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Without **YOU**, it wouldn't be **PAW**ssible.

## Adopting a pet for the holidays.

So you're thinking about adopting a pet over the holidays and you're wondering...is it a good idea or not?

After all, it's already a hectic time with guests, cooking, decorating, vacations and irregular schedules. Adding a new pet to the mix doesn't sound like the best idea.

These days, more and more rescues encourage adoptions during the holidays. And that's great news for the nation's 8 million rescue pets who need homes all year long!

Of course, no matter what time of year you adopt a furry family member, preparation is key. So before you head off to your local rescue, ask yourself these questions:

### Do you have time?

Although the holidays are busy, it can actually be a good time to adopt since your family may be spending more

time at home. Take a close look at your schedule and be honest about whether you are able to make special accommodations.

### Have you done your research on adopting a pet?

It can be easy to fall for that cute little puppy you see online, but is it really the right fit for your family? Think about your family's lifestyle and then make an informed decision.

### Do you have realistic expectations?

Sure, the kids may be the ones begging for a new kitten and promising they'll be totally responsible for their care, but don't be fooled. At the end of the day, the adults are ultimately fully responsible for that fuzzy little face.

### Are you ready for the commitment?

Remember, pets are for life, not just for the holidays. Dogs can live 10 to 15 years, and cats even longer. Make



sure you're ready to devote the next decade or so to your furry family member.

Finally, if you decide that your schedule doesn't allow you to bring home a pet during the holidays, **why not take a different approach that might be even more fun?**

Wrap up supplies like leashes, collars and bowls and put them under the tree for the kids. After the presents are opened, spend time getting your home ready and having family discussions about the pet. Then, head to the rescue after Christmas to pick out your next best friend.

## SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It's the time of year when we reflect on the things we are thankful for. When I assumed the role of Board President earlier this year, I was grateful to have the opportunity to serve the Toledo Animal Rescue. For over 90 years, the organization has faithfully worked to find loving forever homes for the animals in its care, **no matter how long it takes.**

We're coming to the end of a very busy year. We updated our name and logo to better reflect our mission (which remains unchanged), became more involved in the communities we serve, and we continued to help cats and dogs find their forever homes. It's really a very exciting time to be part of such a well-respected organization.

We had another successful **Picnic** event at the Belmont and our **Celebration of Wine and Food** continues to grow in popularity. Our **Holiday Fundraiser** will be held on December 5th at the beautifully decorated Toledo Club. A special thanks to everyone who helps bring these events to life.

We would also like to thank Phil Selden. Phil, who is moving out of town soon, tirelessly volunteered with the cats in our care. He also served as Treasurer to the Board of Directors. Thank you Phil! We (including the kitties) will miss you greatly!

Please stay tuned for our upcoming projects and fundraisers in 2019. The Rescue has plans to break ground on a much-needed large dog quarantine area and improve the outdoor play area. We will also introduce new programs like "**Meet Your Match**" which will help pair animals with adopters and "**RunningDog**" that will match volunteers from local running clubs with our dogs for some outdoor walk/jog time.

I personally would like to thank our supporters, employees, volunteers, and the Board of Directors for making Toledo Animal Rescue the best in Toledo. **It wouldn't be PAWssible without your support!**

I hope you enjoy our holiday newsletter and please don't forget to include the Rescue in your annual giving and/or estate planning. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions on how your gifts of stock, real estate and other assets can help the animals for years to come.

**The Toledo Animal Rescue wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and safe start to the new year.**

Warmest wishes,  
Kate Kelley

Toledo Animal Rescue is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
The Rescue doesn't receive any government funding and relies solely on donations.



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[toledoanimalrescue.org](http://toledoanimalrescue.org)  
Email: [info@toledoanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@toledoanimalrescue.org)

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Closed: Wed., Sun., Holidays

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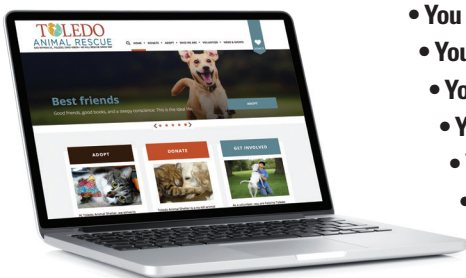
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## WHAT CAN YOU DO AT TOLEDOANIMALRESCUE.ORG?



