

DEC. 2023

ATHENS COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Holiday E-mail Newsletter



**ATHENS COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY**

Season's Greetings

The Athens County Humane Society (ACHS) has had another busy year helping the animals of Athens County. By year-end, we will have found homes for over 300 animals (cats, dogs, horses, reptiles, and birds) and provided spay/neuter services to 1500 dogs and cats. Although we are very proud of what we are able to accomplish each year, at times, it feels like just a drop in the bucket.

Calls and messages received at ACHS are non-stop with nearly 30 per day. That's thousands each year! Requests come from community members asking for help with vet expenses, requests for food assistance, or help with animals they have found who are sick, injured, or homeless strays. These calls also include reports of cruelty and neglect that are investigated by our county Humane Agent. This trend will certainly continue, which is why we are appealing for your help. ACHS resources are not bottomless. All operational funds are earned via donations, fundraisers, and grant funds. No local, state, or government funds are received supporting this important work.

ACHS is in the beginning stages of a year-long campaign to bring these issues to light in our community and to promote our efforts to current and potential supporters. Beyond what we currently do, there is so much more that needs to be done! The fact is, we just cannot do the hard work of helping the animals in this county without you!

The Power of Partnerships

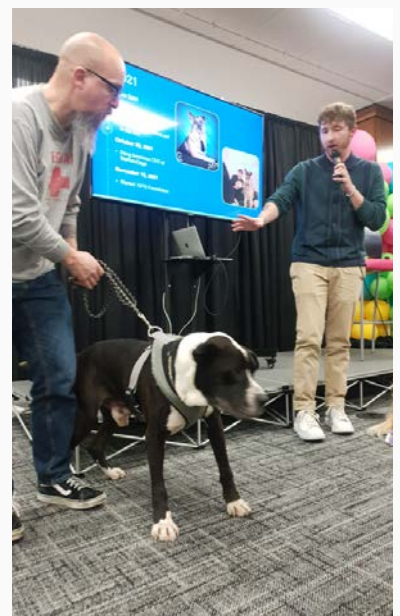
The Social Enterprise Ecosystem program through the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service has partnered with ACHS over the past few months in developing an annual campaign strategy and helping to find new resources in support of animal welfare. With their assistance, ACHS pursued a grant from the Athens Foundation, which has been awarded. We are so very thankful to the Athens Foundation and the staff from the Social Enterprise team!

Another recent partnership was with Friends of the Shelter Dogs, a local non-profit that works to support the dogs in the county dog shelter. We planned and co-hosted our first Pet Fair – Pet Palooza. Held at the fairgrounds, hundreds of people attended and learned about area resources, local rescues, and pet-related businesses. We had food trucks, kids' activities, speakers, and live music. A great time was had by all, and we anticipate holding this event again next year.

We are excited about our new student organization, All 9 Lives. This group of O.U. students formed this school year with the aim of supporting the Athens County Humane Society and to provide a space for cat lovers to connect, and promote awareness of cat welfare.

ACHS also worked with students studying social media marketing through the Scripps College at O.U. They were great to work with and did an amazing job working with us as their client. They came up with awesome content ideas and strategies for our social media pages moving forward. Be on the lookout for some elevated content on both our Facebook and Instagram pages.

(See image on the right: We were very happy to host Matt Nelson, Creator of 'We Rate Dogs' and are so thankful for the partnership with the 15/10 Foundation created to help assist with vet bills for hard to place dogs.)



The Work of our County Humane Agent

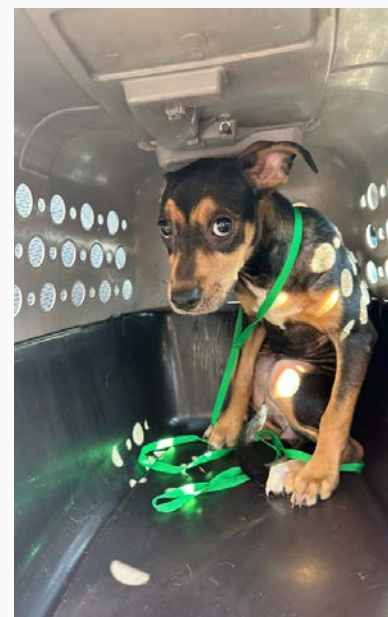
The most common report of animal cruelty or neglect that our Athens County humane agents receive concerns animals lacking the food, water, or shelter necessary to maintain a healthy life – matters covered by Ohio’s animal welfare laws. Often, in these incidents, our agents serve as front-line humane educators. Clear yet tactful communication is their primary tool as they work to encourage pet owners to provide for their animals’ physical and emotional needs. Our agents do follow-up visits, which play a major role in protecting these at-risk animals to ensure they continue receiving proper care.

For our agents to respond to reports and provide help as quickly as possible, they must receive a complete and truthful report from an individual with direct information, someone who has witnessed an occurrence or unlawful act. Reports made with vague information or provided second or third-hand are often not sufficient in allowing them to pursue an investigation.

If an animal is not being properly cared for and the owners are either unable or unwilling to make changes, our agents may seek to have the animal surrendered to the Athens County Humane Society. If this is not a feasible option, either met with refusal from the owner or if the animal is in immediate distress, the agents can seek to remove the animal and pursue a prosecution when sufficient evidence is available.

Upon rescuing animal victims, our agents thoroughly investigate the environment, circumstances, and people involved in these criminal acts. Following legal procedures and protocols, reviewing and handling evidence, and interviewing witnesses are the required steps to ensure that those who harm animals are brought to justice.

