

TATTLE TAILS

Fall 2020



Meet Tasha

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you Lemons...
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DID YOU KNOW...

Portage APL helps
almost 1,000 animals
each year?

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Spay and Neuter Clinic for Cats

Low-cost spay and neuter services are a very important part of helping stop pet overpopulation and unwanted animals entering shelters or being euthanized. At Portage APL, we work hard to do our part. Although we don't have our own clinic, we do host a mobile clinic that comes to our location to offer these services. We use N.O.M.A.D. who offers a variety of services. Every animal adopted from the APL is spayed or neutered. Please call us to schedule an appointment. We offer one or two clinics each month. We also sell Friends of Animals certificates (for cats and dogs) that can be used at local veterinarians.

We also have humane traps that people can borrow to trap stray or feral cats to bring in to be spayed or neutered.

PRICING

» Female Cats

Fee: \$65

Includes: Pain-relief injection
Belly tattoo upon request

» Male Cats

Fee: \$35

Additional services available such as vaccines and worming.



MISSION

» Portage Animal Protective League is a private, non-profit organization, dedicated to the advancement of animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. In support of the mission: we shelter and find safe homes for injured, abused, surrendered and abandoned animals, uphold and enforce all animal cruelty laws, reduce pet overpopulation through spay/neuter programs, and educate the community on the social responsibility associated with pet ownership.

VISION

» We envision an educated and caring community that recognizes and respects the rights of animals to receive humane and compassionate treatment and actively supports efforts to ensure their welfare.

»» WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU LEMONS...

I never thought I would walk into Portage APL and it would be empty. There were no dogs barking, or cats meowing, and the hallways and offices were empty. It felt strange. Who knew that months ago, we would be asking people to foster and adopt every animal in our shelter? Who knew there would be a pandemic and we'd close to the public or have to cancel fundraising events? What a long, weird, and scary few months it has been!

I couldn't be more grateful and overwhelmed by the support from our community, volunteers, donors, foster parents, board members, and our staff. Thanks to many wonderful people, we were able to empty the shelter within days. Animals were adopted and some went into foster homes, schedules and procedures changed, and the world seemed to turn upside down. The one thing that did not change was our mission.

We learned to work from home, hold Zoom meetings, adopt animals by appointment, and more. We learned to continue our programs and services, but in a new way; we morphed and moved with every new change and mandate. Calls to report animal abuse increased while calls to surrender animals declined. Our largest fundraiser of the year, Paws to Celebrate, had to be cancelled. Thankfully, an online auction in its place helped recover some of the lost revenue.

While very few animals or people were in the shelter, we took the opportunity to do some much-needed updating and organizing. Our foyer and front desk walls were painted. Our cat playroom received a facelift and new cat shelves for climbing. Every inch of the dog kennel was power washed, and the garage and pole building were sorted and organized.

MAKE LEMONADE!

Or in our case, get bright, cheery lemon-colored walls! Our foyer and front desk area and cat playroom received a major facelift and we can't wait for you to see it in person.

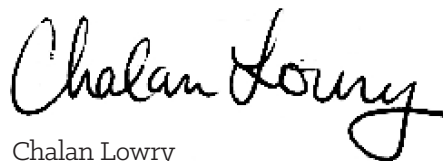
Our hard-working staff took numerous online webinars and training courses to further their knowledge and help more animals.

Though the shelter was empty briefly, we had to plan for the immediate future. We would need to house animals, and allow a small number of staff in the building in different shifts to accommodate safe distancing. New safety guidelines and procedures had to be written too.

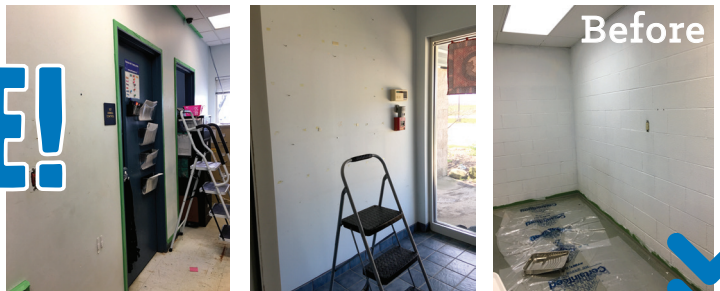
Our work never stopped. Abused, injured, and sick animals were and still are our priority. We helped animals and people whenever we could with food and resources. Kitten season was in full swing soon after the pandemic started and those in need had a place to go.

