Winter 2016



Choose No-Kill. Choose the League.

LEAGUE

Introduction Control Control

emper wasn't the cat for just any home. Found as a stray on Kemper Road, she was a little older but still a kitten, a long-haired brown tabby with deep green eyes. When she came to the League, she was shy and introverted—among the first to be overlooked when eager families came looking for just the right feline companion.

After spending time in the Cat Enrichment Program, Kemper came out of her shell—with the help of patient volunteers and their gentle "paws-itive" persuasion—and she's found her forever home. Now she's the office cat at an area veterinary practice, confident with her own roost to rule. And she may just be the first in line to say "hello" to incoming four-legged patients.

"Cat Training in Progress"

Since last May, the Cat Enrichment Program has been set up to nurture the cats and kittens whose personalities or histories have left them needing more than cuddling, treats and toys, to bring them out of their shells and make them more adoptable.

With gentle training, under the guidelines of a program set up by League consultant Dr. Lisa White, DVM, they learn to emerge

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

e are coming to the close of an eventful year, one that has solidified our role in the community and paved the way for greater growth in the months and years to come. It began back in early spring when the Board decided to re-address strategic planning for the League. We did so with the help of the Executive Service Corps of Cincinnati, an organization of retired business executives with broad non-profit management expertise.

The process that unfolded required hours upon hours of extensive research, interviews with volunteers and staff, outreach to other animal agencies, data analysis, meetings, meetings and more meetings. This continued through the summer and well into fall as strategic planning teams set goals and examined program options, along with their impact on League personnel, facilities and finances.

From the outset, the overriding goal identified by virtually all of the League's primary constituencies was to bring veterinary care for shelter animals on-site.

There are several reasons to do so:

- On-site veterinary care, including spay/neuter surgery, would greatly reduce stress on our animals, who now require cage transport to and from Northern Kentucky.
- It would cut two-four days out of the current intake-to-adoption timeline, which means we could free up shelter space faster and, in doing so, help even more animals find their forever homes.
- It would be financially beneficial, potentially saving the League thousands of dollars and ultimately providing new revenue sources.
- It would lay the foundation for expanding low-cost veterinary services to those in our community who are most in need.

After considering these benefits, the question quickly became: how do we accomplish this? Right now we don't have room to turn around in the existing shelter. No storage. No space for volunteers or staff to gather. No place for anyone or anything else. Quite simply, capacity

is maxed out. But adding



Carol Sanger, President

building it, and building anything takes a whole lot of time and money, neither of which we have to spare.

So what to do?

more space means

The answer came in the form of a low-mileage, fully equipped and meticulously maintained mobile veterinary clinic that was being offered for sale by a veterinarian in Michigan who had run her total practice out of it for the past five years. Complete with surgical tables, anesthesia, x-ray, dental and testing equipment, it is capable of meeting virtually all routine care needs of our shelter animals in the near term, and bridging to a permanent clinic facility later on.

Presented with what expert advisers saw as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the Board approved this investment in the League's future in October, contingent on securing funding—an effort now underway.

In addition, there are staffing and logistics issues to be worked out, budgets to finalize, processes and procedures to address. You can be assured we will be Continues on page 7

About Us

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. 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.

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Board of Directors:

Carol Sanger, President Diann Cox, Vice President Debbie Bates, Treasurer Joyce Blersch, Secretary Bruce Gack, Past President Barb Casciani Jamie Lindemann Holly Mott Jon Parker Craig Stimmel Casey Cantrell Swartz

Managerial Staff:

Marilyn Goodrich, Executive Director Rhonda Kidd, Operations Manager Sue Schellhous, Animal Care Manager

Hours of Operation:

 Monday-Tuesday
 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

 Wednesday
 12:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

 Thursday
 Closed

 Friday-Saturday
 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

 Sunday
 12:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

🤨 Help Find Colton

When an adopted dog escaped from his new family, the League jumped into action! League dog trainer, Donna Moore led the charge to find Colton, a young black lab mix. Numerous League volunteers and Anderson



Township residents spent nearly a week tracking him through heavily-wooded terrain. Sightings were tracked. Many took to social media to assist in the search. And thanks to everyone's diligent efforts, Colton was finally brought to safety! The League is grateful for the many ways compassionate people supported the search for this sweet little pup. Cincinnati has a reputation as a pet-friendly city, but we saw, first hand, just how much our community loves pets! THANK YOU!

