



Dear Friends,

2016 will be our 18th year of saving homeless dogs & cats. We advocate for; share our donations and grants and partner with; and cheer on, all rescues & shelters. Our efforts are vital in continuing our support of low income pet owners and rescue efforts in rural areas to help their homeless pets. We could not do this life saving work without your support. You have a hand in every story we tell.

### Ohio Spay/Neuter Clinic: By The Numbers

By the numbers may quantify our efforts, however, it does not convey the additional services we provide our clients at no extra cost to them.

- the dewormer & bag of food for a struggling family
- vet visits to other clinics for feral/free roaming cats suffering from serious medical issues
- the smile of relief on a bilingual person's face when they are educated in their own language
- the dog with severe injuries pulled by our staff from a shelter while we are there performing low cost spay/neuter surgeries
- the care we provide for the aging and injured animals brought to us
- those are the numbers you will not see, but they are the ones that truly & immediately count.

- 50% clinics are in rural counties
- 44% are for cat surgeries
- 56% are for dog surgeries
- 16% pediatric spay/neuter surgeries
- 14% increase in cat surgeries from 2014

### From Isolated Life of a Breeding Dog to a Fireplace and a Bestie Named Milo

Gertie was born to be a breeding dog. Her co-owner called our office over a period of a year to ask for advice and to maybe neuter his other dog to help calm down all his dogs. As co-owner, he was not permitted to spay her as she was being used to breed. Gertie was having medical issues and we were finally able to convince the co-owner to surrender her. From living on a chain, in isolation, having litter after litter, this is Gertie's story as told by her foster Mom, Laura Blum. Make that Foster Mom Extraordinaire!



Gertie & Milo

Gertie was one of the sweetest dogs I have fostered. Everyone fell in love with her roly-polly body and her loving nature. But she had that bully breed personality and when she set her mind to something it was hard to stop her. At daycare, (thank you Dog's Rule Doggie Day Care) she's affectionately known as "little tank." We took care of Gertie's medical issues, however, we discovered Gertie has food allergies, so we began a long journey of trying to find a food that Gertie could eat.

We tried grain-free, hypoallergenic, hydrolyzed protein diets. For brief periods Gertie would get better, but then bloody diarrhea would return. We eliminated all treats, but still her feet would itch/swell and she would develop a fungus from licking/biting her feet. We tried anti-diarrheal medications, antibiotics, probiotics, steroids and antacids. Through all of these medications, Gertie maintained her sweet nature. With all of these medications and no peanut butter/treats to assist medicines down, Gertie soon learned to just open her mouth, let me put the pills in the back of her throat, and swallow them. After three months of trying everything, MedVet suggested a new food additive called Tylosin. Gertie's digestive issues are now a thing of the past. Gertie met her forever family at Mingle With Our Mutts. She loves having a dog sibling. Her new family understands her dietary issues and are willing to work through future challenges.

### Charlie, 12 Years of Chained Life

My husband and I met a smelly and not so impressive Charlie at Pet Palace in January of 2014. Columbus Dog Connection rescued Charlie from a chained life during the polar vortex where he had nothing more than a wooden, 3 sided box for shelter. After fostering him for three months, we decided to adopt him. Although he rarely barked and ignored dogs when out on walks, he seemed to enjoy greeting people and especially receiving attention from the two little neighbor girls who would call his name and run to hug him.



His gentle nature even won over those who were wary of larger dogs. Although the vet had guessed his age to be about 12 years when adopted, walking was something Charlie always loved and it wasn't unusual to go a mile several times a day. He lived for food and treats...and his weekly bone! We would laugh at his funny sleeping positions with half his body on the bed and half on the floor! And, oh, how he would jump like a kangaroo around the yard when I would come home – we called it his "happy dance!" Doug and I began to see him slow down in 2015 and the difficult decision every pet owner faces was made. We hoped to have given him what he likely didn't have for his first 12 years of life, extra loving touch and time and walks the last few years of his life.

By Foster Mom Fran Blachman

### Feline Fix Program



Thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us directly tackle the cat overpopulation problem. Aggressive spay/neuter is the only way we are going to stop the needless euthanasia of cats.

