



www.portageapl.org



Tattle Tails

Caring for animals in Need of Help Since 1955



“He Knows” ... This Dog Has The Gift Of Love



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Year-End-Appeal

2011 is quickly coming to an end and Portage APL needs your help to continue giving injured, abandoned and abused animals the love and care they deserve. If you have already sent in your end-of-year gift, “thank you!” If you haven’t, please do so today. See the card in this issue. The hundreds of dogs and cats have only your voice to speak for their

In October, a rather amazing family from Kent came to the APL Shelter to adopt a rather amazing dog ... an Akita and Belgian Malinois mix, but with a somewhat peculiar talent.

The dog, “Stryker” by name, has within him the talent ... or gift ... or power ... to calm other dogs that are nervous or upset. Stryker, now in his ninth year of life, was brought up from the County Dog Pound and quickly became the Shelter’s most caring and loving animal.

There wasn’t a dog or cat or human that Stryker didn’t love. And, when taken out to nursing homes, he would bring great joy and peace to the patients there. In fact, he was so loving and caring, APL staff and management decided that if he wasn’t adopted out, he would live his life, spending his days behind the front desk, as a Shelter Dog. And then, just like in the movies, it happened.

Theresa and Duncan of Kent, have a very special daughter named Colleen, who is autistic and loves animals. And, although at home there is a small dog and a cat, it was felt that a larger, service-type dog could be an aid to Colleen. So, when Theresa and Colleen came in to see dogs, they spotted Stryker (or, was it the other way around?). Anyway, when the adoption counselor brought Stryker into the “meet and greet” room, Stryker, with a wag in his tail, went over to say “hi” to Theresa, but then looked over saw Colleen. As if to excuse himself from everyone, Stryker walked over and sat down before

her and then put his head down on her knee. Sitting across the room, mom said, “He knows ... he knows!”

Stryker stayed close to Colleen during the entire adoption interview process, and when he went home to live with Colleen, he would wait patiently by her bed until she had fully settled under the covers for the night before he would hop up to lay lovingly at her feet.

Today, Stryker is in the process of becoming Colleen’s service dog. He has made no mistakes in his service dog training. He loves the other dog and the cat and Theresa and Duncan ... and most importantly, Colleen.

This holiday season is going to be a special one for an amazing family in Kent, with a very, very happy daughter. The only one that

could possibly be more happy will be the first one to see her eyes blink in the morning. Good boy!



Colleen and Stryker



Stryker’s Adoption Photo

Shelter Statistics YTD

- Investigations - 248
- Charges Filed - 5
- Adoptions - 425
- Rescues - 84
- Spay/Neuters - 878
- Awaiting Forever Homes

120 Dogs & Cats



Two Sides of Abandonment (How The Law Views What People Do)

Portage Animal Protective League
 PO Box 927
 8122 Infirmiry Road
 Ravenna, OH 44266
 Phone 330-296-4022
 Fax 330-296-8648
 Email: frontdesk@portageapl.com

Web: www.portageapl.org

Staff
Shelter Manager
 Bev Bickley
Administrative Assistant
 Sandra Belcastro

Humane Officer
 Steven Chapman
Consulting Veterinarian
 Suzanne Paroff, DVM

Board of Directors Officers
 Karen Carmany - President
 Sandy Krutz – Vice President
 Nicholas Leacoma -Treasurer
 Cheryl Casper, PhD -Secretary

Members
 Mary Cochran
 Brian Coffman
 Sandra Jesionek
 Bruce McBrian
 Bonny Mills
 John Perry
 Doug Sendry

Abandonment. What is it? What does it mean? What if you (or the “Kitten Fairy”), drop off a box of black and white “Sylvesters” on a door step? How about leaving “Spot,” the lab mix, behind in an empty house because you’re not able to take him to your new home?

As our budgets get tighter and the economy looks bleaker, some people feel as if they have to choose between taking care of their pets or taking care of their children and families. Just as there are laws governing the treatment of people, there are also those governing that of animals. We’ll examine two sides of abandonment and provide some solutions for this growing problem.