Months later, we are operating at about half our capacity and learning with each new challenge. No one knows what might come next or when life will get back to "normal." One thing is certain. The support we receive from the community is the reason we are still here and saving lives. While a crisis of unknown proportions was occurring, you knew the animals needed you. I am forever grateful to each person who helped Portage APL during this very challenging time in our world.

Heartfelt thanks,



Chalan Lowry
Executive Director





Meet Tasha

Tasha is quite the fighter. Despite her severe state of neglect when she arrived, she is healing nicely and happy to be loved and safe. Her road to recovery is slow and her vet bills are large, but she deserves to have a life free of pain and suffering. This is our goal. It was hard to tell initially, but this little lady is only about 7 or 8 years old. She seemed to be mostly blind, she had terrible skin infections, she was anemic, had overgrown nails, infected ears, mammary tumors, dry eyes, and was cruelly matted. She has been with us for a couple of months and has been receiving medicated baths, multiple medicines, and has been to the veterinarian several times. She needs to have surgery to remove her tumors, and chest X-rays

showed the tumors have not spread. We hope they will be benign.

Tasha can't have surgery until her skin is healed and her infections are cured. Despite all her trauma and suffering, she is as sweet as pie. She wags her little tail and enjoys affection very much. We imagine she must feel so much relief without all the mats, fleas, and cracked skin. Her foster mom reports that she is starting to look and act like a dog, and told us that she snores! As you can see, she has come so far. Lots of TLC, medicine, vet appointments, and baths have made a huge difference. Her next big hurdle will be surgery to remove her mammary tumors. Her surgery



has been delayed until her skin is healed which we hope will be very soon. She will also need a dental cleaning and maybe extractions.

The neglect she has suffered was severe but what a fighter she is. She deserves to live a comfortable life without suffering and neglect. We will make sure she receives all the care she needs. These cases are stark reminders. They remind us our work must go on, regardless of what else is happening in the world. And they remind us animals need people to be their voice.

**THEY NEED US;
THEY NEED YOU.**

CAGE SPONSORS



We have 30 available! Help care for a homeless animal while he/she waits for a Fur-ever home.

- 1 Year (\$500)
- 6 Months (\$250)
- 3 Months (\$125)
- 1 Month (\$50)

Birch Services, Inc.
Mogadore VFW
John & Dreama Ayers
Patricia Bingham
Cheryl Bowers
Richard & Patricia Breedlove
Richard & Patricia Clapp
Valerie Coontz
Karen Deevers
Joseph & Shirley Doane
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Natalie Mallis & Jason Gilder
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Susan Robenstine
William Robenstine
Lori Stenger
Rita Tolcin
Susan & Ronald Trace
Victoria Vincent
Mark & Erika Vlacovsky
Lisa Wright

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Leadership Circle membership is granted to donors who provide financial support to Portage APL by contributing a minimum of \$1,000 in a calendar year. Members are recognized throughout the following year. Members who continue to donate in subsequent years at the Leadership Circle level are recognized as Sustaining Members. Additional recognition is granted at five-year intervals to those who have continued to donate at the \$1,000 level over time.