**240 Cats** spayed or neutered thanks to our sponsors.

See our site for sponsorship info as well as the Feline Fix stories. Thank you to our inaugural year of sponsors. Roseanne & Jerry Stern, Linda & Bob Orenchuk, Peg & Rick Kaplan, The Bollinger Family, HSUS & Dean Hinderlang, Linda & Michael Stickney & North Steppe Realty and SNAP of Central Ohio. Every Feline Fix has sold out and we always have a waiting list. See our site for Feline Fix Sponsorship Info.



In Memory of Andrew Ethan Stern 1974-2014





Coonhound, Brodie 2yrs, extremely under weight, but eating well, so that shouldn't last long, he loves everybody he meets, especially those with food, great with dogs, good on a leash and loves to go on walks, but would prefer to run with you, calm in the house and crate trained



Jack/Beagle Mix, Mayzie, female, 5 yrs, 12 lbs, loves having a lap to sit on, very affectionate, great w/dogs, cats



Mix, Wilhelm 5-6 yrs, male, 15lbs, Wilhelm had surgery to remove a cyst from his forehead, he looked a little like Frankenstein, just a little dog that roamed Pike Co most of his life until he was finally picked up, his Foster Mom says this is the happiest, nicest little dog you will ever meet



Ripley, the calmest kitty ever, found fending for herself on the streets, gives the dogs the business to back off if they get too close, such a low key kitty, loves her belly rubbed, loves being near her person



Mix, Wagner young male, super friendly, happy boy, 35lbs, great in car, great on lease, loves every person he meets



Golden Retriever, Lucky, male, 14 months. Lovable, playful, gets along with everyone, very calm, mellow dog



Chia Mix, Rita 8 yrs, previous owner passed away, she has an attachment to men as that's what her last guardian was, is *definitely* a man's dog! Rita loves to cuddle under a blanket w/ you, knows sit on command



Mix, Barley 5 yrs, male, 18lbs, a sweetheart, once he gets to know you he is quite the cuddle buddy, great w/ dogs, cats



Tito Jackson, male, 4yrs, super curious & playful, the George Clooney of cats, women love him & so do the men



Katniss, female, 2yr, playful, oh so playful, wants to hang w/ her peeps, loves to be a speedy kitty around our office, great w/ cats, dogs, people



Chihuahua, Maurice, 7yrs, 4.5 lbs, male, feisty little dude, loves his person, wants to be w/ his person, best w/ a person that loves the chia energy



Chihuahua Dachshund Mix, Jillie, female, 10months, 12lbs, skinny little deer-like dog, good w/ dogs, loves people, wants to be with her person, very affectionate, if you're sitting, she knows there is a lap & considers it hers to sit on, but she will share it w/ another dog, she loves kisses, playful w/ dogs, fun to watch hop around the yard, trying to keep up with the bigger, faster dogs, has to sleep under the blanket at night, is very food oriented, so she goes willingly into a crate with a treat



Herbie, need a greeter for your home? This old boy is a talker! All he wants is a nice scratch behind the ears and a kind word, this poor cat lived in the hood for 13 yrs, he has a portion of his left face missing but you can barely tell



Louise, 4yrs, very quiet, will steal your heart with her gentle sweetness, everyone says she's a beauty



Fowler, male, short hair, 6yrs, low key cat, easy going with other office cats, this boy is just a nice cat, named after Amy Farrah "Fowler" from Big Bang Theory



Mix, Ruby, female, 2yrs, 28lbs, loves to run, super smart, figured out the treat find game instantly, best in active home, if yard is fenced it needs to be a tall one, loves belly rubs, knows to ring a bell with her paw to go outside, energetic little girl



Momma, female, 5yrs, declawed, super affectionate kitty, loves to be near her people, a couch potato of



Kyle, 8 months, super active cat, this kitty has orange eyes to perfectly match his orange outfit, would love to have chance to be outside



Shirley, 5yrs, beautiful eyes, quiet wall flower, Shirley is just a nice cat, low key, loves attention but independent too, she is as solid grey as you have ever seen a cat be, she's an office favorite



Maddie, 6 months, the chattiest kitty ever, super loving, NEEDS to be w/ her person, great w/



Princess Scrappy Kitty this 10 yr old gal lived on the streets most of her life, low key, loves people

Help Us Find Them Homes

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## TEAM COLUMBUS DOG CONNECTION

Joyce & Bill for being the best, most generous, most caring dog & cat lovers on the planet.  
 Our foster families \* Gahanna Animal Hospital \* Lisa Zimmerman \* Sandy Horvath