In our first scenario, the owner or “finder” believes the right thing to do is to leave found kittens on a door step hoping whomever finds them will see that they go to a good home. Because of the noble intentions of most people, these kittens usually receive the help they need. Unfortunately, passing the responsibility onto someone else is still considered legally to be

abandonment ... **even if you innocently came across these kittens and are not the owner.**

By removing the kittens and placing them in someone else’s care you are abandoning the animals as they are in your custody. This is a case where you should leave the animals where they are and immediately call your local humane society or APL and inform them of the issue. This is the most effective and lawful way to help the animals.

Our second scenario is vastly different. In most likely a desperate measure, an owner must move and he or she chooses to leave Spot behind to fend for itself in an empty home, because the new landlord won’t allow pets or the cost of food and vet care has become too costly. If not discovered in time, the consequence for our four-legged friend can ultimately be starvation and death. If Spot is lucky, someone will hear his barking, and perhaps the owner *hopes* this will occur. Sadly, this is not always the case.

Regardless of how we as Humane Officers come across Spot, **our little canine is still considered abandoned.**

These two stories are not only examples, but happen often in today’s economic climate. Recently APL staff responded to a reported case of abandonment where 2 dogs and a 1 cat were left to fend for themselves in a trailer under inhabitable and unhealthy conditions. It was found that the owners had moved to the Akron area and had not been seen at their trailer in weeks. The dogs and cat were removed and brought to the safe care of the APL. If not for the tip we received, the ending to this story could have been far worse.



Steve Chapman, Humane Officer

M.A.S.H. Clinic Schedule



Portage APL’s low-cost Spay/ Neuter clinic for cats will be held on the following dates in 2012:

Jan 13	July 6
Feb 3	Aug 3
Mar 2	Aug 31
Apr 6	Oct 5
May 4	Nov 2
Jun 1	Dec 7

Reservations are required and fees must be paid in advance

(Please note the following reflects fee increases for 2012)

- Female spay - \$50
- Ear Tipping - \$10
- Ear Mite Treatment - \$15

All other fees remain the same
 The clinic application form is available at www.portageapl.org or call 330.296.4022.

Phoenix Rising (The Story Of A Kitten & The Angel Who Saved Him)

Back in August, Humane Officer Steve Chapman was called to the Kentwood restaurant by a worker there. A kitten was lying out in the parking lot. He was about 10 weeks old and weighed only a bit over one pound . . . half the normal weight for a kitten that age. He was emaciated, dehydrated and could hardly stand. He was covered with fleas so bad they had caused anemia to his gums, tongue, nose, paws and ears. What should have been pink skin was white.



Phoenix on the day he was bought into the shelter.

Back at the APL Shelter, he was given fluids and some kitten

canned food with supplements, but could only eat a little since he was so weak. The bath at least got rid of many of the fleas and he was warmed up.

The next day he was placed into Foster Care with the APL's chief kitten caregiver, Kelly McFarland, who has, over the years, saved hundreds of lives of at-risk kittens and cats. She looked at him and made no promises, but noted a certain glimmer in his eyes that said he wasn't ready to die. He also was trying to eat, which showed some fight left in him. So, she took him home.

"Phoenix," as he would be named, began his slow ascent from the ashes. He was given something to kill the rest of the fleas, a heater to keep him warm and regular injections of fluids to fight dehydration.

His feedings were small, administered by syringe. He tried to crawl, but often couldn't make it to the litter box in time. If Kelly saw him, she picked him up and held him so he could use it. If she didn't get there in time, she simply cleaned him up and dried him off.



Phoenix was feeling spry after a few weeks of nursing at Kelly's home.

Over the next few weeks, Phoenix continued to climb in weight and strength. He eventually was taken out of quarantine and placed with five other kittens in Kelly's sunroom.

guy who, with the help of an angel, learned how to soar back into life.

Phoenix was recently adopted and now has a loving new home..

By the beginning of September he was over three pounds and was neutered. He loved to cuddle and, as most growing kittens do became curious about everything. He loved playing with the others.

Kelly took special interest in placing this kitten. He's a special and lucky little



Caregiver, Kelly McFarland

Shelter Happenings



Pet Supplies Plus in Streetsboro was the host for a recent Adopt-a-thon for Portage APL.

