ROWENA’S STORY: A HAPPY ENDING
From stray to editorial assistant, rescue kitty writes next chapter

Cats often grace independent bookstores with their presence, curled up contentedly in the stacks, or greeting customers with a friendly purr of hello. Rowena has done them one better, gracing the covers of a cozy mystery series by novelist Tonya Kappes, and charming her fans on social media. But for Rowena, it was a journey from a Kentucky shelter to the League to her eventual forever home.

Rowena was transported to the League in August of 2018, with her litter of three kittens. Adoption counselor Anne Springman says that although she was “in reasonably good shape when she came in, she was thinner from nursing.” An introvert, Rowena preferred space to herself, so the League gave her run of the hallway, where she loved to scamper up and down the hall, playing with toys. “And she loved mealtime,” Springman says.

Regular meals, a warm bed and safe space were just the tonic Rowena needed. “Over time, her coat went from a dull orange to a bright, beautiful orange,” Springman says. “In time, she rounded out to the point where she was diagnosed as overweight!” At just two, Rowena was playful and spunky, and “she would jump on the laps of volunteers for attention.”

Help wanted: Co-Worker
Author of a vast series of mysteries, the USA Today best-selling author Tonya Kappes has built an equally vast fan base, with her Southern Cake Baker, Mail Carrier Cozy

Continues on page 4
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 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 autumn@LFAW.org.

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League for Animal Welfare
4193 Taylor Road • Batavia, OH 45103
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UPCOMING EVENTS: MARCH 2020 - MAY 2020

MARCH 08
APRIL 05
MAY 03
WHEN
12:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
Adoption Event
WHERE
Petco Amelia
260 W. Main St.
Amelia, OH 45102

APRIL 25
WHEN
12:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
Adoption Event
WHERE
Pet Supplies Plus
11345 Montgomery Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45249

MARCH 21
APRIL 18
WHEN
12:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
Adoption Event
WHERE
PetPeople
7474 Beechmont Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45255

MARCH 28
MAY 23
WHEN
11:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
Adoption Event
WHERE
Mutt Madness
Washington Park
1230 Elm Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Stoney
6 years old
Stoney lacks confidence, so he needs to be slowly introduced to new things. Once he warms up to you, he’ll become your best friend. He loves to cuddle and give kisses and is always happy to get his belly rubbed. His favorite pastimes are walks and playing fetch.

Cecily
3 years old
Cecily came to the League after being abandoned in rural Kentucky. She’s a sweet, calm, reserved gal who keeps getting overlooked (she has been with us for 18 months). She gets along with the other cats in her room, loves snuggling with her BFF and would love to find a quiet home.

Facebook fundraisers
Did you know that more than $10,000 was raised for the League through Facebook fundraisers last year?

We are incredibly grateful that 45 people chose to celebrate their birthdays in a fun and meaningful way! Plus, Facebook doesn’t charge any fees so 100% of the money raised goes directly to helping the cats and dogs in our shelter. You don’t have to wait until your birthday to participate – you can celebrate the month you adopted your furbaby! To set up your fundraiser, visit facebook.com/fund/leagueforanimalwelfare

View all the cats and dogs available for adoption at LFAW.org/adopt

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Protecting Your Pets from Coyotes

At first it may sound like your neighbors are having a wild party. Or maybe it’s just the sound of distant howling, spooky on a quiet night. Either way, what you’re likely hearing aren’t noisy neighbors or midnight marauders, but coyotes -- and you need to be prepared should you or your pets encounter one.

Formerly lone hunters that plagued farmers and ranchers in the West, as coyotes began migrating east of the Mississippi in the last century, their habits and even their looks changed. They began mating with wolves and grew into larger bodies. They became more brazen hunters, forming packs and hunting larger prey. They threw off their nocturnal shackles and began prowling in daylight hours, too. And they became more cunning and able to adapt to their new environments of populated suburbs and cities.

Indian Hill Ranger Lt. Shawn Perdue tells of one case where a woman who raised exotic goats could only watch helplessly as a large coyote dragged one of her adult goats over a pasture fence and into the surrounding woods. On another occasion, a coyote stood atop a rock on the edge of a pond in broad daylight and looked on scornfully as homeowners with multiple dogs tried unsuccessfully to scare him off.