Happy Holidays: Tips to keep your pets stress-free this holiday season

he holidays are filled with meaning and memories for all of us; the family, friends, and food. But to your pets, the holidays may just be hectic—but they don't have to be! Let's take a look at some best practices to stick to during the holidays so your dog or cat stays happy and healthy while celebrating:

Keep it consistent

Pets thrive on routine—and there's almost nothing routine about the holidays. Kids are out of school, parents (hopefully) have some time off work. To your pets, these few weeks may feel like a perpetual weekend. The urge to hit the snooze button and skimp on walks may be strong, but try to resist. You'll thank yourself in January.

Some simple ways to stay on track:

- Make walks a family affair (maybe after dinner?)
- Make a conscious effort to "see" your dog or cat during this busy time. Even five minutes of petting and doting can keep them calm and content all day.
- If all else fails, use your phone. Setting a reminder alarm for feedings or walks may seem silly, but you might thank yourself for it once the day gets busy.

Hitting the road with, or without, your best friend

Traveling with your pal? Make a list of what to pack before you hit the road so you're not running around at the last minute when you'd rather be in the car. Some must-haves:





Too much playtime deserves a much needed catnap, even if it is in a stocking

- Food and water, of course (don't forget to bring the travel bowls)
- Medication
- Toys to keep them occupied in the car and at your destination
- Collar with ID tags!
- Crates or carriers are a must for cats, but if your dog is crate-trained, taking their "bedroom" with you greatly reduces anxiety

If you're boarding, make sure all your pet's necessary vaccines are up to date in advance of your travel. Oh, and call ahead—kennels fill quickly this time of year, and you want to be able to use one you trust.

Don't give in to treat defeat

Forget about your own diet if you like, but for your pets, it's best to keep it routine. The stretch between Thanksgiving and the December holidays are "people food" primetime for your pets. But no matter how longingly they look at your turkey, ham or sugar cookies, it's best for them to keep people food to a minimum. Not only does it make it harder to manage begging once the holidays are over, holiday treats can be tricky. Avoid treating

with these foods:

- Chocolate
- Nuts
- Fatty meats and bones
- Onions
- Alcohol



Continues on page 4

STRESS-FREE PETS: continued from page 3

If you do treat, give them very small portions. Remember, your dog doesn't really know the difference between a pinch of food and a handful. They're just happy to earn a treat!

Keep your guests and your pets happy!

You know your pet. You know whether they can't get enough of new people, or when they need a quiet space to get away from all the commotion. If you have a people-friendly dog or cat, great! Just be sure to set ground rules for your guests by letting them know basic expectations in a positive way ("We don't allow people food, but here are his favorite treats!").

And no matter how friendly your pet is, keep an eye on all kid and pet interactions. You may be welcoming children who don't have much pet savvy, so keep them safe by keeping meetings short and positive (and always supervised).

And if you have an older pet, shy pet or a cantankerous one, be sure to give them their own space. Cats in particular need to know they can escape to peace and quiet when they want to. Set a comfy room aside with everything they need to be content for a few hours. And then go enjoy yourself!

Holidays are all about family and your pet definitely counts! All it takes is a little planning to keep the whole family happy and healthy this holiday season. 🖑



PERSUASION LEADS TO HAPPY ENDINGS: continued from page 1

and interact with families, other pets, and hopefully reach the end goal—forever homes.

