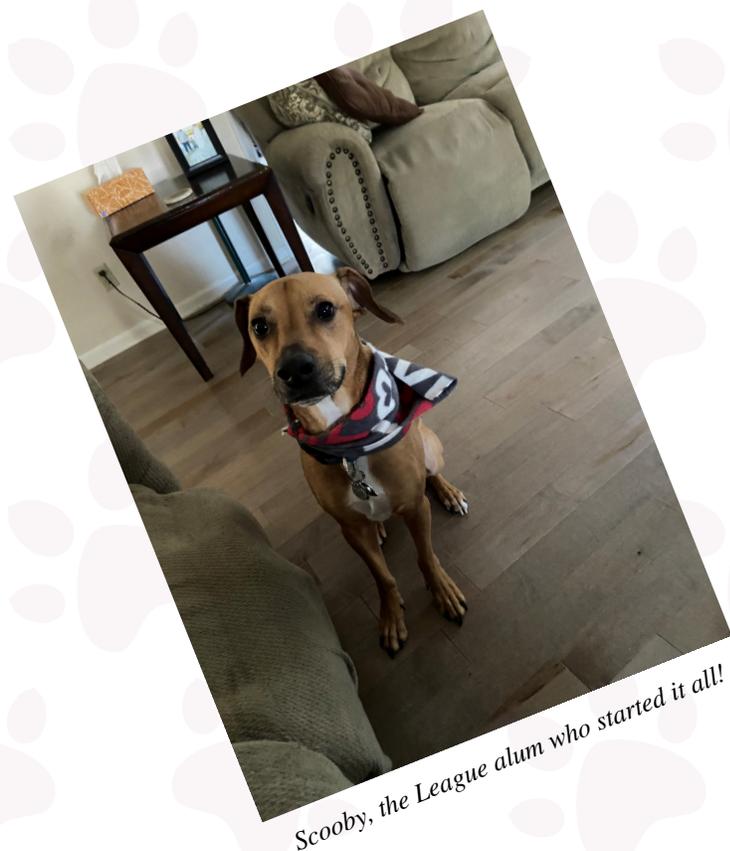
Shane Hall presents the Gala proceeds to Volunteer Coordinator, Carrie Leary.

A heart for service

“I had known for a very long time that I wanted to do something to benefit the League,” he says, “so when my Eagle Scout project came up, I felt like it was the perfect opportunity to finally give back.”

Shane is no stranger to service. The BSA motto, “Be prepared,” means that “you are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty,” wrote BSA founder Robert Baden-Powell in his 1908 scouts’ handbook.

Shane started as a Cub Scout in first grade and continued on into the Boy Scouts as he grew older. He worked his way up the ranks—Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life—completing service projects along the way. When it became time to plan his project to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, as a sophomore at St. Xavier High School, his thoughts turned to the League.



Scooby, the League alum who started it all!

Planning the fundraiser

“Each scout must plan and complete a project for their Eagle rank along with achieving certain merit badges. Eagle is the highest honor in Scouting and as of 2014, only six percent of scouts make it to Eagle,” Shane says.

While many Eagle Scout projects involve area parks—building footbridges, planting gardens, improving wheelchair accessibility and such—Shane wanted a project that was unique to him. He came up with the gala fundraiser to benefit the League, and set his goal of raising \$1K for help to spay and neuter 10 dogs or cats.

Together with a team of family and friends, Shane got to work planning, he says. “My mother, Stephanie, and I would spend hours on end each weekend planning the event to make sure everything was covered,” he says.



“Everything” included gathering items for a silent auction—which included a cabin rental in Hocking Hills, themed gift baskets, pottery—securing a venue, planning a full meal for guests/donors, music and dancing, and more.

Better than hitting his goal of \$1,000, Shane's Gala raised \$4,265!

The gala was held in late July at the Anderson Township Civic Center.

Tables loaded with silent auction items lined the halls. Guests enjoyed appetizers of bruschetta and tomato and cheese skewers prepared by Shane’s dad, then lined up for a buffet dinner of spaghetti, meatballs, mixed vegetables and garlic bread, followed by a sheet cake decorated with paw prints.

“The plan that was in place during the project was for me to give my speech while the money from the auction was being counted,” Shane says, “So the entire time I was delivering my speech I had no idea what the final dollar amount was.”

Rather than hitting his goal of \$1K, Shane’s Eagle Scout project far exceeded it, raising \$4,265.00 for the League. “when I was handed the check to give away and I saw the amount on the paper I couldn't believe me eyes,” he says.

I was ecstatic. The project exceeded my hopes in every way possible.”

The kids are alright.



To learn more
about partnering
with the League for
a service project,
corporate volunteer
day, or community
service
opportunity,
contact us at
513-735-2299 or
email us at
info@lfaw.org!

A Year for the Books (continued)



Cat Care Coordinator Sarah, checking in Bell, whose owner passed away.

The first project was expanding adoption outlets - for adopters not coming to the League, the League's animals would come to them!

For cat adoptions, the League has partnered with All Creatures Animal Hospital and Hopewell Animal Hospital to host adoptable kittens in their lobby; with Purrfect Day Cat Cafe in Covington; and with two Petco stores. The result: more than 190 cats and kittens found homes through our partners (nearly 20% of our overall cat adoptions).