- You can make a secure, tax-deductible donation
- You can sign up for our e-newsletter
- You can fill out a volunteer application
- You can check out our event calendar
- You can see animals that are at the Rescue
- You can fill out an adoption application
- You can post a lost or found animal
- **NEW! You can shop at our online Rescue Store**

## E-NEWSLETTER

If you would like to know what is going on at the Toledo Animal Rescue, take a few minutes and sign up for our e-newsletter.

Visit [toledoanimalrescue.org](http://toledoanimalrescue.org) or our Facebook page and sign up. We just need your name and email address.

# Great gift ideas to benefit the Rescue.



## NEW ONLINE STORE

Just in time for the holidays, the Toledo Animal Rescue has launched a **new online store!** We have many items for sale and all the proceeds go to help the animals at the Rescue.

We had such a wonderful response to our doggie bandannas that we created a line of **“Rescued Is My Favorite Breed!”** apparel for the entire family. We also have totes, mugs, smartphone cases, blankets, clocks, baby bibs and more.

Visit [toledoanimalrescue.org](http://toledoanimalrescue.org) and select **“SHOP”** from the navigation at the top of the page. Buy something for yourself or the animal lover in your life. **Every purchase helps the Rescue!** We'll be adding new items all the time, so be sure to check back often.

## KENNEL SPONSORSHIP

Our **Kennel Sponsorship Program** makes a great gift idea for special occasions or events, like birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and graduations. It's also a thoughtful way to honor or pay tribute to a friend, family member or pet. For companies, it's a unique way to show your community support.

Once you become a sponsor of a kennel, Toledo Animal Rescue will send you updates on the animals that are directly benefiting from your generosity. Your kennel will also receive a sponsor nameplate.

All kennel sponsorships are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. Visit [toledoanimalrescue.org/donate](http://toledoanimalrescue.org/donate) and select **“Kennel Sponsorship”** in the side menu or call the Rescue at 419-382-1130 for more details.



## RESCUE MINI MAKEOVER

Brenda Eber, a local paint and color specialist, stopped by the Rescue for a visit and volunteered to give our lobby an exciting makeover.

Using the colors in the Rescue's logo for inspiration, she came up with the color scheme and got to work.

Our jaws dropped when we saw the finished lobby. What a huge difference! **We absolutely love it!**

Thank you Brenda for all you did for the Rescue. **We appreciate generous people like you!**



Oliver Thomas Dunn asked his friends and family to donate money and items to the Toledo Animal Rescue for his 10th birthday. The world needs more kids like Oliver!

**Thank you very much!**



BEFORE



AFTER

# Letters from home.

## LILLY'S LETTER

Dear Rescue Team,

We send you our warmest wishes as you go forward as the newly renamed "Toledo Animal Rescue." You will always be "the angels among us."

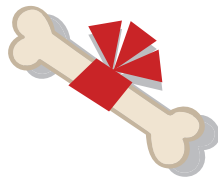


Last Tuesday was Lilly's three year adoption birthday. Is it possible that she's even more beautiful and lovable as time passes? She is truly "the mistress of all she surveys" and is referred to by many of our friends as HRH (Her Royal Highness).

Our close proximity to Anthony Wayne High School and Jr High gives Lilly the opportunity to make new friends on her daily walks. **She loves people!** What a gift she continues to be to us.

Again, our best to all of you as you journey through this exciting new "Rescue" chapter. **The name certainly fits what you and your team do on a daily basis!**

Warmest Regards,  
Karen, Vance and Lilly Tavitian



## ALLIE & ABBY UPDATE

Allie and Abby were surrendered to the Rescue as a result of home foreclosure.

