

Winter Newsletter

TOLEDO
ANIMAL RESCUE



A Look Back...

NEW DIRECTOR

The Toledo Animal Rescue was pleased to welcome **Steve Kiessling** to our organization in April 2020. He comes to us with over 20 years of experience in the non-profit world, holding positions with duties ranging from executive leadership, program development, fundraising, and project management.

COVID-19

In March the Rescue started taking the necessary precautions to keep everyone safe so we could continue to find homes for the animals in our care. **We thank everyone for wearing a mask and donations are appreciated.**

KITTENS SEASON!

Many shelters, including Toledo Animal Rescue, were overwhelmed with litters of unwanted kittens this year. **The Rescue managed to care for and eventually adopt out several litters of kittens to loving homes.**

VIRTUAL WALKS & WAGS 2020

Because of COVID-19, we held our 2nd annual Walks & Wags in the virtual world. With the support of the community we managed to raise over \$6000. **A special thanks to Glass City Dog Park and our many partners and sponsors.**



We filled over 100 Goodie Bags for everyone who registered for our virtual event. Bags could be picked up at Glass City Dog Park on September 19th.

Visit toledoanimalrescue.org and sign up for our e-newsletter on our homepage.



The Toledo Animal Rescue would like to thank **HOT Graphics** for helping us print this newsletter.



Letter from the President

Friends,

This year we welcomed our new director, Steve Kiessling. Steve was hired with the expectation of taking the Rescue to the next level and then COVID hit. Although some certain challenges and adjustments needed to be made, this gave Steve some time to familiarize himself with the team and operations of the Rescue (there's always a silver lining). Even with the unique circumstances, he has increased the intakes and adoptions significantly since his arrival.

We are excited to announce that we have engaged Thomas Porter Architects to start working on the much-needed renovations to our facility. By April 2021, the plans should be in place and we will begin our Capital Campaign to fund the project. Many improvements are planned for the building as well as the grounds. Our end goal is to provide the best environment possible for the animals while we work to find them new homes. We'll provide regular updates on our progress as we get closer to construction.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the Toledo Animal Rescue Board is losing one of our most hardworking and dedicated Board members at the end of this year. Over the last 20+ years, **Nancy Ligibel** has dedicated thousands of hours of service as both a member of the Auxiliary and Rescue Board Member. **Thank you Nancy for your love and dedication to the Rescue and the animals in its care. You will be missed.**

I personally would like to thank our friends and supporters for your love and continued support to the Toledo Animal Rescue as well as the employees, volunteers, and the Board of Directors for making Toledo Animal Rescue the best in Toledo.

As you read the stories on the following pages, keep in mind that we are only able to take in and offer indefinite care for animals because of donations from people like you. Your 100% tax-deductible gift will make sure that our animals receive the medical care, food, and shelter they need, as well as a chance to find the "forever home" they deserve.

We wish you the happiest and healthiest of holidays and a brighter 2021.

Sincerely,

Pam Koontz, Board President

Without YOU, it wouldn't be PAWssible.

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



**640 WYMAN STREET
TOLEDO, OHIO 43609**

**419-382-1130
419-382-7248 (fax)**

Website: toledoanimalrescue.org
Donate: toledoanimalrescue.org/donate
Store: toledoanimalrescue.org/shop.html
Email: info@toledoanimalrescue.org

HOURS

Open:
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat - 12 pm - 5 pm
Closed:
Sun, Tues & Holidays

ALL-VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pam Koontz - Board President
Kate Kelley - Vice President
Nancy Ligibel - Secretary
Patti Ankney - Treasurer
David Boudouris, DVM
Michael Myers, DVM
Wendy Poskarbiewicz
Jackie Porter
Juanita Kesler
Cory Cripe
Jennifer Cummings
Kate Adams-Nameche
Madison Huff

RESCUE TEAM

Steve Kiessling - Director
Tina Stoner - Adoption Coordinator
Mikayla McRae - Lead Kennel Technician
Michelle Haley - Kennel Technician
Brenna Coffman - Kennel Technician
Charles Linden - Mktg Consultant/Designer

New Foster Care Program

As old as our Rescue is (93 years and counting), we do not have a formalized foster care program. Foster care is instrumental to so many shelters and rescues with many operating exclusively as foster providers without brick and mortar buildings. For our Rescue, that is about to change. We're excited to announce the new **Toledo Animal Rescue Foster Team** - a dog and cat foster care program to be rolled out over the winter months in preparation for the always busy spring and summer seasons.