⇓ TEN-YEAR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Phyllis J. Baker
Eileen Hogan
David and Maureen Kemmerle
James and Kathryn Lamb
Bruce and Paula McBrian
Dr. Nancy Mitchell
Wendell Parr

⇓ FIVE-YEAR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Wendy Bellinger
Pat Bingham
Karen & Thurl Carmany
Lou & KC Carrigg
Mary & Tom Cochran
Christine Coiner and Dr. Deborah Grant
Mike and Jean Coss
Helen D'Ianni
Erica Eckert & David Taylor
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Joseph & Vicki Ferrara
Karen Fox & Rick Stump
Janet Hallaran
Barbara Hodous
Mary Ann & Elwood Howitt
Dean & Patricia Keller
Robert & Jennifer Larson
Nick Leacoma
Patrick & Stephanie Beal Madonio
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Alan & Louise Mellott
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Eileen Petridis
William Robenstine
Murali Shanker
Dr. Alan W. Steggles
Pam Valentine
Victoria Vincent
Josephine Wardle
Wade & Michelle Williams
Anne Wirth
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Donald Sparks
Lori Stenger
Robin and Sharon Swaney
Susan and Ronald Trace
Mark and Erika Vlacovsky
Maureen Wegenek
Laurel Wilcox
Ron & Angela Woods
Mrs. Beth A. Wunderlich

NEW 2019 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

Linda Clifford
Gay Marie Goden
Carol Hughes
Catherine Schellhammer
Patricia Shipp
Judith and Pete Stephens-Lorenz
Thomas and Tonya Trexler

LIFETIME MEMBERS (BEFORE 2018)

Ted and Bev Bickley
Cheryl Casper
Kim Hardesty
Eileen Hogan
Sandra Jesionek

ADOPTION STORY

We are incredibly lucky to have found such a wonderful dog to bring into our home.

Dodger is a friendly, gentle, happy, healthy boy. He had no trouble adjusting to our home with a cat and a bunny. He likes to be a part of whatever we are doing, but he will find time to lay outside or cuddle up in a soft bed for a nap each day. He is always up for an adventure, especially if it means taking a ride in the car. The picture of Dodger was taken on our boat earlier this summer. He is a sweet boy.

We are so grateful for the wonderful staff and volunteers at Portage APL. Thank you for taking such good care of him! Thank you for all that you do!

Best,
Carol and Jim Kercher



Dodger

“Dodger is a friendly, gentle, happy, healthy boy.”

A SPECIAL THANKS ...

VOLUNTEERS OF PORTAGE APL

DONATION CANISTER CARRIERS

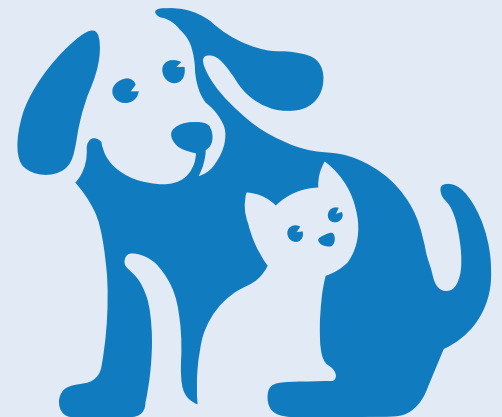
Aurora Vet Clinic
Big Dee's Tack & Vet Supplies
Franklin Square Deli
I-76 Antique Mall
Memorial Animal Hospital
Ming Chu Chinese Restaurant
Portage Meats & Deli
Wild Goats Café

BUSINESSES DONATING SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

Pet Supplies Plus of Streetsboro
PetSmart of Aurora
Ravenna Tractor Supply Company
Rt. 14 Storage, Embroidery, & More
Sunshine Cupcakes, Etc.
Target of Streetsboro
Walmart of Kent
Walmart of Streetsboro

YOUTH DONORS

The Lemonade Crew





The Overlooked Pets

“Special needs” and senior animals are sometimes the most overlooked pets in shelters. The idea that an animal may have a long term illness or disease, or some limitation on its abilities, can seem scary. The reality is, these animals can be wonderful pets and bring joy and happiness to your life. True, some have shorter life spans, but so can the puppy or middle-aged pet you adopt. We never know what life will bring, but why not fill it with the unconditional love of a pet?