Dr. Susanna Hinkle Schwartz, a surgeon at MedVet in Cincinnati, told CincyPet magazine of a friend’s close encounter with coyotes last summer, when she saw several hiding behind a tree, watching her young daughter playing in the driveway.

“We see many coyote attacks,” she said of MedVet, located on Redbank Road in Fairfax, “and I know there are many more dogs that never make it home and just go ‘missing’.” She described coyotes as “opportunistic, versatile feeders,” as prone to rooting through trash for fruits and vegetables as they are to hunt small mammals, deer, insects and birds. “Small dogs and cats are often targeted in more urban areas, but coyotes have been known to shadow human joggers or larger dogs as well.”

So what can be done to keep our pets and families safe? Dr. Schwartz offers the following suggestions to CincyPet.com:

• Know how to recognize a coyote. Usually they are grayish brown to yellowish gray, often with a white or buff-colored chest. They can range in size from 20-50 pounds. They travel in packs of six or so but hunt in pairs.

• Always supervise your pets and small children when they are outside, especially at dusk or dawn and at night. And keep your cat(s) inside.

• Avoid walking near the edge of wooded areas at night and keep your pet on a short leash. Carry a flashlight to shine into a coyote’s eyes should you encounter one at night.

• Secure garbage cans with locking lids or store them in a garage or shed and clean your grill after use to avoid attracting them to your yard.

• Keep outside lights on and ensure that the area in which you walk your dog[s] is well lit.

• Should you encounter a coyote, never turn your back on it or start to run. And try not to look scared since coyotes read body language and could conclude you’re being submissive.

Continues on page 4
• Shout, yell, throw sticks or stones and make yourself look as large and intimidating as possible to scare them away.

• Remember that electric fences may keep your pets contained, but they do nothing to keep predators out.

And it should go without saying, but we’ll say it anyway: never approach a pack of coyotes!

It may all boil down to common sense, but hey! There’s a reason shampoo bottles come with directions...

ROWENA’S STORY: continued from page 1

and Ghostly Southern mystery series, among many more. With accolades from Kirkus, Publishers Weekly and Booklist, Tonya has countless loyal readers and a dedicated social media following. But, she allows, “I’m a writer, and I work from home. It’s actually a pretty lonely job.”

For 15 years, she had the companionship of two “amazing Schnauzers, Charlie and Scooter,” who were her writing company and became the faces of Tonya Kappes’ books, she says. “They got more fan mail than me.” Both Charlie and Scooter passed in early 2019, says Tonya, “and I was devastated. The house was lonely.”

On a busy Father’s Day weekend in 2019, her husband Eddy suggested a trip to the League to cheer her up, “just to look at cats, because I was in no way ready for another dog,” Tonya says.

With guests on the way for a celebration, no food cooked, and no plans to adopt a cat, Tonya and Rowena met. She knew Rowena was the one. Still grieving her dogs, “I wasn’t going to let my heart do too much feeling, but there was something about the way she looked at me that told me we’d be okay.”

Employee of the Month

Rowena was right. Today, they share the office where Tonya works on her novels, and Rowena is dubbed Employee of the Month each and every month. “She’s the first one in the office, like ‘aren’t you ready to work?’,” she says. “My desk is built into the wall in front of a window, so she loves when I work in there. She watches the birds, and sleeps in the sunspot.”

Rowena also has earned her place as cover girl on Tonya’s Mail Carrier Cozy series. Readers will find her likeness—glossy apricot coat and bright eyes—on the front of “Stamped Out,” “Address for Murder;” and “All She Wrote” titles. Says Tonya: “I had a new series release and had all the covers already in place. I had originally written a dog into the plot, but after I got Rowena, I knew I had to change it and the covers!”

Heart of Kindness

It’s no mystery that the League was the right place to bring Rowena and Tonya together. And for her part, Tonya says she would recommend the League to anyone considering adoption. “I could tell all the workers have a heart of kindness and love for all the fur babies there,” she says. “The League makes it a very homey place for them, where they are safe, cared for and loved unconditionally. I’m so grateful to them and how well-loved Rowena was before she picked us as her furever home.”
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Park Plaza Animal Hospital
Miles
Andrew & Emily Venosa

Dwight Eric Raals
Alicia Rodrian
Johy Ramsey
Audrey Jones
George Owen
Evelyn Seals
Karen Clark
Marjorie Turner
Jody Steinhiber
Zona Wilkinson
Richard C. Lewis MD
Joyce Lee Woerner
Susan Cohen & Rob Schmueling
**Donor Profile:**

Q&A with Kelli & Ken Lackman

Kelli and Ken Lackman are committed to the League’s life-saving mission. They have changed the lives of three dogs they adopted from our shelter and continue to support us through donations.