### Everyone who prints & posts & forwards our dogs/cats available page

Dr Kristy Clay \* The Hildreth Foundation \* NBC 4 \* Cacy Rossi \* Wendy Schutt  
 Hausfrau Haven \* Northwest Animal Hospital \* Penny Bachman-Jaffe \* Horses &  
 Hounds \* Construction Systems & Matt \* The Ohio Pet Plate \* Schiffman & Grow  
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 Lisa McCarthy \* AJ, Linda & Kyle Klinkner \* Identity Systems \* Cat Welfare  
 Pet FBI & Bud & Sandra Runyon \* Kelli Ward/Shelby County \* HSUS \* The ASPCA  
 The Columbus Foundation \* JT Services Lawn Care \* Judy & Gary Barnhart



## Foster Family Highlights

I got my first foster two and a half years ago and since then I have had 27 fosters in my home. I have had every kind of dog! But what they all had in common is that they were all homeless, unwanted dogs, facing an unhappy end. Fostering has been a very rewarding experience for me. One can't help but feel blessed after seeing within a day or two a dog who has known nothing but cruelty and neglect look at you as though you are the most important being in the world! Their ability to forgive and love is amazing. It never ceases to humble me and make me feel unworthy to share my home with them. People often say to me, "I could never do that. I would get too attached." I **do** get attached. I can name all 27. I still have their pictures. But, for each one I place, there are so many more in shelters wondering when their turn will come. It brings me joy to get pictures and emails from some of the new families. I think of myself as a link in the Underground Railway for homeless, neglected and abused dogs. I'm not one of those amazing people working on the "front lines" in the rural, underfunded shelters, who take in animals from horrible conditions. My home is just a resting place on the journey from these horrible conditions, to "freedom" and a loving forever home.

Directors Note: We are incredibly lucky to have someone as dedicated as Laura Blum !

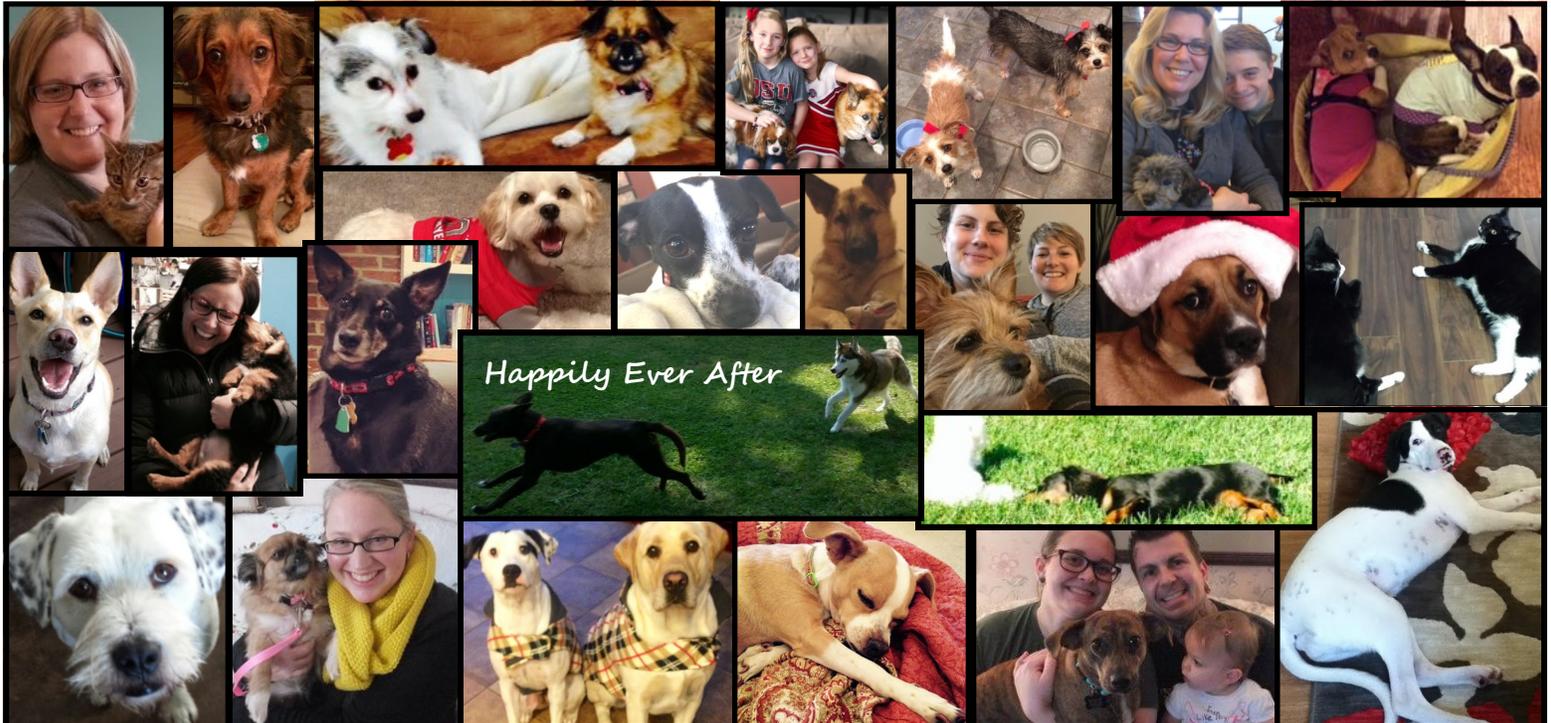
Searching for something awesome in life?  
 More info on fostering on our site. You can save a life.