Priscilla, a very large, senior Cane Corso, came to the APL neglected and obviously used for breeding. She had health issues that we knew may shorten her life and make it hard for her to be adopted. She also had an enormous love that shined in her eyes. We had to try to help her live a happy life, whatever that meant. After medicine, X-rays, specialists, and more, the perfect family decided to give her the life she deserved. She had eight months. Eight months of love, fun, comfort, and happiness. All things she may have never had in her entire life.



A LOVELY TRIBUTE

BY PRISCILLA'S MOM
ABOUT HER LIFE

“ Last fall I was approached by my boyfriend, Brandon, about adopting a dog, and of course I said yes! I absolutely love dogs! As we rushed to our local APL, Brandon broke the news to me that Priscilla, the dog we were meeting was not only a senior dog, but she also suffered from a debilitating disease known as degenerative myelopathy. Degenerative myelopathy or DM is a progressive disease of the spinal cord that ultimately causes paralysis.

Within a few minutes of meeting Priscilla and watching her interact with our other dog we knew she was a perfect fit for us. Right away she made herself at home taking up residence on the couch and sunbathing on the deck. After a few short weeks Priscilla's condition worsened and by Christmas she was entirely dependent on us. This was no easy feat considering she is a 100 pound Cane Corso!

Over the next eight months Priscilla became one of the family! We played stick and ate lots of treats. Watched the birds fly, and hung out with her dog friends. Unfortunately, that's all we had. Eight short months that changed not only our lives, but hers forever.

Priscilla was the kindest, most gentle animal I've ever met. Her will to live was so strong, but in the end her body failed her. She passed away on a beautiful June day surrounded by everyone who loved her.

When thinking of adopting a special needs animal the thoughts of costly vet bills, medications, carts, harnesses, and ramps can all be a bit overwhelming. But the amount of pure joy and humbleness that you gain from an experience like this is insurmountable. Priscilla helped bring purpose to my life. She taught me patience and how to appreciate the small things. I will be forever grateful to have known her. ”

Honors & Memorials

» MEMORIALS

BILL ALLEN

Barry Brewer
Josh & Lindsey Brewer
KC & Connie Brewer
The Law Office of Gerrit M.
DenHeijer
Michael & Karol Drumm
Catherine Hausman
Mary Meihls
Yvette Meihls-Ice
Marya Morris
Russell & Krista Newton
Tom Pitts
James Quast
Jeffrey Winter
Susan Wisniewski
Thomas Yazvec

GARY BARNARD

Catherin Rubino

RUTH BONILLA

Jay Hawkins

NORMA BOUTELLE

Eileen Hogan
Joyce Keller & Joan Sturtevant

CAROL BROWN

Robert & Linda Brugge

JOSEPH COIA

Anthony & Jean Coia
Gary & Joanne Dalsanto
David & Pat Gynn
Natalie Rogers
Virginia Shaw

WILLIAM C. COLLIER

Jennie Conti

MARY ALICE COWAN

Sandra Sculley

DANNY DELIBERATO

Eileen Antenucci

DAVID DESIMIO

Kathleen DeSimio

MARGARET ANN EDWARDS

The Ponikvar Family

FRANKIE

Sandra Krutz

MORGAN GOLDBERG

Anika, Katie, and Samantha

SHIRLEY GRAHAM & MOLLY

Sandra & Barry Kimmel
Janet Sessions

CLARK HART

Constance Highman

DUANE HART

Constance Highman

JEAN HANWAY

Eric Voth

MIKE HIGHMAN

Constance Highman

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Deb Lopresti
Dr. Nancy Mitchell
Ohio Self Insurers Ass.
Valette Sopp
Kathleen Stout

PAUL HUGHES & GABBY

Carol Hughes

AUNT JUDY

Connie Moir

RALPH KANE

Jan Boehm
Linda & Paul Engelhart
Donna Love
Debbie Michalski
Richard & Cynthia Trivett