Pictured (left) are Portage APL board member Sandra Jesionek with Pet Supplies Plus Assistant Manager Matt Garcia. Thank you to all who attended and to Pet Supplies Plus for hosting the APL at its store!



Pictured (right) board president Karen Carmany helps lead a special facility tour arranged for members of the Leadership Circle of the APL. Seen here is the cat residence room with one of the residents (near right)..



Classic Honda of Streetsboro invited Portage APL to its showrooms in September. In addition to paying any fees for pets adopted during the event, Classic Honda donated \$50 per car sold that day. Portage APL came home with \$500 which was something to bark about.

“Wags to Witches” Brings Ribbons & Prizes to Proud Pooches!



A chilly Saturday morning didn't deter owners and their pets from dressing up for Halloween at the Portage APL.

County Commissioner Maureen Frederick and Theresa Trivelli joined APL president Karen Carmany in judging the various categories. Rev. Julie Blake Fisher (lower right), rector at Christ Episcopal Church in Kent offered a blessing for the animals and a number of those receiving blessings were either former pound or shelter dogs. Behind each costume was a story of an animal in need and the kindness of those willing to give a dog a second chance at life.

In 2012, “Wags to Witches” will become a part of the “Harvest Moon Dog Festival” to be held at Wingfoot State Park on Saturday, October 20th.

Please put that date on your calendar now!

Donations & Time Make Big Difference



Schumann's Roadside & Towing in Ravenna hosted a Car Show to benefit Portage APL. A whopping \$2,500 was raised and everyone had fun. Thanks, Joe and all who helped ... even from as far away as Columbus!



Event organizer Joe Mazzola chats with APL Humane Officer Chapman.

If you see the Portage APL Humane Officer with a smile on his face this winter, it may be due to his warm behind.

Thanks to a board member's generous donation of a 2002 Toyota Highlander with heated leather seats (hence the smile), HO Steve Chapman can now transport animals in comfort and without having to use the large APL van. The Highlander is a 4 cylinder, all-wheel drive SUV with room for at least two cages. Even the animals give it “two paws up!”

“The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.”

— Author Unknown



It takes a committee to make an event work



Joe presents the check



Officer Steve Chapman's new “wheels.”

Ok ... Ok! One Last (Maybe) Time: More On Sugar Ray

For all the pain and suffering he went through this past Spring, Sugar Ray's Summer was one of "Great Contentment" and he deserves every single bit of it.

Not only does Sugar Ray have a new "best buddy," Brutus to play with, share stories of lost bones with and otherwise enjoy "la belle vie" (the good life).

The two boys now enjoy 30+ fenced-in acres in which to romp. They have a pond to go skinny-dipping in. And when Sugar Ray gets tired, he has a bed on the

porch (in addition to his bedroom in the house), upon which to rest. (It isn't known whether Brutus has similar accommodations, but we think Brutus pretty much sleeps where he wants to.

Oh, and, of course, there is the golf cart they get to ride around in (neither drives particularly well, but they like to pose for pictures).

To sum things up for those who have followed this epic — Sugar Ray is happy with Brutus and his new family. He is healthy. He eats well. He gets plenty of

Exercise and he sleeps like a baby (a baby that snores).

The end. Fin. That's all folks! (... maybe later). Here are some pix.



Greetings!

I am beginning to dispute the constancy of time. Up until this past year, days seemed like days and hours had 60 minutes in them. But, somehow, now my weeks seem like Monday-Friday followed by a weekend that lasts only a few hours. Then it's back to Monday-Friday again. What's happened? I thought I was retired and time would sort of slow down!

At Portage APL so much is happening my retirement seems like a relic of my past. Where once we had one major fund raising event each year we now have three and a fourth in development. Adopt-a-thons are now becoming a more common occurrence, as are speaking engagements. Volunteers are once again in greater numbers at the shelter and at events. TattleTails, the web and our Facebook page appear to be working well. Board and committee meetings are now as routine as reruns on TV and signing "thank you" letters to kind and generous donors, such as yourself, has grown into a weekly rather than a monthly pleasure. Progress? I certainly hope so!

