



geauga humane society annual report 2010



**rescue
village**

geauga humane society



Nickel enjoying "Marino's Cool Cat Cafe" cat community room at Rescue Village.

discover your rescue... Every time I look into the new "Marino's Cool Cat Cafe" community room, I discover, as if for the first time, what makes this place called Rescue Village so special. Yes, that is a photo of the "cafe" on the left side of this page. It has a touch of whimsy to it, maybe because around here we are dreamers. Dreamers with our feet firmly planted on the ground, confronting the challenges before us.

When you get right down to it, cats like Nickel (pictured left) and more than 1,700 other cats, dogs, horses, pigs, and rabbits came through our doors last year with nothing. They all had something in common—nobody to love them. Some were starving, sick, or injured, while others were abused or dropped off by distraught families who lost their homes during the recession. Still others were transferred here from area shelters who could no longer care for them. We were their rescue, plain and simple.

All animals deserve our moral concern. This is fundamental to our system of beliefs at Rescue Village. It is more than a feeling. As a colleague put it, "Feelings become convictions and convictions become an ethical framework." We set a moral compass and apply it to every decision, program, and practice at Rescue Village. It is as constant as the North Star.

The 4,000 children who participated in our humane education programs this year are our future.

When a 12-year-old child cuddles a 6-week-old kitten and leans over and whispers, "I love you," we have hope. As young people discover that being gentle and kind is how life is supposed to be, new generations can grow up defining their ethical framework to include animals and the well-being of our world.

There is no simple fix to what ails our planet. But sometimes it is amazing how quickly safety, love, and compassion can heal an animal's spirit. To watch a cat like Ellie come to allow human touch, and even crave that affection, and then get adopted is a lesson in patience, as well as the motivation for why we work so hard.

In discovering our humane-ity, we discover ourselves. We learn why volunteers get up before dawn to run our Fix It in the Farmland spay/neuter clinics on Amish farms around Middlefield. We understand why people band together to save each dog and celebrate when hard-to-place dogs like Sanchez find homes. We change their lives and they change ours.

Discover your Rescue... **It's right here.**

Gratefully,

Hope Brustein, Executive Director



Hope Brustein and Oscar



Sheltering is an act of love defined by professionalism and a commitment to finding animals new homes.

Some adoptions capture our imagination. They paint a picture, through stories, about the animals and about who we are as people. And so it was with Missy and Bear— two homeless dogs, who were simply best friends for life. They had enough golden and brown fur combined to fill a room. Where Missy was tall and long, Bear was, well Bear was a bear of a dog, big and cuddly.

Found tied together, abandoned at the Dog Warden's office with a note from their distraught owners who had fallen on hard times— Missy and Bear were sent to Rescue Village to be adopted. As senior dogs with medical issues, they were part of our **Lonely Hearts Club**, special needs dogs who were very special indeed! Bear's health faltered. In August, 2009, Adrienne Trimpey spent three hours with the pair and decided they were both going to live with her. Sadly, Bear has since passed away. But Missy lives on— with love and dignity and a home of her own.

- Our **Dog Behavior Coordinator and Humane Agent** partnered with regional shelters to transfer 122 animals to RV.

- One dog, 33 cats, one rabbit, two birds, and four guinea pigs were **abandoned at our doorstep** this year.

- **83 volunteer foster families** nurtured 343 cats and kittens and 194 dogs and puppies that required extra special attention.

- **Our barn provided a safety net** for 23 farm animals— horses, a pony, llamas, pigs, ducks, goats, and more, including an unforgettable curmudgeonly rooster!

photo: Adrienne Trimpey with Missy and beloved Bear.





Oh, the beauty of Geauga County's rolling hills, horse farms, and corn fields! Tall birdhouses mark the homes of the Amish community, numbering more than 12,000 residents in Geauga. While Middlefield has grown from a one-stoplight town, the clippity-clop of horses and buggies still remains. This area is also home to many low-income residents and too many abandoned and surrendered pets.

Rescue Village held its first **Fix It in the Farmland** low-cost spay/neuter clinic in 2008 at the Middlefield Tractor Supply store in partnership with PetFix Northeast Ohio's mobile surgical van. This program is geared to both low-income and Amish households. In 2009, 14 clinics were held and, remarkably, six of them were hosted by two Amish farmers.

One farmer sells windows and doors and the other is a carpenter. They both open their workshops for the Fix It volunteers to register their neighbors' dogs and cats to be spayed or neutered. The surgical van parks outside, next to horses and buggies. Warmth, hospitality, and wonderful smiles abound. Our Amish partners have become friends and community ambassadors for **Fix It in the Farmland's** grassroots approach to solving the problem of pet overpopulation.

GHS provides a mosaic of spay/neuter programs that offer humane solutions to a manageable problem—pet overpopulation.