LARRY KILLIAN

Carolyn Tenner

THELMA KNIPPER

The Tiptons

NORMA JEAN LANEY

Edinburg Sportmen's Association
Orville & Sharon Hissom

TOM LEEDOM

Eugenia Pantalone

MARY BETH LILLY

Melanie Matweyou

CHARLENE LUKE

Gerald & Judith Boso
Barrie & Don Forner
Norma Rosar

WILLIAM SCOTT MCLEOD

James Anderson
Anna Sue Beke
Rebecca Cooper & Akron Law
Review
Rex & Kathy Foster
Hitachi Health Care
Jodi & Isabelle Jones
McLeod Family
Ronald Truman
Amanda Wager
Carrie Watson

MICHAEL

Linda Gombeda

MIKE & GRETTA

Sandra Krutz

ROBERT KNIPPER

Jon & Rebecca Tipton

CAROL MORRISON

Tara Beatty
Cynthia Bucco
Sarah Dye
Jerry, Judy, Curt, Janet & Mark
and Families
Mark E. Johnson
Michael Mulhern
Craig & Jean Scharton

JON NEIKIRK

Connie Beal-Cornelius
Carolyn Johns
Anna & Kevin Malone
Richard & Bronwyn Taylor

DAVID PANGALLO

Sheryl Langell

MICHELLE PRASEK

Mary Ellen Layden

BOB REPINSKI

Margaret & Timothy Horvath
Scott & Ivy Hunter
Nancy Kovach
WRY MTY
Jeanne Smith

GLENN SALTZMAN

Gale Finney

DOLORES J. SCANTLAND

Robin Clifford
Alice Gerken
Patricia Gerken
Thomas Gerken &
Rosanna Braida

WALDO SOBER

Jim & Gloria Adams
Michael Adkins
Bob & Holly Fletcher
Victor Koth
Robert Macgregor
Mark & Frances Perkins
Sherry Rose
Andre Shearer

JENNIFER STELMACK

William & Patricia Stelmack

DOROTHY SUNCRIE

Allison Ball

REV. LAELIA D. TAWNAMAIA

Renee Zimelis

JANET WENDL

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Margaret Barrett
Charles Morrill
Susan Newell
Patricia Rhobat

TERRY LYNN WHITE

Tammy & Topher Starzyk

SHIRLEY WISEMAN

Scotty Lees
Mary Ogle
Alice Silverstein

DOUGLAS VAN ZANT

Anonymous
Linda Klapp
VFW Auxiliary to Post #8487

SHEPHERD'S WATCH PLANNED GIVING



Should you choose to include Portage APL in your estate plan, you become part of our Shepherd's Watch Planned Giving Society.

Shepherd's Watch provides protection for our shelter and our mission over the long term.

Portage APL is committed to responsible financial management and planning. Our Shepherd's Watch Society helps us weather financial challenges so we can

continue to serve the hundreds of animals who come through our doors each year.

Our ability to feed the hungry, care for the sick and wounded, and comfort the abused is a direct result of both ongoing contributions and planned gifts.

There are so many ways you can create a lasting legacy that benefits the animals right in your own backyard.

- **Wills**
- **Life insurance policies**
- **Retirement accounts**
- **Gifts of property**
- **Gifts of stock**

Of course, you'll want to discuss your options and what's best for you with a personal legal or tax advisor, but we appreciate you keeping us in mind when doing your long term financial planning.

THANK YOU, ON BEHALF OF THE ANIMALS, FOR YOUR SUPPORT ... TODAY AND TOMORROW.