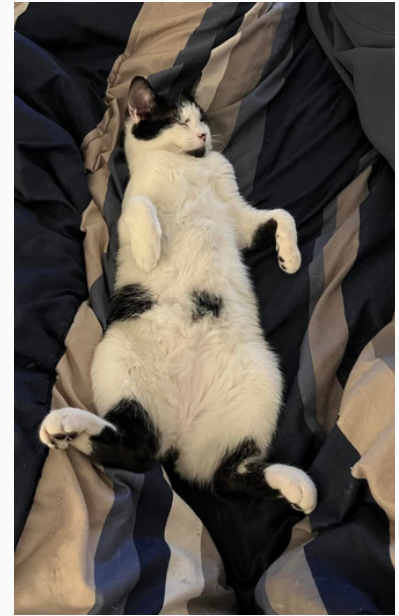
To report animal cruelty/neglect - Visit athenshumane.org/report or call 740-590-0711, email - agent@athenshumane.org



Featured Adoptable Pets

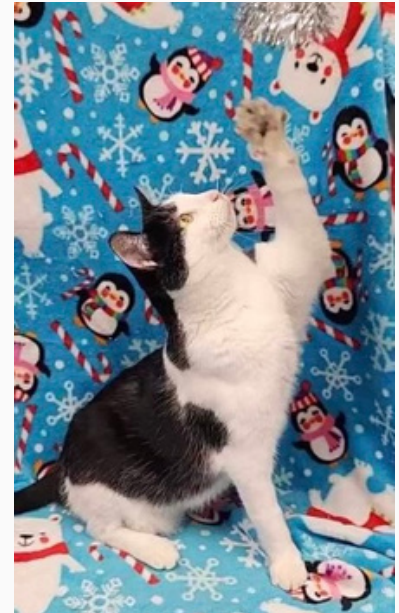
Poppy - Female, 6 months

“Poppy is a youthful spirit who brings joy and cheer to everyone who meets her! Poppy’s love for playing and having fun is matched only by her next favorite activity- getting close to her humans for a nice long cuddle. Poppy gets along well with other cats and is currently in a home with a large breed dog. This little one would be a great addition for any home looking for a super sweet and lovable cat with a personality that is bound to steal your heart. “



Bailey Boo - Female, 2 years old

Bailey Boo is an active young girl that is looking to be someone’s one and only! Bailey came to ACHS after a fractured leg meant she needed surgery to keep moving comfortably. Bailey has had surgery and healed beautifully! Now she just needs somewhere to run and play safely! Bailey is estimated to be around 2 years old and would probably do best in an only cat household. She loves people and always wants all the attention on her. She also has a particular love for snacks! So if you have an open spot on your couch, a few mouse toys, and snacks to spare Bailey would love to meet you!



Faye - female 7 years old, 105lb Lap Dog

Faye is a BIG sweetie. She is so smart, and very driven to show her love to all. She is always cuddling with her fosters on the couch (she thinks she’s a lap dog). She hangs out in her foster’s office during the day and loves snoring during meetings. She is a bed hog but is more than happy to lay on a bed of her own. She’s super food motivated and is fantastic on car rides. She enjoys playtime outside where she has zoomies in the backyard with her bestie, her dog roommate. She plays so well with her and they’ve never had any issues.



Happy Forever Homes in 2023!

ACHS found homes for close to 300 animals this past year! We want to thank everyone that chose to adopt a new family member. Also, we couldn't do this without our incredible foster caretakers and local business that foster our adoptable cats.

Huge Thank You to -

- Friendly Paws Pet Supplies & Grooming
- Hyacinth Bean Florist
- Import House
- PetSmart

We love sharing happy adoption day pics! Here are just a few from this past year -



Fun Events Coming Up (Save the Date!)

We have so many events planned for 2024! The Fundraising Committee has been hard at work and we can't wait for you to hear all about it!

Spay-ghetti Dinner at Salaam on February 18th! We had a great time last year and Salaam was so amazing to partner with. This year it has a bit of a Valentine's Day theme. Watch for updates and info on how to get tickets.

St. Patrick's Day Bingo on March 15th! We know there are a bunch of bingo lovers out there and we are excited to bring it back! This go around it will be held at the Athens Community Center. We always have a fun time and who doesn't like winning cash prizes!?

Annual Garden Tour coming this Summer. This yearly event is a local favorite that always brings the community and garden lovers together. Our tour last year raised almost \$4,000 and we are so appreciative of the organizers and gardeners that made this a huge success! We have not finalized a date just yet. If you have a garden you would love to show off, contact us at info@athenshumane.org. Watch for updates!

And so much more in the works:

Pet Food Drives

Our **Annual Fall Mums Sale** will return

Pet Palooza returns!

And.. a **Super Secret Big Event** (similar to our Alice in Wonderland event in 2022)! We are tinkering!

We want to thank our community of supporters that attend our events and support us through the year! We can't do this without you and we are so grateful!



Your Donation Goes Right to Helping Athens County Animals

ACHS is funded by donations from the community, fundraisers, and grant funds. ACHS does not receive any tax dollars or government funding. Your donations make it possible for us to continue to help the animals in our area. Thank you for your support!

What Does your Donation Support?

- 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 overpopulation 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.

Ways to Donate - Visit our Website [HERE](#)

Link to [Venmo](#)

Link to [PayPal](#)

Mail - Athens County Humane Society, P.O. Box 765 Athens OH 45701