Why a foster program and why now? This year more than any in recent past, we have needed to turn away more cats and kittens because we simply did not have enough room to house the animals safely. By creating a network of trained and knowledgeable foster families, we can reduce the potential for overcrowding at the Rescue and open up space for other animals to be saved. It



Henry was fostered for 6 weeks. Needless to say, he found his true personality during that time.

also helps us prepare animals for adoption by giving them a chance to live in a home where they can fully express their personality, work to overcome fears, or recover from trauma.

The list of benefits of foster care for our rescue animals is long. Not only will it help the health and wellbeing of the animals, it exposes them to additional potential adopters through foster parent social media and personal contacts. Animals in foster care have

reduced stress, become acclimated to "normal" home environments and get additional attention to work on positive behavior enforcement. All of this makes them even more likely to get adopted in a shorter amount of time.

For very young kittens or puppies, trained fosters are instrumental in providing the around the clock care and feeding needed for these animals to survive and thrive.



The benefits of foster care are not one sided. Fostering is flexible. A foster parent can choose when they have the time to help and take breaks in between foster assignments. It's fun! Having a revolving door of playful kittens reduces foster parent stress and I dare anyone not to get the giggles watching a puppy discover his shadow for the first time. It brings families together and teaches kids how to be kinder, gentler, more patient and responsible. And most important of all, foster parents know they are saving lives and freeing up needed space at the Rescue for other deserving animals.

So, look to our website and social media for future announcements this winter. Foster Team applications will be available online, as will training materials and frequently asked questions about foster care. I hope you will consider joining our Foster Team in 2021. **You will never regret it, and neither will the animals you bring into your home.**

Shop for the Holidays

AND SUPPORT THE RESCUE

USE CODE **WINTERSAVINGS**
AT CHECKOUT TO **SAVE 15% OFF**
EVERYTHING IN YOUR CART

Visit toledoanimalrescue.org and select "SHOP" from the top navigation. Every purchase helps our Rescue! We add new items all the time.



**GIFT CARDS
NOW AVAILABLE!**

All proceeds benefit the Toledo Animal Rescue. Discount code expires February 28, 2021 and can only be used once. Minimum \$20 purchase to receive discount. Restrictions may apply.

Visit toledoanimalrescue.org/donate to make a tax-deductible donation.

From Steve's Desk

As I was driving home from the Rescue, I was going through my mental rolodex of things I wanted to write in this Winter Newsletter. How in the 6 or so months since I was hired, we have averaged more animals adopted each month than in any time since 2015. Or how we are looking towards our future post COVID-19 and what that means for our animals, staff, volunteers, and adopters. Or how incredibly lucky I am to be working for such a great organization filled with caring, smart, and compassionate people. The list of ideas was long for sure.



But when I arrived home, my dog Frida, does what she always does. She met me at the door and waited patiently for me to lay on the couch so she could jump on me and give me a proper "Welcome Home!" greeting. This daily activity means so

much to both of us and at that moment I realized what I wanted to talk about. How rescue pets change our lives.

Nearly 4 years ago, I lost my beloved Golden Retriever, Maggie. Three weeks later, my mother passed away as well. Needless to say, I was devastated and a bit lost. My lovely wife, Krista, suggested we get another dog to help with the grief and to bring the joy of dog companionship back into our lives. I resisted. "We don't need another dog right now." "I'm not ready so soon." And so on. Krista

persisted and asked that I meet her at a local shelter to just look at a puppy she had her eye on. I again resisted but deep down knew I could not talk her out of it.

At beginning of our first meeting with "Patches", I was hesitant. She was cute for sure. She had that new puppy smell of course. And she jumped up and gave those cherished puppy kisses. I reluctantly agreed to adopt the puppy because, frankly, Krista really (and I mean really) fell in love with her. "Patches" became Frida that day and our world has been forever changed for the better.

And that is what this story is all about, how worlds are changed by rescued pets. Adopting a pet changes our lives. They bring us joy, companionship and unconditional love right to our feet every day. And we change the lives of these animals. We give them purpose, a warm bed, our love and a new lease on life.