"There are many short and long term goals," says Dr. White. "Short term, we want the cats living at the shelter to be happier and more relaxed. Long term, we want to increase adoptions, decrease the number of cats who are adopted and then returned, and have more of the cats in the shelter ready for a new home."

Some of the cats tapped for the program came to the League as strays or surrendered pets or "momma cats" who have had litters. For each one, first comes an assessment. Do they respond better to motion toys? Sound? Texture, or food? Once the assessment is complete, scenarios are set up, customized for each cat, and their trainers begin to lead them out of their shells, step-by-step and session by session.

Activities range from interactive lasers to Flik Cat Teasers to plant therapy (a Japanese Sedge with treats tucked into it) to the more conventional balls and string. Many of the mechanized toys were gifted to the League by a generous donor.

Volunteers in the enrichment program are encouraged to hang back and let the cats engage, says Lead Adoption Counselor Anne Springman.

"There's very little tactile involvement," Anne says. "We want the cats to get engaged, forget that they're scared or shy, and lose themselves in their behavior and play, and gain confidence." Volunteers sit quietly, making observations and interacting very little. "That way, they know they don't have to be fearful of people, and the cats can associate being around people as positive."

Restoring trust in people

Patti Perkins has been volunteering with the cat enrichment program for several months—every day if she can—because "consistency is key in helping to build trust when interacting with the cats," she says.

"Helping to restore trust in humans and reducing their fears, so they are curious, alert and more confident in new situations which increases their chances of finding a forever home."

Feeona, a pretty and petite adult calico, has made great strides so far, says Perkins. "At first, she would dart outside and begin nervously slinking around the outdoor fence. She seemed scared of people and was unapproachable." After a few weeks, and a few socializing and conditioning sessions, Perkins was rewarded when Feeona "played with a dowel rod moving under a towel, initiated contact with my hand by rubbing her head against it and allowed me to pet her.

"Her personality has really blossomed and I've seen her approach other people walking into the room."

Executive Director Marilyn Goodrich notes, "All of what we do is about more than just adopting out animals—it's about creating happy endings." And the cat enrichment program is successful at helping facilitate that outcome. &

😌 Get Involved

If you're interested in volunteering for training to work with cats in the League's enrichment program, watch *League Lines* for upcoming training sessions, or contact the League at 513-735-2299 for dates. *****

Wine & Whiskers

Event Wrap-up

elebrating its tenth year, the League's Wine & Whiskers Tasting and Auction was held at the Bell Event Centre on October 24. Presented by long-time League friend, Marilyn Wade, the event raised nearly \$75,000 to support the League's mission. Attendees enjoyed sampling wines, craft beers and signature cocktails while live jazz music created the perfect backdrop.

New this year was the introduction of mobile bidding, allowing even those who could not attend the event to bid on the nearly 70 silent auction packages. The addition of a wine pull was a big hit—selling out in just one hour! And, as always, the highlight of the evening was the auction of one-of-a-kind artwork created by League alumni. These feline and canine artists painted reproductions of New Orleans-inspired art.

Fox 19's Frank Marzullo was the master of ceremonies for the evening. Thanks to all of our sponsors:



Frank Marzullo, Master of Ceremonies

Marilyn Wade, The George and Margaret McLane Foundation, Bounty, Bartlett, Carol Sanger, Care Center, Lykins Energy Solutions, Park National Bank, PNC Bank, Sanger & Eby and STL in honor of the League's cat and dog subcommittees. 🍪



VOLUNTEER CORNER: Online Database

he League's name and good reputation in the community are expanding, and so is our volunteer base. In 2014, we had a total of 201 new volunteers, and so far this year, we already have 280 new volunteers! This is incredible considering the year is not over yet and there were no orientations held in January and February during our renovations.

To meet the increased interest of prospective volunteers, we added extra orientation sessions, including a weekday evening to accommodate those who could not attend on the weekend. The reduction of class sizes gives prospective volunteers more individualized attention.