Mother/Daughter Foster Team  
 Laura & Rachel Blum



Foster Families at Mingle With Our Mutts. Wanda Circle, Ron Blake, Kellie DiFriscia, Judy Fedderke & Dawn McDaniel



Vaccine Clinic, Low Cost  
 1st Saturday of the month  
 Walk-in 10am-1pm  
 Cash Only  
 Se Habla Español



## Spanish Speaking Community →

In 2015 CDC reached out to the under served Spanish speaking community through the services offered at our monthly vaccine clinic. We provided services, guidance about dog care, and scheduled many spays and neuters. Mirna, our vaccine clinic coordinator as well as vet student Rebecca Aguilar are fluent in Spanish.



← Our hard working volunteers are:  
 Front Row: Mirna & Sully 2nd Row: Jan Hinch, Emily Brodbeck, Rebecca Aguilar, Megan Edwards, Dr Audra Hanthorn, Sandy Horvath, Cristina Estrada, Denise Goldstein, Ann Ascot, Mark Williams, Stephanie Waters, Tanner Walls, Rebecca Stiert, Beth Schoenberger. Not pictured: Sarah Lumbrezer-Johnson, Kathy Bernat, Barbara Berkholder and goodie makers Rob Ricer, Joan Muellerleile & Dumont Jones.



## OSU Vet Students Rock the Vaccine Clinic

We are fortunate to have such knowledgeable assistance with our dedicated, hardworking, and smart OSU Vet students. They are always willing to do whatever it takes to make the clinic a success. The future Veterinarians gain valuable experience and our low income community benefits from their knowledge. Thank you to our future doctors.



Rebecca Aguilar, Sarah Lumbrezer, Stephanie Waters, Rebecca Stiert, Ann Ascot, Tanner Walls, Missing: Bri Smith



## Before / After



Ezmarelda was picked up as a stray in Ross County. We were in Ross Co doing low cost spay/neuter at the time and the staff asked if we would bring her back to Columbus to be part of our foster program. How could we say no to this dog. Exhausted, this poor girl just wanted to lay down. With help from Gahanna Vet Hospital & Pet People, and foster Mom Kathy Bernat, we got Ez ready for her forever home. Adopted by Kim & Chad Egelhoff, she now shares her new life with her Irish Setter sister.



## Princess Scrappy

A kindly older woman called to ask if we could help a long haired stray cat she had looked after for 6 years. She didn't have enough money to pay for a grooming. Although not something we usually do, we knew we needed to help. As you can see, this poor kitty needed a lot of help. We were concerned Scrappy would become matted again, so we offered to have Scrappy live with us until a permanent home could be found.



Thank you for being part of the success stories we are able to tell.

We deeply appreciate and conserve every donation you entrust to us.

\$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_ Monthly \$ \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Chatty Maddie I need a home. A playful kitty, does well with dogs, cats, loves people

We are a 501c3, non profit org  
 All donations are tax deductible

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 Columbus OH 43219

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