



DECEMBER 2024 | 2761 JOHNSTOWN RD COLUMBUS, OH 43219 | 614-471-9000



## Who We Are

Wow! What a year it has been! We've been through a lot of highs, and a lot of lows. Many of you have followed our social media accounts and read our emails, volunteered and fostered, and supported us through it all. We cannot thank you enough.

We have taken on more hoarding and neglect cases this past year than ever before. So many, in fact, that we do not even have enough room in this newsletter to tell you all of their stories.

We've helped a lot of people in our community to keep their pets by not only offering low-cost options but sometimes taking on the burden of the medical care and costs.

One common question we receive is, "Why do you help cats if you are Columbus Dog Connection?" It is always surprising when people who have adopted from us; followed us on social media; and even volunteered for us in some capacity, do not realize that we are primarily an animal welfare organization. We care about cats, dogs, birds, opossums, racoons, and even insects too!

So, while the focus of our year-end newsletter is to showcase our statistics and highlight our struggles and triumphs for the year, we think it's important to go back to the basics and share our Mission Statement and focused programs as noted on the right sidebar.

As we move into 2025 we are updating our logo to reflect our commitment to encompassing compassion to all animals in our community as we focus on **Uniting Lives, One Pet At A Time**. Please keep an eye our website for an updated, more efficient design with our new logo!

Sincerely,  
Columbus Dog Connection Team



COLUMBUS DOG  
CONNECTION



### Our Mission

The mission of the Columbus Dog Connection is to improve the lives of cats and dogs in Ohio by focusing on:

- Ending the overpopulation of unwanted cats and dogs through high quality, low cost spay/neuter services.
- Impacting the lives of unwanted and homeless dogs and cats through rescue, foster, and adoption.
- Providing support and resources to our community and other animal welfare organizations in need.

### Our Programs

- Rescue, foster, and re-home stray and unwanted dogs and cats. Do our part to end the suffering of dogs and cats, with emphasis on abandoned, injured, and neglected animals.
- Provide permanent foster home or hospice to elderly, ill, un-adoptable foster dogs and cats
- Operate as a quasi-cat shelter
- Operate an aggressive spay/neuter program throughout Ohio to help end pet overpopulation by offering low cost spay/neuter services at our location in Columbus and traveling in our mobile spay/neuter clinic "The Andy" to rural counties throughout Ohio.
- Low cost vaccine clinic offered to the community
- Cat Colony Caretakers and Trap-Neuter-Release Program
- Food and Supplies Pantry and share food/supplies with rescues and shelters throughout Ohio
- Community outreach program to assist and promote animal welfare organizations in conjunction with educating the public regarding the severe pet overpopulation problem in Ohio

## Surgery Program Update

We host a spay/neuter clinic once a week at our office on our mobile unit named "The Andy". Each week we perform 20-25 surgeries for the public, other rescues, community cats, and our own fosters. We will never be able to rehome our way out of the homeless and overpopulation problem. Spay/Neuter is the only way!

### By the numbers:

- 245 male cats
- 297 female cats
- 218 male dogs
- 222 female dogs
- 635 public pets
- 213 from other rescues
- 134 our own fosters



## Vaccine Clinic Update

We also host a low-cost, walk-in vaccine clinic on the first Saturday of each month. This is open to the public. We serve both cats and dogs at this clinic, averaging around 90 patients in the 4-hour time frame. We require all pets be spayed or neutered to attend. This clinic does not offer a full service veterinary exam, but does help the community save money on preventative care.

### By the numbers:

- 1012 patients visited our clinic
- 2165 vaccines administered
- 244 tests administered
- 26 microchips placed
- 50 dewormings completed
- 99 nail trims performed
- 1453 flea and heartworm preventatives dispensed



## Trailer Park Update

Since we started feeding the colonies at the trailer park four years ago, our numbers have DECREASED significantly due to our TNR efforts. This year the property was purchased by an investor and they have given us our walking papers. We made the decision to remove the cats that we have been feeding for four years and have come to know, into our foster program, and hopefully adapt to a new life.