With the success of offsite locations for cats, League volunteers and staff looked to do the same with dogs, meeting potential adopters at fun stops like the OFF Market, Burger Farms Fall Festival, Graeters shops, and Little Miami Brewing Company.

The League kicked into overdrive, meeting more than 13% of our adopters at offsite locations in 2022.

For some of our harder-to-adopt animals, it was creative and flexible adoption processes that helped new families find their match. For unsocialized cats, the League turned to local farms to help place cats who needed a life with little human interaction. For dogs who kept getting overlooked by adopters, a foster-to-adopt program helped families experience what it would be like to have these dogs join their homes. For dogs who made an ... exuberant first impression (!) at the shelter, offsite enrichment activities like monthly hikes and Field Trips with Furballs helped showcase their loveable sides.

And most of all, the adoptions program benefitted from tenacious and dedicated staff and volunteers who figured out how to meet people and animals where they were (literally and figuratively!).

We expect to greet 2023 with that same dedication and tenacity - because even with a drastic expansion in our adoption program, there were far more animals that needed us than we were able to shelter. So we plan on another banner year in 2023 - for *all* the furballs who need us to keep growing and changing, to make sure none of them fall through the cracks.



Dog Care Coordinator Dawn welcomes new dog Sasha to the League.

Want to help our dogs and cats meet their adoring fans at offsite events? Contact us at carrie@lfaw.org to volunteer!



A Cut Above

LEAGUE VETERINARIAN BRINGS SURGICAL EXPERTISE & COMPASSION



In May, the League was fortunate to have Dr. Lori Whitacre join our team as our Lead Veterinarian. Dr. Whitacre, who also practices at Milford Village Veterinary Clinic, now practices medicine at the League Monday-Thursday (and she's been known to stop by on Saturdays and Sundays, because it's hard to keep a good vet away from her patients!).

Lori graduated from Ohio State Veterinary College in 1995, and has been practicing small animal veterinary care in the Cincinnati area for more than 25 years. In addition to her work at Milford Village Vet, Lori has worked with non-profit spay/neuter clinics Ohio Alleycat Resource and UCAN, honing her surgical skills performing thousands of spay/neuter surgeries for our community each year.

"I'm grateful for an organization and its people dedicated to saving the lives of homeless dogs and cats." - Dr. Whitacre

Though Lori has been involved with animal welfare non-profits for over a decade, this is her first experience as a shelter veterinarian - and the experience of what it's like to care for more than 200 patients at a time, every day! Though the work can be difficult, it is also rewarding. Lori said of the transition to shelter medicine "It makes me happy to see a critically ill animal get better knowing it has its whole life ahead of it - and knowing, without our intervention, it would not have survived."

In just the few short months that Lori has been with the League, she has already performed 1,039 spays/neuters; fixed 248 dogs and cats for low-income owners and other rescue groups; and vaccinated 285 Clermont County pets. She has given care to 1,019 new cats and dogs at the League. And she has seen more cases of ringworm than any private practice vet would care to imagine! And the lives she's saved, often from the brink of death, have been incredible.

"I count my blessings every day that Dr. Whitacre joined our team," said Executive Director, Devon Smith. "The compassion and dedication she brings to her work, for her patients, is unparalleled. And the care and thoughtfulness she has for her coworkers is just an added bonus!"

"There's magic that happens between animals and people. Dogs and cats bring love - transform our lives. We help make that happen every day," said Whitacre. The League is so glad to have Dr. Whitacre lead a team that makes that magic happen.



Spay/Neuter Event

CLERMONT VETS TO FIX 200 CATS AND DOGS

The League is partnering with 6 area veterinary clinics to provide more than 200 free spay/neuter surgeries for Clermont County's pets from December 5-9.

In 2022, intake into area animal shelters is at an all-time high. With inflation affecting so many local residents, the cost of pet care is one factor driving this unparalleled relinquishment of pets. This community spay/neuter event will help our community access spay/neuter surgeries, a critical service that helps control pet overpopulation and keep our pets healthy and with their owners.

Participating clinics include Bethel Community Pet Hospital, Burroughs Veterinary Services, Clermont Animal Hospital, the League for Animal Welfare, Owensville Animal Hospital, Pet Wow, and Rolling Hills Veterinary Services.



Clients can contact the League for Animal Welfare directly at 513-735-2299 for more information and to schedule their appointment.

This event is sponsored by The Joanie Bernard Foundation; The Dorothy B. Francis Charitable Foundation; Bernice Barbour Foundation; Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust; and private donors to the League for Animal Welfare.



ADOPT ME



Betty Boop - 6 years old, female

Betty Boop has been adopted and returned to us not once, not twice, but THREE times. Boop lost her first home when her mom lost her housing; and her subsequent two homes because of a flare-up of a chronic medical issue - when she gets stressed, it affects her digestive tract. So Boop can be sensitive to change, but she is a sweetheart of a cat. And now, she is looking for a family that can work through challenges with her - so she can finally and truly feel safe, and loved, and home.



Malibu - 4 years old, female

Malibu is smart and she is eager to learn! She bonds so well with her humans, and is ready to please. Because she's smart, Malibu can fall into bad habits if her people let her take advantage. So the perfect family for this girl is one that can provide consistency, opportunities to learn and please, and make sure she feels safe and loved. And that family will be rewarded with a funny, spunky, snuggly girl who wants nothing more than to be with her people and have a good time!

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