The implementation of an online volunteer database has helped the League manage the increasing number of volunteers. Previously, a volunteer had to manually calculate hours, entering them into a spreadsheet—quite a time-intensive process. Now volunteers take just a moment to clock themselves in and out, giving us real-time information. Having volunteer hours readily available is helpful as the League completes grant applications as most grantors require data about volunteer impact.

"I like [the volunteer database] a lot," says League volunteer Patti Perkins. "It's easy to select the activities when clocking in and it's easy to see how many hours I've been here. I find it to be an easy system, overall."

Another benefit of the database is that volunteers can now sign up for volunteer opportunities 24/7. Previously, volunteers could only sign up for events when physically at the shelter. Now all volunteers have the chance to sign-up to participate in offsite League events. The new volunteer database is a great step forward for the League! 🖑

Board Elections

2016 Election Ballot

o elect the Board of Directors, only Regular Members for two (2) consecutive months are entitled to vote, according to the League's Code of Regulations. A Regular Member can cast only one (1) ballot (to be voted on by members at the Annual Meeting on January 21, 2016).

- Since all nominations had to be made prior to October 31, write-in votes cannot be accepted.
- Ballots must be signed if they are mailed in.

Please mark your selections with an "X" in the appropriate boxes. There are six (6) positions to be filled. You are voting for six (6) persons. Except as otherwise noted, each Board member will serve a term of three (3) years.

- 🗆 Barb Casciani
- □ Holly Mott (2-year term)
- Bruce Gack
- Jamie Lindemann(2-year term)
- □ Carol Sanger
- Craig Stimmel

All mail-in ballots must be received by January 18, 2016 to be valid. Votes sent via email will not be accepted. If you attend the Annual Meeting, there will be ballots available at the door.

Mail ballots to:

LFAW Ballot c/o League for Animal Welfare 4193 Taylor Road Batavia, OH 45103

In order to keep track of those who vote by mail, and those who cast their votes in person, it is necessary for mail-in ballots to be signed. (Votes will be kept confidential.)

Signed:

Printed Name:

The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on January 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Anderson Township Library at 7450 State Road.



MEET THE CANDIDATES



Barb Casciani is a 1984 graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. She has been employed by Procter & Gamble for 31 years in a variety of technical roles. Her interests include all sports, especially Pittsburgh professional sports and volunteering at the League. She

enjoys spending time with her two dogs. Joey is a Yorkie rescue from a puppy mill and Cooper is a League alumni.

Bruce Gack retired in 2014 from The Kroger Co. where he headed up the litigation, general practice and real estate groups in Kroger's Law Department. He has been involved with the League since 1990, conducting volunteer orientation, serving on committees as well as being the Immediate Past President



of the Board. He lives in Anderson Township with his girlfriend Beth Fine and their five cats.



Jamie Lindemann is a CPA and Manager at Ernst and Young, focused on Indirect Tax Planning and Credits and Incentives. Jamie graduated from the University of Cincinnati's Lindner College of Business, and holds a bachelor's in Accounting as well as a Master's degree in Taxation. Jamie is an active UC alum who enjoys attending

sporting events and going back to campus to volunteer. Jamie has a dog, Domino, who she rescued from the SPCA in 2008.



Holly Mott is the Lead Investigator for the Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services Major Unusual Incident Unit. She is responsible for conducting investigations involving incidents that adversely affect the safety of individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities. Holly received a B.A. from Simmons

College with majors in political science and philosophy. In her spare time, she enjoys running, fundraising for animals, and spending time with her rescue dogs Ellie & Flo. She is married to Michael Mott.

Carol Sanger is retired from Macy's,

Inc,./Federated Department Stores where she was a corporate vice president, responsible for media and government relations and corporate philanthropy. She has a long history of involvement in animal causes, including Westie Rescue, Pets in Need of Greater Cincinnati,



and United Coalition for Animals. Residing in Indian Hill with her menagerie of dogs, cats, goats and a donkey, she currently serves as the Board President.