- Our mosaic of spay/neuter programs assisted **2,167 pet owners** in our effort to end pet suffering and overpopulation—an increase of 19% over 2008.
- We performed 1,017 spay/neuter surgeries **to ensure that every dog, puppy, cat, kitten, and rabbit was sterilized prior to adoption.**

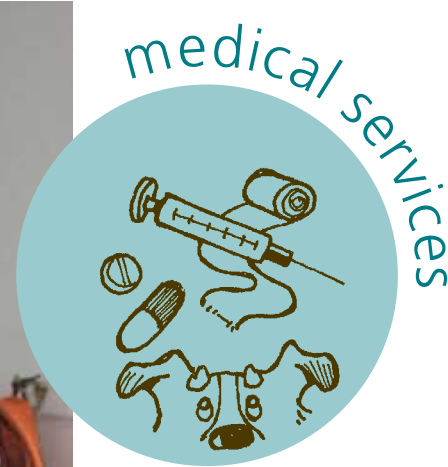
- Two days a week, **RV's clinic was busy providing feral cat caretakers free spay/neuter services through our CatSmart TNR (trap/neuter/release) program**— 637 cats were spayed or neutered—an increase of 27% over 2008.

- **Monthly clinics at Rescue Village, in partnership with PetFix Northeast Ohio,** provided low-cost spay/neuter services to 241 low-income Geauga County residents.

- **Fix It in the Farmland's** 14 clinics spayed/neutered 272 cats and dogs.

photo: Barb Corkran, Fix It in the Farmland Coordinator, working with one of our Amish partners at a Fix It clinic.





Sarah's Place, our "small but mighty" clinic, is a cutting edge center for shelter medicine.

The medical team at Rescue Village works quiet miracles every day.

Doctors Meg Volpe, Mark Schlesinger, and Myrna Papurt along with veterinary technician Grace Bramble and veterinary assistant Dee Dee Bondra bring us the best practices in shelter medicine.

Every cat and dog that comes through our doors is cared for in our clinic. Lefty, a 10-month-old cat with a shattered leg was no exception. His injury suggested buckshot wound. You can imagine what was going through everyone's heads, "How could anyone do this?!?!" The staff had the skills to save Lefty. Project S.A.V.E. (Saving Animals with Veterinary Emergencies) provided the resources for his expensive care.

Lefty was medically stabilized. Yet, badly traumatized, his trust in people was broken. Sometimes this is the hardest injury to heal. Lefty's next step was to enter foster care with the Friedman family, who offered calm comfort. Two weeks later, Dr. Mark amputated Lefty's leg. We were confident he would adjust to being three-legged. Lefty was placed in our cat community room, *Marino's Cool Cat Cafe*, awaiting adoption. He went home in February. Now, with love and patience, he is learning to trust.

- Our medical team works every day with big hearts and a strong moral compass. With their leadership, **we are able to minimize disease and maximize animal and human health at the shelter.**

- **Dr. Volpe and Dr. Schlesinger performed 32 emergency medical surgeries** on cats and dogs in our care, including amputations, orthopedic and eye surgeries.

- Two animals received extraordinary dental care.

photo: Medical staff (left to right), Dee Dee Bondra, Grace Blamble with Lefty, and Dr. Megan Volpe



humane education

What do you see when 12 Rescue Village campers cuddle our kittens? You see the joy that the human-animal bond evokes. What do you hear when you listen to hundreds of kids at a Notre Dame Elementary School assembly? You hear the voices of young animal champions. Humane Educator, Mary Carney, works with more than 4,000 children annually. Kids from all over Northeast Ohio are being empowered to create a more humane world. When it comes to the future, we say, **"In Kids We Trust."**



humane law

Putting an end to animal cruelty is a top priority at Rescue Village. Our Humane Law Enforcement program is legally empowered to investigate all types of animal cruelty and neglect in Geauga County. Education is the first line of defense. Whenever needed, animals are taken into protective custody, brought to the shelter, and prosecution is vigorously pursued. Famous Amos, Phat Cat, Huddleston, and 1,632 other animals were touched by our life-saving humane law program in 2009. Overnight animal emergency responders answered 60 calls. This mission-driven service is fully funded by Geauga Humane Society.

volunteers

Our volunteer community of 450 animal advocates is a large part of the heartbeat of Rescue Village. More than 32,000 total hours were donated in 2009, an amazing feat. Add talent, determination, and immeasurable compassion, and you have the best dog walkers, cat cuddlers, event planners, receptionists, Homeward Bound dog trainers, foster families, artists, office assistants, Fix It in the Farmland staffers, building repair experts, photographers, graphic designers, Ambassadors, Road Show anchors, marketing and financial advisors, adoption assistants, board members and more. We couldn't exist without them, and we thank them with all of our heart!

enriching their lives

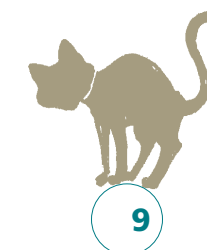
Dorothy was right when she said, "There's no place like home." Until they are adopted, shelter animals are cared for physically, behaviorally, and emotionally. You CAN teach an old dog new tricks. With multiple daily walks, one-on-one training by Homeward Bound Volunteers, music, outdoor playtime and field trips, we help our dogs manage the stresses of shelter life and become better citizens. Contrary to conventional wisdom, cats can change too: A timid cat may become more confident, a wired cat more laid back. Socialization, cuddling, "Kitty Kampouts," and chances to climb, leap, and play work wonders. We even find companion goats for lonely horses!



