

ATHENS COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



Happy Holidays!

December 2022

The Athens County Humane Society has had another busy year helping the animals of Athens County. By year end we will have found homes for over 350 animals (mostly cats, but some dogs, rabbits, pigs, horses, and chickens too!) It seems like each new year we are breaking our previous records! We are only able to do this because we have many amazing and dedicated foster caretakers and volunteers.

Our spay/neuter clinics continue to work hard to serve low-income individuals in the area. As 2022 is coming to an end we will have seen 1600 cats and dogs at our clinics. The demand is so high that we still have a 3-4 month wait for an appointment. Despite this being an issue everywhere, we are always striving to come up with solutions. Our team of TNR (trap-neuter-return) volunteers worked hard this year as well and trapped 160 feral/stray cats for spay/ neuter! That's double our number from last year! Requests for help from this program have exploded and we have a lengthy wait list, but we will continue to work hard to assist in these situations.

Some more big news in 2022 is that ACHS appointed a new Humane Agent. Our new Officer has already been critical in pursuing multiple misdemeanor and felony charges for cruelty, neglect, and abandonment. Read about her and her goals in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to being even more present in our community by assisting people and their animals that are in need. To do this, we really need our community and supporters' help. ACHS is funded solely by donations from the community, fundraisers, and grant

funds. ACHS does not receive any of your tax dollars. If you can this holiday season, please consider donating to the Athens County Humane Society. Thank you so much for your support!

Sincerely, Angela Marx, Executive Director



Teaching love, kindness & proper handling of animals and each other.

This is the goal for the revived Education Committee for the Athens County Humane Society, and we are beyond excited to start rolling it out to you early 2023! We will start by visiting local libraries to teach the community about love, kindness and the proper handling of animals as well as the importance of spaying and neutering your pets to help decrease the number of animals that wind up homeless or in shelters. As we grow, we will expand to schools, after school programs, local groups and any other organization interested in

The Athens County Humane Society invites you to join our Membership Program. Becoming an ACHS Member has many benefits. Not only will you have the opportunity to directly impact the animals in Athens County, you will also be able to share your input and help direct us in our future endeavors. Your support helps us do all the amazing things we do... in fact, we couldn't do it without you! Please see the membership levels below as well as the impact your membership will make.

Senior Membership: Age 65 and over - \$25 per year

Individual Membership: Age 18 and over - \$50 per year

(Benefits include – Newsletter, Member Sticker, Invitation to yearly member meetings)

Businesses/Organization Membership - \$100 per year

Helping Paw Membership - \$100 per year

(Benefits include – Newsletter, Member Sticker, Invitation to yearly member meetings, yearly ACHS Calendar)

Golden Paw Membership - \$150 per year

(Benefits include – Newsletter, Member Sticker, Invitation to yearly member meetings, yearly ACHS Calendar, an ACHS t-shirt of your choosing)

What do your membership dues support?

- Spaying and Neutering services for stray/feral cats and low-income pet owners
- Emergency and routine vetting needs for cats in our Adoption Program
- Critical care to injured stray cats
- Pet food assistance program
- Foster supplies for pets in our Foster Program

hosting us! There will be events held to offer assistance to those wishing to sign their pets up for the low income spay/neuter clinics, those needing more information on the pet food assistance or Trap-Neuter-Return program and those wishing to just learn more about what ACHS offers and the resources they can offer.

Over the next few months, the Education Committee will also be creating a foster guide to help people who are considering becoming a foster! With this we hope to be able to answer more questions about the program, better guide you on your foster adventure and expand our foster base to provide more assistance to our county.



Meet Our New Humane Agent -Rachel Bendler

Hi! I am the new Athens County Humane Agent! I am very excited to take on this position here at ACHS! Since being sworn in in July, I have had the opportunity to travel all around our county assisting our animals.

As someone who has created a life around animal welfare, I can tell you that it is obvious that there are many wonderful people here that take their animals to the vet, make sure they are cared for and comfortable, and go above and beyond the requirements of humane laws in this state. For the small percentage who don't, it is my job to make sure that they comply with all laws regarding animal welfare. This has resulted in two felony cases already since my start in this position.