» HONORS

EILEEN HOGAN

Joyce Keller
Joan Sturtevant

JOYCE KELLER

Mary Schulze

ELIZABETH MCLAUGHLIN

John & Linda Slikkerveer

STINA

Eirika Gudjonsdottir

HAROLD R WALKER

Cass Mayfield

» PET MEMORIAL

ANNIE

Susan Cimino

COOKIE

John & Dolores Buonpane

DAFFY

Joyce Keller
Joan Sturtevant

DIGBY

David & Pamela Wilson

DJ & MAGGIE

Joyce Tudor

DOOGAN

David & Lori Burkhart
Sandra Krutz

GARTH

Aunt Sue

ITSY BITSY

Raymond & Joan Iarussi

LEO

Dubois Family

LOUIE

Robert and Judith Fear

MANDY

Nancy Brainerd

MOXIE

Jerry Gambaccini &
Ann Mentzner

SAM SNYDER

Audrey Kail

SHILO, BLUE, JYNX, HILLIS, AND AXEL

Paula Giulitto

SOPHIE

Kiona Jones

TACO & PEANUT

Annette Powers

TYE

Alex & Joan Sabo

VINIE

Edward & Jeannette Tringhese

ZOE

Audrey Humphrey

ZOE EATON

Rayna & Steve McCallum

» PET HONORS

BONNIE & CLYDE

Vicki Mason

CHANDLER, EDWARD, CAMERON, SHANNON

Cathy Shellhammer

DALE & KITTY

Anonymous

KAT

Mike Wassil

MADDIE & SARA

Mary Schellhammer

SHIZNIT AND SASSAFRAS

Steve Brackenrich

**THANK
YOU!**



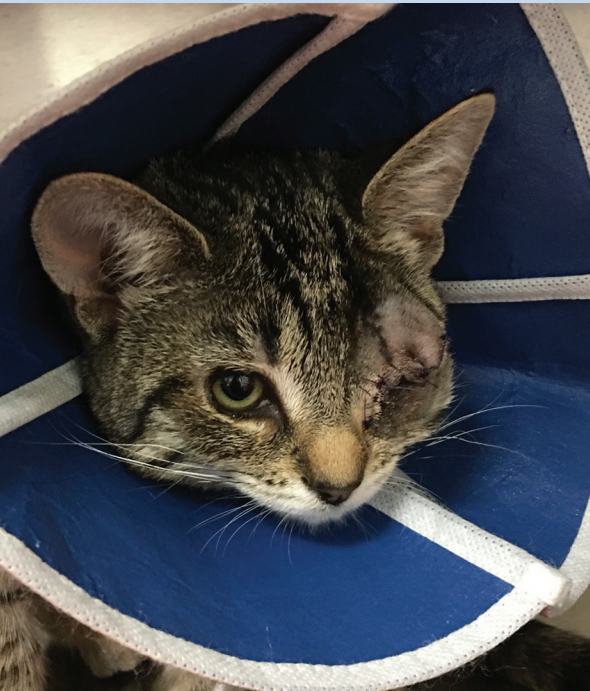
Mrs. Buttersworth Needs a Home

In May, this tiny, sick kitten was rescued from a hoarding situation where 14 cats were removed from a small trailer. She was just 4 weeks old and had a very guarded prognosis. She was underweight, had a severe upper respiratory infection, both of her eyes and nose were crusted shut with discharge, and she wasn't breathing well. To start, she was put on oral antibiotics twice a day and eye medicine three times a day, in addition to warm compresses to help her eyes open up.

She could not eat on her own, so she was fed through a syringe for the first few weeks. After a second round of antibiotics with little improvement, she was sent to the vet for a PCR test to determine exactly what virus was responsible for her illness. They also rechecked her left eye. Despite treatment and care it never healed or opened.

The test results came back positive, for not one, but three viruses. This poor girl was infected with Calicivirus, Herpes virus, and Mycoplasma. She was placed on a new medication for 4 weeks, which finally cleared up the infections except for her left eye. She was placed on another antibiotic until her eye could be removed a few weeks later.

Her left eye was removed and she was spayed. Finally this pretty, strong kitten is healthy and ready for a loving home. Her life so far has been hard and filled with obstacles. Now, she needs a safe, happy place to live her life where she can enjoy being a kitten and family member. She is a little shy, but loves her siblings, and loves to play. She can be vocal at times and makes the cutest noises. Everything is a toy to her. She enjoys being held for short periods of time and likes to be petted. She wouldn't have had the same outcome without the APL, and the support that makes our work possible. Can you give this sweet girl her Fur-ever home?



SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL BARTOBER 5K & 1-MILE!

Saturday, October 10 • 9am • Kent State University

Register: runsignup.com/Race/OH/KentBarktober5K1Mile

This event is subject to change based on COVID-19 restrictions.