A Note From Our President

Speaking of progress ... the APL board hopes to hire an executive director for the organization pretty soon. I have been "acting" part-time in that role as board president for the past three years and can attest to the difficulty of the job. The APL needs the leadership that a full-time professional can provide.

The APL has operating and capital challenges ahead. We need to improve isolation capacity to lessen the possibility of receiving pets with contagious illnesses and a better means to isolate animals already at the shelter when they become ill. All it takes is a wrong cough here or a wrong sneeze there and the staff is in crisis mode for a few weeks.

There also is the need for more space to house cats at the shelter. Last year, we had to politely turn away over 3,000 requests to take cats. This year the number has passed 4,000 and continues to climb. We can only do so much. We can't be a warehouse and don't have the means to house great numbers. But, perhaps a few more!

But enough about business for the moment. The holiday season is upon us for a brief but welcome period and then we descend into snow of winter in northeast Ohio. So, I want to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful and peaceful holiday season and to thank you for the comfort you have given the shelter dogs and cats through your generous support this year.

There are many who would like to help us but simply can't for various reasons. So, your help is truly a blessing for the holidays and every day of the year!



Sincerely,

Karen



"I had been told that the training procedure with cats was difficult. It's not. Mine had me trained in two days."

— Bill Dana

Quickie Quiz

Answers are at bottom page 7

- Q. Which fact on hoarding below is false?
- Animal hoarders are also known to hoard objects.
 - Without therapy the rate of recidivism is close to 80 percent.
 - 250,000 animals are reported victims of hoarding each year.
 - 65% of hoarding cases involve cats and 60% involve dogs.

A Special Thank You!

76 Antique Mall
All APL Volunteers
All State Giving Campaign
Arnie's West Branch
Steakhouse
Aurora Golf Club
Aurora Veterinary Clinic
Best Friends Animal Clinic
Brown Mackie College
CARS Program, LLC
Classic Honda
Crestwood Sr. Class, 2010
Davey Tree
David Sommers & Assoc.
Deluxe Bakery
Dr. Laura Miller (MASH)
Escott & Company, CPA's
Ferrara Electric- Joe
Ferrara
Garrettsville Animal Hosp.
Giant Eagle
Graphic Expressions
Henry Defer Intern. School
Home Savings
Jeane Wolcott Trust
Jo & Pam Mazzola
Kamm Foundation
Kelly McFarland
Kent State University
McMaster-Carr Supply Co.
Memorial Animal Hospital
Mimi's
Nature Stone
Nestle Community Care
North Coast Medical
Training
Paris Healthcare Linens
Pepsico Foundation
John & Mary Perry
Pet Smart Charities
Pet Supplies Plus



Family, Friends & Pet Tributes & Honors

People Memorials

In Memory of

Nedra Anderson
Dennis & Ann Williams
Paul & Jinny Fedorchak
James & Pat Steimack
Theresa Trivelli
Sheri Stutzman
Mr. & Mrs. Robenstine
Christine Hutchinson
Diane Plough
Larry & Deb Cross
Thomas & Estella Decker

John Andrews
Jacqueline Woodring
Sally Roberts
Don & Betty Stockley
Brown & Rausch School
Custodians
Mary Kneale

Barbara Berger
Barbara Watson
Bill & Debra Martin

Ernest Carlson
Ruth Carlson

Sara Catlin
John Catlin
Brown & Rousch
Custodians

Marilyn Fuller
Darlene Fuller
Mary Klay Kadowec

Tom Geggus
Mary Plazo

Fannie Giovinazzo
Judith Giovinazzo

Leona Haley
Dawn Carson

Clyde Hoffman
Jerry & Pat Ziamal

Edna Hura
Jennifer Hura
Robert & Frances Moore
Thomas Hura

Paul Hughes
Carol Hughes

William Kail
Alan & Deb Shorr
Aurora Vet Clinic
Sandra Krutz
Virginia Phile
Rich & Shirley Beck
John & Elizabeth Martin
James & Joane Rose
Friends of Fashion
Steve Rzucidlo
Andrea Hinkle
Lila Elliott
Ron & Vera Dombcick
Portage Amateur Radio
Club
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Klein
Howard & Diane
Brubaker
Jean Smith-Graham