### By the numbers:

- Served 6,000 meals
- Removed 46 cats, 4 dogs
- Of the 46 cats removed: 22 female, 24 male
- Rate of cats in colonies decreased by 85%
- Ages of cats removed from tp:  
Under 4 mths - 6 young adult - 14 adult- 25 senior-1
- No. of residents assisted with their own pets: lots



## FOSTER PROGRAM

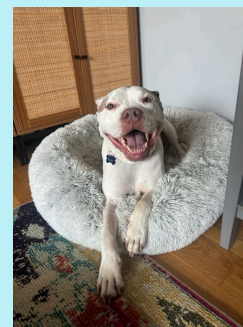
### 2024 Rescue Statistics

#### DOGS:

- Started 2024 with 8 dogs in foster care/boarding
- Taken in 62 dogs taken in YTD
  - 13 strays
  - 15 surrenders/hoarding
  - 33 shelters or other rescues
  - 1 vet referral
- 55 adopted!
- 16 in foster care or boarding

## LET'S CELEBRATE

*Hugo finally found his home after a year in foster care!*



#### CATS:

- Started 2024 with 48 cats in foster care and at our office
- taken in 176 cats YTD
  - 21 Trapped-Neutered-Vetted-Returned
  - 7 transferred to other rescue organizations
- 27 euthanized or passed away
- 82 adopted!
- 87 are currently in foster care



*Sunny was a stray & FIV positive cat with severe dental disease.*



**ADOPTED**

This year's fundraiser celebrated "Falling in Love with Your New Best Friend." We had a great time celebrating with previous adopters, volunteers, supporters and friends. We raised much needed funds to support our programs with some amazing raffle and silent auction items. We showed love to some special volunteers and supporters and showcased the amazing rescue and adoption story of "Brice". We hope to see you at our next event in 2025!

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDRAISER SPONSORS

**TOP DOG**

Upper Arlington Veterinary Hospital  
Keri Croft

Maya Bizness  
**LAND GRANT**  
AWESOME COMPANY

**PAWSITIVELY PURRFECT**

Carol & Jeff Folkerth

**FURBABY**

Missy Gorman  
Kim Wills  
Linda Diroll & Gary Holderby

**DOGGONE DREAMER**

Laura Cook  
Valerie & Jeff Milgrom  
Dr. Kristy Clay  
Pamela Glasgow

Beth Katz  
Ashley & Drew Dominick  
Donna & Jani Hara



Other adoption events since June:

- Jun 8th Rummage Sale
- Jul 19th Bright Star Academy
- Jul 22nd MLS Employee Appreciation
- Jul 27th Doggie Paddle
- Aug 24th Petco Westerville
- Oct 13th Jewish Center
- Oct 26th Top Dog
- Oct 27th Easton Petco
- Nov 23rd Open House
- Dec 7th & 8th Petco Easton
- Dec 14th Hollywood Feed New Albany



One of our biggest expenses is pet food and supplies. We would not be able to afford our programs and every day needs without the in-kind donations from our supporters. We cannot thank all of our supporters enough for their extreme generosity, including our sister organization, Kind Hands for Paws. You are the reason why we can help so many.



Special thanks to our friends at Pet Palace and Top Dog for supporting our fosters and our foster program!