As you finish reading my tail (pun intended), please know you are changing lives. As an adopter. As a volunteer or partner of the Rescue. As a donor who makes it all possible. You are why the Toledo Animal Rescue is thriving. You are why more animals than ever are finding their new families through us. You are changing lives for the better. **For all of that and more, I thank you!**

I wish you a safe end to 2020 and may next year be filled with hope, happiness, prosperity and Rescue critters! Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Steve Kiessling, Director



What can you do at toledoanimalrescue.org?

- Make a secure donation
- See the animals that are available for adoption
- Fill out an adoption application
- Sign up for our e-newsletter
- Fill out a volunteer application
- Shop at our online Rescue Store
- Check out our event calendar
- Post a lost or found animal

Memorial Donations

*When someone you love becomes a memory,
the memory becomes a treasure.*

In Memory of Rita Braker:

Ed Braker
Rita Braker
Steve and Vicki Hall
Jack and Anne O'Shea

In Memory of Ben Cologie:

Joanne and Paul LaGraff
Dennis and Debra Maas
Mary Stamm

In Memory of Officer Anthony Dia:

Marlene Coop

In Memory of John Donofrio:

Jackie Rousseau-Werner
Harry Tennery

In Memory of Dolores Ellerbrock:

Michelle and Lou Cocchiarella
Stephen Darling
Carol DeGross
Deb and Donna Lennex
Kimberly Lennex
Steven Lennex
Joe Lennex
Susan Schmidt

In Memory of Linda Emerson:

Suzanne Handy

In Memory of Scott Frick:

Eleanor Darmofal
Donald and Mary Frick

In Memory of Geraldine Frosch:

Sandra Frosch
Joan Paulson

In Memory of Kate Haberstock

Joyce and Richard Almester
Louis Boehk
Dane and Cathy Fuller
The Henley Family Trust/Kay Henley
Molly Jakubec
William and Theresa Romp

In Memory of Dave Johnston:

Sharon Keesee

In Memory of Pamela Kagy:

Martin and Marti Franco

In Memory of Greg Kujawa:

Dennis Kujawa
Theresa Kujawa

In Memory of Ester Keeling:

Marcine Helmier
Waite HS 1970 Ladies Group/Debbie
Kristie

In Memory of Carol Ann Mason:

John and Charmaine Blaylock
K.P. Kinahan
Robert Mason

In Memory of Margaret McCarthy:

Frank and Darla Szozda

In Memory of Robin Meadows:

Roger and Carol Blackburn
Lisa Brown
Rex and Kathryn Fiske
Peter and Barbara Machin
New York Life Ins. Co./Umihiko Saito
Jim and Cissie Schnoering
Lisa Soeters
Toledo Agents Council
Sonia Wegner
Linda Zuffa

In Memory of Marian R. Petlow:

James Petlow

In Memory of Doris Ritz:

Randy and Linda Hottinger

In Memory of James Shine:

John and Phyllis Shine

In Memory of David Spitler:

Michael and Deborah Condon

In Memory of Carol Talks:

The Reiley Family

In Memory of Margaret (Peg) Werner:

Robert Bell
Laura Eins
Craig Frederickson
Becky Fuhrman
Donald Leary
Nancy Ligibel
Bretta Ruse
Russ and Judy Schultz
Rodney and Pamela Shelton

In Memory of Jacob Wilkes:

Sandra Breault

In Memory of John Zeitler:

Michael and Shannon Brazzil
Jan Jump
Karen Startzman
Denise Walsh
Elizabeth Zalusky

In Memory of Gretchen Zyndorf:

Jules and Elaine Isaacson

Pet Memorial Donations

In Memory of Sushi:

John Bergener

In Memory of Abby:

Donald and Barbara St. John

In Memory of Buddy:

Dennis Kujawa

In Memory of Fifi:

John Bergener
Denise Robedeau

In Memory of Zoe and Rosie:

Allan and Joan Schroeder

In Memory of Diego:

Carol Dills

In Memory of Fawn:

Robin Prettyman

In Memory of Koda:

Sandy and Dave Flick

In Memory of Sami:

Vivian Renner

Visit toledoanimalrescue.org/donate
to make a tax-deductible donation.

Letters from Home

Maizey's Story



My wife and I had been taking care of our daughter's dog, Sadie. In May, our daughter moved into a home where she could accommodate Sadie, so we had to say our goodbyes. Not having Sadie around left a pretty big void. We felt alone with the doom and gloom of what was going on with COVID.