Dave Kloss
Shannon Kloss
Ron & Sue Trace

Joe Koval & Lucky
Barbara Cavanaugh

Virginia MacDonald
Bernadine Wright

Louis Machovec
Mary Lou Bart
Michael & Lee Cook

Robert Mahoney
Larry & Joyce McQuerry

Liz Mains
Robert Mains

John McFarland
Joan Siman
Lynn Harvey
Jeigh Ann Stamm
Don & June Wilson

John Michaels
Eunice Michaels

Lanier Minton
Karen Carrigg

Linda Palmisano
Suzanne Monsanty
June Morgan

Jill Porter
Norma Battenfield

Lynn Priest
Jim & Dianne Damicone
Mr. & Mrs. Herskowitz

Donald Righi
Mary Ellen Cesa
David Taylor
UAW-Local 420
Claudette Hrick
Edward & Gail
Kornuc
Regina Health Center
Roy & Christine
Frostenson
William & Christy
Astalos
Ron & Sylvia Smiley

Chuck Rouer
Shirley Rouer

Mike Savich
Jeff & Verna Parks

Jody Seyfried
Patricia Hartle

Virginia Shuttler
Judith Culler

Cindy Tarr
John Thompson

Edward Thompson
John Thompson

Yvonne West
Mr & Mrs. Winkleman
Betty Roy
Bev Sherman
Loa Ranson
Jeanne Gruver
M.E. Polumbo

Lucy Twark
Peter Twark

Dennis Zavinski
Catherine Helms
David Lowe
John & Connie Flynn
Linda Frankhauser
Dr. & Mrs. Marcial
Robert & Janice
Grove
Robert & Edith Zais
Mary Beutel
Tony & Janet
Esposito
Wayne & Dana Smith
Schlabig & Associates
Richard & Pat Nelson
Terry & Kathleen
Gray
Betsy Siman
Paula Giulitto
Lyliane Mathiew-
Kerns

Pet Memorials

In Memory of

**4th of July
Smokie Joe**
Sandra Lee

All Malinda's Pets
Malind Tuttle

Angel
Dorothy Bench

Buddy
Chester Davis

Chadwick
Susanna Shearer

Cleveland
Kelly Paulozzi

Daisy
Angela Hocevar

Grace
Lillian Koval

Holly
James & Phyllis
Baker

Krinkle
Nancy Dalton

Magic
Barbara Viller

Magic Maggie
Carole Kane

Max
Jerry Japp
The APL Staff

Molly
Elsie Joy

Murphy
John & Ann Gargan

Oreo
Kathy Cordaro

P-Nut
Elizabeth Sinclair-
Colando

Rocky
Mr. & Mrs. Donovan

Family, Friends & Pet Tributes & Honors



**A Special
Thank you!**

Portage Community Bank
 Portage County Job & Family Services
 Portage Vision
 Scrap & Stamp Haven
 Stacy Schumann & Molly
 Stow-Kent Animal Hospital
 Superior Beverage
 Terry & Denise Howe
 Western Reserve Feed
 WKSU - 89.7
 WNIR - FM 100.1

Portage APL salutes ACME
 Fresh Market on East Main St. in Kent for this "Coins for Pets" wishing well to benefit our dogs and cats at the Shelter.



When you check out your groceries at ACME, remember to deposit any change into the well to help Portage APL care for the more than 1,000 cats and dogs we shelter each year. This is one form of "change" everyone can get behind. Thank you ACME!