**What role have pets played in your life?**
Dogs have been important to us our entire life. The first dog we had was a surprise for me in our first year of marriage. Nicki was with us for almost 18 years. We were lost without a dog and began a quest in 2006 that led us to the League.

**How did you first hear about the League?**
After looking locally for a dog and not finding anything but Bully type breeds at the other places we noticed that the League advertised the dogs available online. A ride out to your facility led us to Carson, our now almost-14-year-old lab mix. When he was about 6 months old, we came back and got Bailey because Carson needed a playmate. Then about 5 years later, my oldest daughter found our third dog, Baxter. He looked so much like our very first dog Nicki. Well, all it took was for Baxter to run into my daughter’s arms and we were hooked! Bailey was a great momma to him.

**Why did you choose to support the League?**
I must say that I love the fact that the League makes sure that all pets like each other before you can take another dog home. It has been wonderful. We have been so very pleased with the League that we like to honor Nicki and Bailey with donations in their name. We love the idea that it is a no-kill shelter.

**If your pets could talk, what do you think they would tell you?**
If my dogs could talk, I would think that they would say that they are grateful to the League for saving them (literally so for Bailey who survived kennel cough and pneumonia thanks to the care she received). I feel that they would say that they have had a good life.

**Make a difference!**
Give hope to homeless cats and dogs by donating online at LFAW.org/donate
Volunteer Corner:
CHANGE A LIFE

Whether surrendered by their owners or found as a stray, homeless cats and dogs are confused, scared and nervous when they enter our shelter. No matter how nice the conditions, the transition can be overwhelming. Luckily, our volunteers are here to help them acclimate and prepare them for life in a forever home.

There are numerous volunteer opportunities for people who care about supporting homeless and adoptable pets in our community. Every day, our volunteers are walking dogs, socializing cats, introducing dogs to crates, making cat toys, filling Kongs, maintaining the walking paths, handling animals at off-site adoption events, and more! We are grateful for the compassion, enthusiasm and dedication they share with us – and our adoptable pets – every day.

A love for animals is what brings volunteers to the League, but the difference they make in the animals’ lives keeps them coming back. If you have some love to share, please consider becoming a volunteer. Orientation sessions are offered the second Sunday and fourth Saturday each month. Simply call our shelter at 513-735-2299 to sign up! 💫
The League’s shelter is a temporary home for homeless cats and dogs – a gentle stop on their way to a new and better life in a loving, forever home. As you walk through our shelter, you might see a cat room with two grown cats whose owner passed away or a dog kennel with a puppy who was abandoned in a cardboard box. These animals – and others who find their way to our shelter – have different lives but one thing in common: they are now safe.

We are pleased to introduce our new Shelter Sponsorship Program that offers a unique opportunity to show your commitment to helping these animals begin a new life! For $500, you can sponsor the care and upkeep of one cat room or dog kennel for one year (or $300 for six months). Your gift will provide food, cat litter, bedding and toys for all the cats or dogs who reside in your sponsored room or kennel during that time.

Shelter sponsors directly impact many cats or dogs as they make our shelter their temporary home. You will be recognized on the cat room or dog kennel you are sponsoring. Sponsorships can even be made in honor of a living pet or in memory of a special pet that has passed on. 

Help the Animals!
To become a Shelter Sponsor at the League, visit LFAW.org/sponsor or contact Autumn Lees at 513-735-2299 x217 or Autumn@LFAW.org

These programs raise thousands of much-needed dollars each year to help the homeless animals in our shelter. Remember to select the League as your charity of choice!
Hug them today, help them tomorrow

Like Joanie, many compassionate members of our community want to create a better future for companion animals. Including the League for Animal Welfare in your estate plans is the ultimate expression of your long-term commitment to this goal.

Talk with us about joining the 1949 Legacy Society
Contact Marilyn Goodrich at 513-735-2299 ext. 207