



Portage Animal Protective League

2025 Report to the Community

You might not have known it by looking at the Chinese Zodiac, but we could have easily hailed 2025 as the **Year of the Cat**. Our cages were overflowing with cats and kittens of all sizes, ages and colors, including more that we took in from various hoarding situations.

We also started the Perks for Parks program to address the growing problem of cat overpopulation in area trailer parks. Additionally, through our partnership with Riggi Rescue, we conducted a large-scale TNVR (trap, neuter, vaccinate and return) initiative at a another local trailer park that was overrun with cats.

Fortunately, many of the felines who found their way to us were adopted in record numbers.

Who let the dogs out?

But 2025 wasn't just about the cats, as our shelter took in nearly 1,000 animals, including cats *and* dogs. Plus, all those dogs got to go outside and play a lot more than usual thanks to the support of local donors who helped fund a new fenced-in dog play yard, complete with a new concrete pathway and turf. We also added turf to another outdoor area and repaired/reworked our kennel fencing to make space for more dogs. Our great staff and dedicated volunteers kicked off new dog enrichment and training programs to make the dogs more social, happy and adoptable.

Dog owners came out in record numbers to support us in October during our legacy Barktober event, which was one of several of our successful fundraising events in 2025.

Our dogs and cats additionally benefited from our new partnership with the Vet Center of Hudson which sends Dr. Melissa Dorner to our shelter once a month to provide routine onsite care and save the time, expense and stress of transporting animals who are already frightened.

Not surprisingly, 2025 was a very challenging year as we, like other shelters across the country, faced overwhelming numbers of animals who needed homes. Overcrowded shelters have become a national crisis. We do our best to make room, but the sick, abandoned and abused keep coming. We are often on the frontlines battling against hoarding, which has seen a steady global increase. Hundreds of thousands of animals have become victims partially as a result of pandemic-related factors, mental illness, financial strain and housing instability.

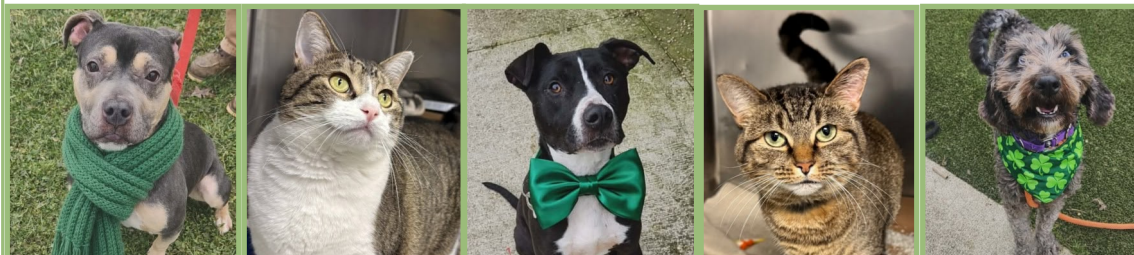
We are so thankful to our loyal supporters who make it possible for us to keep fighting for those who have no voice. And to those families whose members have made us part of their estate plans, we extend a special thank you. Bequests are our lifeblood and help to keep our doors open for those who need us.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We couldn't do this valuable work without you!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Larson
President, Board of Directors

Chalan Lowry
Executive Director



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Ina Sayre

2025 Statistics

Intake:

925

Humane

Investigation

Complaints:

1387

Community Cats

Spayed or

Neutered:

476

Community Impact



More than **500 cats** found loving homes in 2025. Also, our Perks for Parks program helped 43 cats get spayed or neutered at no charge. And, through a coordinated effort with Riggi Rescue and others, nearly 60 cats were also fixed at another local trailer park. The APL covered the cost for these efforts.



Our community is important. Through our pet food pantry, over 8,000 lbs. of pet food was distributed to more than 150 families in Portage County. And, our partnership with the Kent American Legion / Pets to Vets Program resulted in the adoption of 54 animals. Veterans' adoption fees were covered!



Thanks to generous donors, a brand new play yard complete with special turf grass was installed so our dogs could play, run and enjoy freedom away from their kennels. We also reconfigured some of our outdoor kennel areas and began new enrichment activities to keep our dogs happy and healthy while they wait for homes.



In 2025 Portage APL's humane agent investigated over 1300 reports of cruelty, neglect, and abandonment in Portage County. Providing education and resources is an important part of her job. From dogs and cats, to farm animals and small pets, she spends her time making sure animals in our community are properly cared for under Ohio law.

A Success Story to Remember

Much of this community report is focused on the year at a glance, but each animal has a story.



Dino, skin and bones, deformed and afraid, was left for dead at a turnpike service plaza. He was a shock to all who saw him. He was unable to walk properly and so he scrambled along doing his best with bent legs.

Due to severe malnutrition, Dino's growing body was affected and it caused deformity in his legs. It's believed he may have been kept in a crate that was too small, and so during an important period for bone growth, he did not get what he needed.

His road was a long one. Many tests, x-rays, hydrotherapy, medications, and braces were all on his treatment plan over the course of months. We were so thankful to his foster home for caring for him during that time.

Though Dino will never walk like a normal dog, he is alive and in a loving home because of the care he received. He gets to play, snuggle, feel joy and never worry about hunger again.

He is one story. One animal. One life saved. Each one matters.