(Pet Memorials Continued)

Rosey
Audrey Kail

Saki
Doreen McDonald

Samantha
Michael Cullen

Sammy
Rhonda Klar

Slider-Little Man
Dave & Lori Kattler

Snookins
Sherry Turner

Streaker
Jerrie Miskel

Stormie
Sandra Lee

Trudy
Romualda Lane

Willow
Ann Floyd

People Honors
In Honor Of

JoAnn Cencula
Connie Knop

Nancy Flogg
John & Diane Chiarucci

Drew & Emily Hess
Marilyn Bosser

Robert & Loretta Jones
Darmon & Janice Jones

Carolyn Kale
Jacqueline Woodring

Betty Rossi
Paul Rossi

Richard & Veronica Wise
Karen Wise

Pet Honors
In Honor Of

Boots
Richard & Grace Rymer

Cage Sponsors
Thank You

Sue Atkinson
Joy Bogard

Brimfield Parents Club

Mary Champer
Christine Coiner

Mike & Tracy Farrell

Eileen Hogan

Mary Howitt
Pat Keller

David & Maureen Kemmerle

Robert & Jenn Larson

Cathy Leach
Mike & Lynn Lemon

Carol Lockhart
Michael Lukas

Alan & Judith Mail

Graig & Darcy Melzer

Father David Misbrener

Karen Soini
Carl & Deb Suchovsky

Linda Barlow Swanson

Mike & Lynda Tushar

Helen Vari

William & Banche Wetherholt

Leadership Circle

Life Member
Eileen Hogan

2011 Members

James & Phyllis Jean Baker

Karen & Thurl Carmany

Dr. Cheryl Casper & Dr. Eugene Wenninger

Mary & Tom Cochran
Mildred Colburn

Bob & Margie Connor

James & Nancy Dalton

Jennifer Deckard

Gary & Gayle Gallupe
Greta Hoover

Eugene Hurtienne

Sandra Jesionek

David & Maureen Kemmerle

James & Kathryn Lamb

Bruce McBrian

Judith Mail

Nancy Mitchell

Rosie Moore

Nicholas Leacoma

Wendell Parr

Mary Varalli - Perry & John Perry

John Rock

Marlena Roman

Murali Shanker

Lynda & Michael Tushar

Kathy Willis

Jean Wolcott



Quickie Quiz Answer: B, Without therapy the recidivism (collecting again) is 100%



Portage Animal Protective League
 8122 Infirmary Road
 Ravenna, OH 44266

Phone: 330.296.4022

Fax: 330.296.8648

Web at www.portageapl.org

Facebook at [Portage Animal Protective League](https://www.facebook.com/PortageAnimalProtectiveLeague)

Be a responsible owner! Spay or neuter your pet, and if you have a dog, get it licensed. It 's the law.

Portage Animal Protective League is a private, nonprofit 501©(3) animal welfare organization. We are not a government agency. We rely on donors like you to keep our doors open. Thank you!

Nonprofit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Ravenna, OH 44266
 Permit No. 85

Our Wish List

SPECIAL NEEDS -

Leaf blower, floor buffer, garden hoses & nozzles, lawn rakes, 4 or 5 drawer vertical files and any dog food for giving to those in need.

HELP KEEP US CLEAN & HEALTHY -

Pedigree, Iams or Purina One dog/puppy food, Pedigree, Iams or Purina cat/kitten food, Milk Bone biscuits, Scamp non-clumping, non-scoop litter, Yesterday 's News Litter, hand soap, Clorox bleach, Mr. Clean, Spic & Span, laundry detergent, paper towels, heavy duty trash bags (33 gallon or larger), latex gloves S,M &L, and rags

HELP OUR OFFICE RUN SMOOTHLY -

Postage stamps, laminating sheets, note-books, blue pocket folders, tape, binder clips, pens, (blue & black ink), copy paper (white & colored) and batteries.

TOYS & TREATS FOR FURRY FRIENDS -

Dog/Cat toys, Quality Dog/Cat treats and chews (USA made), Cat/Dog beds, towels, blankets, rubber-backed rugs, all sized dog crates.

Items can be brought to the shelter during regular shelter hours. Call 330.296.4022 with any questions.

Donate Your Car, Boat or RV



You can help homeless dogs and cats through a generous donation of your used car, boat or recreational vehicle.

You will get a tax deductible contribution. Your item will receive Free Pick-up and Free Processing.

For more information, call TOLL

FREE at 877.537.5277 or go to www.charitableautoresources.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Dog Walkers and Cat "Cuddlers" are needed at the shelter. Call 330.296.4022 , extension 0 to volunteer.