Craig Stimmel graduated from University of Dayton in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Business (Accounting). Craig joined Procter & Gamble in 2011 and is a Senior Purchasing Manager. He is also a member of the Purchasing Culture Team and Training Development Team. Craig lives in Hyde Park with

his wife, Pam, and their two dogs. While not working he enjoys playing golf, basketball, volunteering and traveling.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER: continued from page 2

doing all of that in coming weeks. Then, sometime after the first of the year, we will be scheduling an open membership meeting to lay it all out and answer any questions.

We are excited by this opportunity to expand the bounds of compassionate animal care for which the League long has been known, and we hope you are, too!

Meanwhile, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend to all of you best wishes for a joyful holiday season.

For the animals,

ard Jora

Carol Sanger President, Board of Directors



ome visit us at one of our off-site adoption events or education programs! Celebrate the season with us at our annual holiday party, bring your pets to meet Santa and enjoy a post-Christmas wine tasting.





WHEN 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

WHERE Petsmart 245 Rivers Edge Milford, OH 45150 WHEN

WHERE Petco 260 West Main St Amelia. OH 45102



18 9 FRI SA7 DEC

WHEN

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

WHERE

Petsmart 650 Eastgate South Blvd Cincinnati. OH 45245



WHERE

Pet Supplies Plus 11345 Montgomery Rd Cincinnati. OH 45249

JAN

WHEN

12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

WHERE

Petsmart 650 Eastgate South Blvd Cincinnati, OH 45245

WHEN



WHERE My Furry Valentine Sharonville Convention Center

WHEN

SUN

12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

WHERE Petsmart 650 Eastgate South Blvd Cincinnati, OH 45245

WHEN

SAT



27

WHERE

Pet Supplies Plus 11345 Montgomery Rd Cincinnati, OH 45249



ANIMAL TALK SERIES

MON 11 JAN MON 08 FEE

WHEN

WHEN

6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER Cincinnati Pit Crew

WHERE TBD

COST Free) p.m. 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER Ohio Voters for Companion Animals

WHERE TBD

COST Free

HOLIDAY EVENTS





WHAT Holiday Party WHAT Pet Pictures with Santa

WHEN

 $5:00_{p.m.-}9:00_{p.m.}$

WHERE

Oasis Conference Center 902 Loveland-Miamiville Rd Loveland, OH 45140

TICKETS

\$30 adults \$12 kids 12 & under RSVP 513-735-2299

WHEN

 $1:00_{p.m.-}4:00_{p.m.}$

WHERE

Petco 12156 Montgomery Rd Cincinnati, OH 45249

COST

\$10 per photo



Sunday, December 27

1:00-5:00 p.m.

\$40/person (cash or check payable to the League for the tasting fee)

Fourth Annual Distributor Showcase and Fundraiser to benefit the League for Animal Welfare

Sample 20 wines (all are available for purchase)

Chef Jan will prepare a nice array of goodies to nibble as you enjoy the wines

100% of the tasting fee and 10% of Sunday's sales go the League

Reservations are suggested, but not required



RSVP: 513-231-WINE

Water Tower Fine Wines 6136 Campus Ln, Cincinnati, OH 45230





Supports Adoptions

his August, thanks to all our supporters on both Facebook and Twitter, the League was the Ohio recipient of a \$1,000 award from The Animal Rescue Site. We asked our followers to vote online for the League as their shelter of choice. This meant reminding everyone once a day, all month long—and far from tuning us out, our supporters came through big, voting diligently and assuring our big win! Since this kind of windfall doesn't come along often (and since everyone worked so hard), we really wanted to find the best way to use the generous prize.

We knew we wanted to put the winnings to good use and there's not much better use than encouraging and celebrating adoptions. So we decided to make the adoption process in October a bit more fun, giving all onsite adopters the chance to draw for an exciting prize, all available courtesy of our Shelter Challenge win.