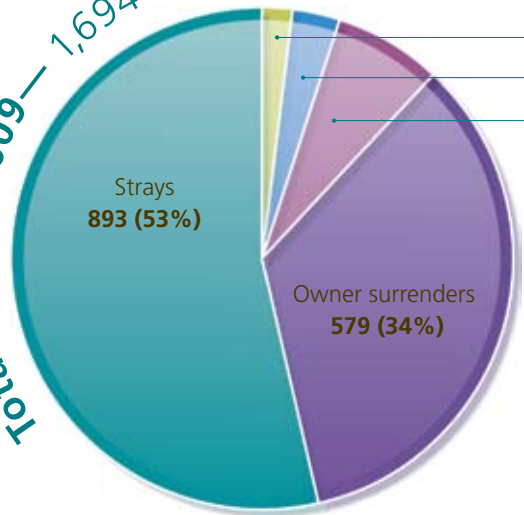
Statement of Activities—Year Ended December 31, 2009

REVENUE				
	All Funds	Endowment	Building	Operating
Donations and Bequests	689,200 [1]		5,523	683,677
Grant Income	42,362			42,362
Special Events	211,577			211,577
Program Service Revenue	181,608			181,608
Other	255,648	66,393	12,000	177,255
Member Dues	54,374			54,374
TOTAL	1,434,768	\$66,393	\$17,523	\$1,350,852
EXPENSES				
	Total	Endowment	Building	Operating
Programs	1,007,667		15,085	992,582
Fundraising	230,136			230,136
Management	94,275			94,275
TOTAL	1,332,078		15,085	1,316,993
NET CHANGE	\$102,690	\$66,393	\$2,438	\$33,859

[1] Of \$689,200 received, bequests accounted for 30% of total donations
 [2] Audited financials will be available upon request at a later date

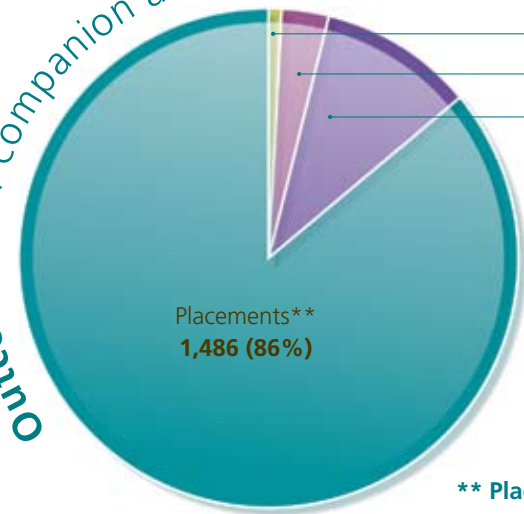


Total Intake 2009—1,694 animals



Dropoffs **41 (2%)**
Cruelty cases **59 (3%)**
From other shelters **122 (7%)**

Outcomes for companion animals



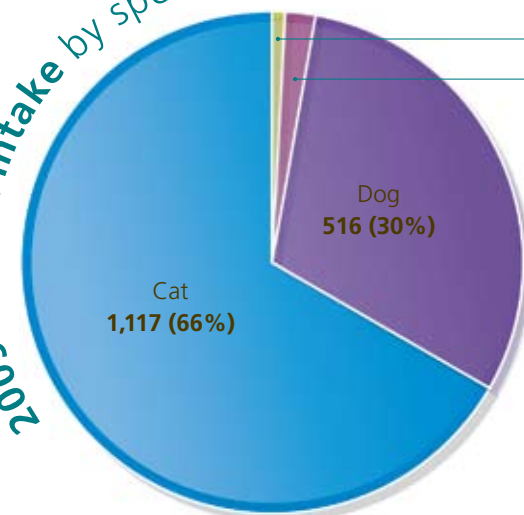
Died or DOA **22 (1%)**
Behavioral Euthanasia **65** (3%)**
Medical Euthanasia **165* (10%)**

*No adoptable animals were euthanized
+19 dogs and 46 cats

**** Placements 1,486**

Adoption **1,390 (94%)**
Reunited with Owner **46 (3%)**
Transferred to Rescue **50 (3%)**

2009 animal intake by species



Barn **23 (1%)**
Other **38 (2%)**

meaningful measurements

2,844 animals walked through our doors or were part of our diverse programs.



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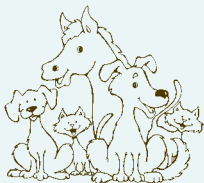
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Special thank you to

graphic designer Sally Biel Contizano, cartoonist
Jenny Campbell and photographer Amy Sancetta
for bringing their talents to this annual report.



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