We called the Rescue about possibly finding a new furry companion. We were happy to learn the Rescue just received a new K9 resident named Daisy.

We set up an appointment to meet Daisy and it was clear she was very happy to see us. She jumped onto our laps and into our hearts. We came back in three days to complete all of her processing, and made a slight name change from Daisy to Maizey.

The Toledo Animal Rescue did just what their name says – they rescued Daisy as well as two very lonely dog lovers.

Maizey is now a vital part of our lives and has fit into our extended family like a champ. She plays with our grandkids and their dog, Duke. She also enjoys her visits with Sadie at our daughter's new home.

Daisy helped our entire family survive 2020 and it wouldn't have been possible without the Toledo Animal Rescue.

Thank you,
From Maizey and the Boze's



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Spirit Update

We wanted to thank you again for our wonderful, lovable kitty cat, Spirit.

A year ago we adopted her from the Rescue. We needed a lively female to compliment our rambunctious male cat, Rio, and you knew exactly which of your kitties would work out best.

We so appreciate that you not only care for the cats but take the time to learn their personalities. Spirit is perfect for Rio and she is perfect for us – gentle, yet very active, good with other cats and people, and she is so very smart (all the things you told us about her).

We love her so very much!

Thanks again for all that you do – for giving both the animals and the humans who adopt them the gift of love.

Alison and Curt Osmun



Toledo Animal Rescue is part of the Kroger Community Rewards. It's easy to sign up and it is FREE!

Visit krogercommunityrewards.com and register Toledo Animal Rescue (VK332) as the organization that benefits every time you use your Kroger Plus Card.

Every time you shop and use your Kroger Plus Card, Kroger will make a donation to the Toledo Animal Rescue at no cost to you and it won't effect your gas points!

Remember to enroll every year!





Sneakers' Update

Sneakers is doing really well in her new home. She has quickly claimed my bed as her own and likes to knead the blankets there several times a day. I really do believe Sneakers is the perfect cat, and she is absolutely my best friend. I've only had her for two weeks, and I already can't remember how I ever lived without her. **She's a real sweetheart.**

Warm regards,
Marie Cook



Sneakers' adoption was sponsored by Pet Supplies Plus. We appreciate our partnership and their ongoing commitment to help us find animals new homes.

Juliet's Story

We brought Juliet home from the Toledo Animal Rescue where she has filled our days with so many laughs, love, happiness, and a little bit of sass.

Juliet was a little skittish at first and found comfort in her crate, but it only took a couple of days for her to realize she had finally found her forever home. She has become a whole new cat and completely changed our hearts.

We weren't sure how she would do with our dog, Tootsie, but they are the best of friends now, and even though Juliet gets a little sass with her sometimes, Tootsie brings the sass right back - sisters, am I right?



Juliet's favorite things to do are scratch her claws on the chair, because who needs the actual scratch post? She loves to knead her little mittens into all of our blankets that she has claimed as her own. Anytime one of us makes something to eat she loves to be front and center. She has gone so far as to stick her tiny little nose directly in the food (bold little girl)! Did I mention that one of her favorite spots to sit in the house is on the toilet seat?

Above all, as much as I hate to admit it, she is absolutely the biggest daddy's girl. Mommy is able to get cuddles here and there, but Juliet could spend all day being held and loved by her daddy.

It has been such a beautiful experience to have this little girl in our lives and see her wonderful little personality develop. **She is such an incredible blessing that we didn't know we needed, and I could not be any more thankful that we are the ones who get to love her forever.**

Juliet's Mom



A Legacy for the Animals



Including **Toledo Animal Rescue** in your estate planning allows you to make a profound and lasting impact on our future sustainability. It also ensures that your generosity continues to help us provide shelter and care for abandoned, surrendered, and homeless animals.

When naming Toledo Animal Rescue in your Will, you may leave a specific dollar amount, a set percentage of your estate, or a particular property. You can also name the Rescue as the beneficiary of your retirement plan, life

insurance policy, bank account, mutual fund, charitable remainder trust, or charitable lead trust. Each of these options may help you reduce your estate taxes. Consult your financial or legal advisor as you consider your options.

Please let us know if you have included Toledo Animal Rescue in your estate planning so we can thank and recognize you.



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it wouldn't be **PAWssible.**

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