Winners drew for a bevy of prizes including cat or dog toys, PetSmart gift cards—and five free cat adoptions and five free dog adoptions! Thank you to The Animal Rescue Site and thank you to all of you who made this October celebration of adoption possible. 🍪

SHELTER SHOUT OUTS

ur generous community helps provide hope to homeless cats and dogs. The League for Animal Welfare would like to acknowledge the following initiatives during the third quarter of 2015:

- Corporate neighbor, Total Quality Logistics, invited League animals to visit with their employees in honor of National Homeless Animal Day and presented us with a donation of more than \$500
- League-loving Kroger shoppers earned the League more than \$1,600 through the Kroger Rewards program
- Nearly \$500 was earned through "dine and donate" events at Bob Evans, Chipotle, Firehouse Subs, Buffalo Wild Wings and Uno's Pizzeria
- Employees at the Beechmont Red Lobster collected items to donate to the League cats and dogs
- Girl Scout Troop #41444 built portable steps for League dogs to practice walking stairs

We appreciate all those who help support the League's mission through unique and innovative ways. 🖑



Get Creative

If you have an idea to raise funds for the League, please contact Davina Prebble at 513-735-2299 or davina@LFAW.org. *



Aliza

Born 8/2012 Resident since 8/27/14

Coming from an overcrowded traditional shelter, Aliza is a little timid at first with strange people but she so desperately wants some love. Approach her slowly and allow her to reach out to you. She gets along very well with other cats.



and spend time cuddling.

Binky

Born 12/2007 Resident since 9/2/15 Binky is a very easy going gal that will be happy in a home with other cats. A bit on the heavy side, she needs a loving family to help her lose a little weight. Binky is looking for a home where she can curl up with you

Dancer

Born 2/2012 Resident since 10/4/15 Dancer is a gorgeous hound/shepherd mix. This three-year-old will be active and playful for many years. She loves to go outside and romp. She likes people but needs just a little time to warm up. Once she does she will be your friend for life.



Cal

Born 10/2011 Resident since 9/30/15 A handsome guy with big green eyes, Cal was surrendered when his owner became ill and could no longer care for him. He was a little shy at first but has adjusted

well and will now readily come

up to visitors. He is very good with other cats and is fascinated by toys, especially the mechanical mouse.



Tugger Born 6/2013 Resident since 6/9/15 Tugger, a lab mix, will

Tugger, a lab mix, will gently tug at your heart strings with his sweet personality. He is a great size (35 lbs.) and energetic enough to join you for a walk or jog. Tugger definitely enjoys some quality down time as well and is

ready to be someone's new BFF!



Bels Born 1/2014

Resident since 7/10/15 Bels is a sweet, energetic yellow lab mix who needs regular opportunities to exercise and explore. A little shy at first, once she knows you can be trusted she is ready to play and nuzzle. She is well behaved with children who

😻 For more information:

These animals may already be in their forever homes, but our website (LFAW.org) is constantly updated with the cats and dogs available for adoption. *



give her the proper respect.



4193 Taylor Road Batavia, Ohio 45103

P: 513.735.2299 F: 513.735.0474 E: info@lfaw.org W: LFAW.org Non-Profit U.S. Postage PAID Cincinnati, OH Permit No. 9652

Seague for Chinal Welfare HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING GUIDE Purchase League wear or a 2016 calendar and support homeless cats and dogs!

League Wear



Items can be purchased at our front desk or by calling 513-735-2299.

Short-sleeve shirt	\$12
Short-sleeve women's cut	\$15
(\$2 extra for sizes 2XL and larger. Plus 6.75%	tax.)

All offerings are available in Sapphire.

Long-sleeve shirt	\$15
Pullover hoodie	\$20

Dance for Paws Calendar

2016 League Calendar featuring the Cincinnati Ballet \$15

(Free pick up or \$2.99 shipping/handling. Plus 6.75% tax.)