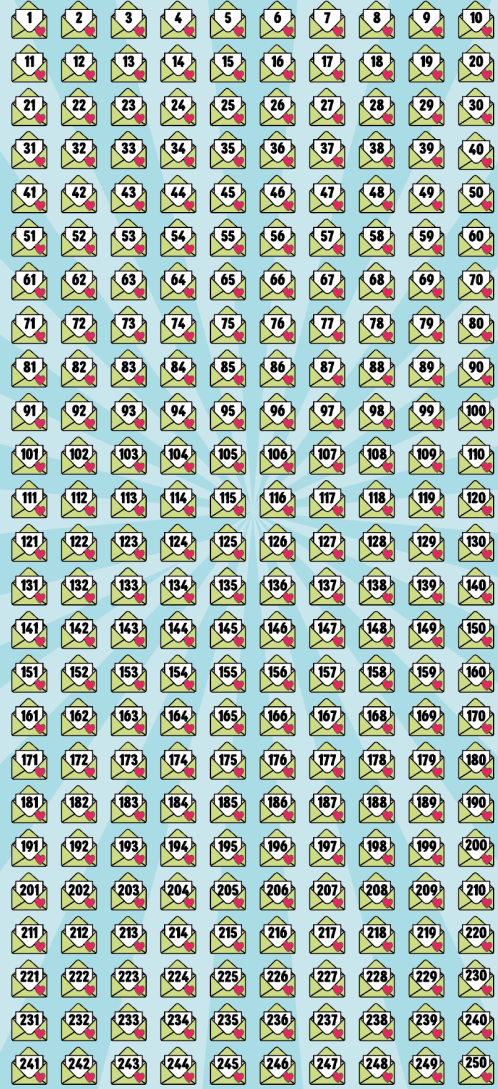


**New Board Members**

We'd like to welcome two new board members, Anne Riley and Liz Kostelac joining Linda Diroll, Missy Gorman, and Theresa Reed this year. You are a great addition to our team. Thanks to returning board members Carol Folkerth, Dr. Kristy Clay, and Dr. Devon Horne for always supporting our mission!

**Participate in our annual Fundraiser to cover foster medical expenses**

**NOT ABLE TO ADOPT? ADOPT AN ENVELOPE**  
Columbus Dog Connection Fundraiser



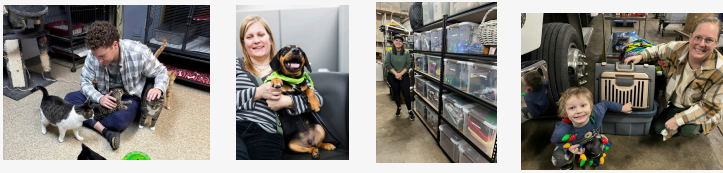
Every envelope adopted helps cover medical expenses for our fosters 🐾

By making a donation of \$1-\$250 you can symbolically adopt an envelope. Your donation goes towards covering the veterinary costs our fosters incur.



**Our medical expenses for 2024 were just over \$51,000!**

# Volunteers needed



We cannot stress enough the need for foster families. As a limited intake rescue we can only save as many dogs and cats as we have places to put them!

If you are not able to foster, please consider volunteering your time at one of our vaccine or surgery clinics, adoption events, Columbus Crew games, or any day in the office for general housekeeping and cat care. We also occasionally need someone to transport a pet to the vet or medication to a boarding facility.

Visit our website for more information on ways that you can help or send us an email today!

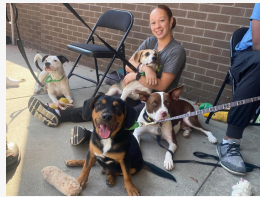
[Columbusdogconnectionvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:Columbusdogconnectionvolunteers@gmail.com)

**HELP SAVE LIVES**

## Other ways to give:



facebook



**There is no possible way for us to thank every one in this newsletter, but we hope you know just how much your support means to us!**

contact us at [columbusdogconnectioninfo@gmail.com](mailto:columbusdogconnectioninfo@gmail.com)

A 501(c)3 org.  
Donations are  
tax deductible

Please be part of our lifesaving team.

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Donate online by visiting our website and clicking "Donate Here"

catch up on previous newsletters on our website

## BE A FOSTER, SAVE A LIFE!

We are in urgent need of dog foster homes. We are not a shelter and do not have a building to house dogs. The more foster homes, the more dogs we can save.

We provide the medical care, food, and supplies. You provide the love, attention, and a temporary place to call home.

For more info, please contact us at [columbusdogconnectioninfo@gmail.com](mailto:columbusdogconnectioninfo@gmail.com)



COLUMBUS DOG CONNECTION

*In  
Loving  
Memory*



Often times in rescue we have to make difficult decisions. This year we had to make a lot of them, but Xavier hit us pretty hard.

Xavier was one of our indoor feral office cats. He would run away from us, often climbing walls, if we attempted to touch him. Despite this, he lived a happy and comfortable life. This year we noticed some medical concerns with him and had to sedate him for an exam. His prognosis for long-term and on-going treatment was not feasible and we decided to humanely euthanize him to stop his suffering.

Despite not being friendly towards people, he was a very loving soul to the other cats in the office and we miss seeing him cuddled up and rubbing on his friends Fencie and Toulouse. Even though we know we made the best decision, we are still sad about this outcome.