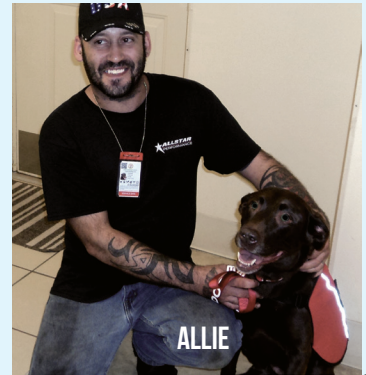
The Rescue discovered that Allie had serious eye problems and took her to BluePearl Specialty & Emergency, located in Southfield, Michigan. She was diagnosed with severe Sclerokeratitis with secondary lipid corneal degeneration in both eyes and required compounded eye drops and two other medications.

Due to the cost of the eye medicine, she had a difficult time finding her forever home until a family from Indiana stopped by for a visit. This family completely fell in love with Allie and decided to adopt her despite the costly medical expenses. Soon after, they enrolled

Allie in classes to become a special needs dog and she recently graduated with honors!

Abby had severe separation anxiety and was adopted by Helen Bensch, the Rescue's Executive Director. She is also doing well.

**Don't you just love a happy ending?**



## ABBY'S LETTER

Dear Toledo Animal Rescue,

We adopted Topaz, now named Abby, from Toledo Animal Rescue. She has been a great addition to our family. I lost two of my beloved cats to illness this past year, both loving companions and beautiful cats. I needed to find a cat that was loving and wanted love in return.

From day one, Abby has been a happy cat who loves to purr and play. She has all her claws, but doesn't damage anything in the house.

She doesn't bite or scratch and I have never heard her make a hissing noise. She is the ultimate lap cat (she's sitting on my lap as I write this letter).

**We are so pleased that Abby found her forever home and we have a forever friend.**

Sincerely,  
John Napiealski



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**Happy Birthday Nicole Martinez**  
Rachel Martinez  
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**Honor of Peg Werner**  
Jon & Lee Werner  
Amy Werner  
**Happy Birthday Robin Prettyman**  
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# RESCUE HOLIDAY POEM

It's the night before Christmas and all through the town,  
every shelter is full – we are lost but not found.

Our numbers are hung on our kennels so bare,  
we hope every minute that someone will care.

They'll come to adopt us and give us a call –  
"Come here, Spot and Alfie – go fetch your new ball!"

The kind workers come through with a meal and a pat,  
with so many to care for, they can't stay to chat.

They move to the next kennel, giving each of us cheer,  
we know that they wonder how long we'll be here.

We lie down to sleep and sweet dreams fill our heads,  
of a home filled with love and our own cozy beds.

Then we wake to see sad eyes, brimming with tears,  
our friends filled with emptiness, worry, and fear.

If you can't adopt us and there's no room at the Inn,  
could you help with the bills and fill our food bin?

We count on your kindness each day of the year,  
can you give more than hope to everyone here?

Please make a donation to pay for the heat,  
and help get us something special to eat.

The Rescue has given us a great place to live,  
and we'll find our forever homes, if more people give.

## FROM HELEN'S DESK

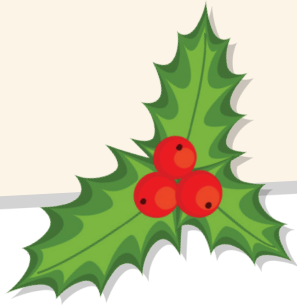
We are grateful for your generosity in supporting the work we do,  
and helping us create a community where all pets are treated with  
respect and compassion.

When pets enter the Rescue, we do everything we can to reduce their  
stress and keep them comfortable. Dogs have raised beds, blankets,  
Kong toys, daily walks and are bathed and groomed as needed. They  
also receive basic obedience lessons with our professional trainer,  
Carol Humbarger. Many of them are treat oriented which helps them  
focus and anticipate rewards for calm behavior.

Cats have soft bedding, roomy enclosures with separate litter box  
access, toys and privacy when needed. Multiple cats can play in our  
bonding room, where they can roam, climb and lounge in the sunlight  
while awaiting adoption. There are numerous cat toys that the  
volunteers love to get out and play with them. Some are content just  
to lay there while being brushed.

**Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season and a  
prosperous new year.**

Helen F. Bensch  
Executive Director, Toledo Animal Rescue



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