While my job is first and foremost to be a sworn law enforcement officer who investigates reports of animal cruelty, neglect and abandonment, I want to make it very clear that outreach is the key to success when it

comes to animal welfare in our county. It's easy to sit on our high horse and complain about our neighbor who isn't caring for their animals the way we think they should. It's a bit more involved to help identify the true issue behind it and to help make positive changes. You know the saying... now let's teach a man to fish! There are many people who simply need help, not prosecution.

Now for "truth time"... much needed help with vet care, education, pet food assistance, etc... are critical towards improving the situation for unfortunate animals in our county. By appointing the county Humane Agent and making sure they can be as effective as possible, ACHS has taken on a responsibility that requires significant financial resources. The job itself sometimes requires seizing animals at a moment's notice, so a location to house animals is mandatory. We need foster homes, supplies, equipment, funds for vetting, a vehicle, volunteers to assist with outreach programs... these are all things we need help with NOW before we can truly amplify our effectiveness. I put over 700 miles on a vehicle in August alone running calls in Athens County. There is a BIG need here.

I hope to be able to assist our residents, improve the lives of animals, and educate the public so we are in the courtroom a little less and out enjoying our pets a little more. Let's come together to do better and work for change!

-Rachel Bendler, Athens County Humane Agent



Legacy Giving

As you probably know, the Athens County Humane Society's work can be expensive. We depend on your support to do our vital work. We're so grateful for our supporter's generosity. We also know that giving is not always easy. Most of us need the money we've got. Especially now, right?

Do you want to find a way to make a difference, create a legacy, and ensure your lasting impact on the welfare of animals in Athens County? Make a planned gift by including the Athens County Humane Society in your will.

A planned gift can help us build a permanent resource base to do our work (and do more of it) for a generation or more to come.

Your lasting impact can include allowing us to:

- Ensure low cost spay/neuter for residents of Athens County who can't afford full-service veterinary care.
- Care for sick and injured animals to give them a chance at a happy life in loving homes.
- Care for animals in our adoption program so that they can find furr-ever homes.
- Expand our trap-neuter-return program to manage the county's feral cat population – hopefully one day the over-population of stray cats will be a thing of the past in Athens County.
- Employ the county's Humane Agent to ensure that neglected and abused animals are rescued from these circumstances and that bad actors are prosecuted.

We'd be grateful if you'd consider naming ACHS as a beneficiary in your will. A number of ACHS supporters have already done it. It's not a difficult thing to do. We're happy to direct you to expert, independent resources that can help you. As always, thank you so much for your support!

Ask a Vet ~ Fleas in the Winter?

As we start into the winter season, there is always a popular misconception that we see: discontinuing the use of flea/tick and heartworm prevention.

Due to living almost entirely on a host and essentially being kept at body temperature, fleas are always a year-round threat. Fleas are carried by other species such as squirrels, rabbits, mice and rats, which can bring them in (or near) your home. Because of how hardy they are, flea eggs can remain dormant for up to 5 months waiting for optimal conditions. This can make it extremely difficult to deal with infestations in the home as eggs are resistant to most pesticides.

While it is true that mosquitoes are most active between the temperatures of 64 and 80 degrees F, that is not the case for fleas and ticks. In fact, did you know

some species of ticks like the Blacklegged tick (AKA Deer tick) are actually more active in cold weather? In fact, ticks are often active at 35 degrees and above –which in our climate, is common during the winter.

Due to the growing rise of tick borne diseases in our area (Lyme, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis), we strongly recommend the use of flea and tick prevention year round. Based on your dog's risk, your veterinarian may recommend an optional vaccine for Lyme disease as additional protection.

-Dr. Marshall Aanstad, DVM



MOLLY - Female, Pug mix 10 years old

"I'm Molly! My foster family has affectionately nicknamed me "Nugget". Cause I'm shaped just like an adorable little corn nugget! I'm an older girl and am looking for a new home only because my owner is also a senior who could no longer take care of me. I'm a little on the chubby side and have a few fatty lumps and will need some senior vet maintenance like pain medicine for arthritis. But don't let that fool you into thinking I'm going lay around all day... you should see me bounce when I'm hungry! And I enjoy nice leisurely walks. I'm house trained and perfect around all dogs and love everyone I meet! "

Submit an adoption app - [Athenshumane.org/adopt](https://athenshumane.org/adopt)

ACHS Wishlist

For a detailed list of frequently needed supplies please visit our website. Chewy and Amazon gift cards are also great and we can take direct donations via our website: athenshumane.org/donate