NOLAND AND LURLENE: AN UNLIKELY FAMILY

When Noland, a Terrier/Pit Bull mix, was rescued by one of our humane agents, he was just one day old. His mother was malnourished and not able to care for him, and his survival was of great concern. Our wonderful APL veterinarian and animal care team decided the best option would be to try placing little Noland with a litter of nursing kittens. Remarkably, Mom cat Lurlene welcomed Noland into her litter, nursing him and caring for him as though he was one of her own.

For the first few weeks, Noland and his new “family” stayed at the APL during the day where Lurlene nursed him, and at night, he went home with a foster family to be bottle fed. Eventually, the unique, little family all went to an APL volunteer foster home together where they grew strong, romped and played with each other, and learned early life lessons from Mom Lurlene.

Noland, Lurlene and her four kittens have all found loving homes! They also taught us all so much about unconditional love and acceptance.

Dear Friends,

As you look through our annual report, please know that this is just a snapshot of the wonderful work being done and the happy endings being made every day at the Cleveland Animal Protective League.

As a lifelong resident of the Greater Cleveland area and one of our wonderful community’s biggest cheerleaders, I am deeply proud of the role the APL has played in this community for more than a century. When I tell people the wonderful things being done here for the animals—and people—of our community, they often say, “Oh I thought the APL was just an animal shelter!”

As you review this report to the community, I hope you are as impressed by the scope of service offered by the Cleveland APL as I am.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the staff, volunteers, and the Greater Cleveland community for their dedication and commitment to this organization and its mission to foster compassion and end animal suffering.

Dear Friends,

The Cleveland Animal Protective League has served the animals and people in our Greater Cleveland community since 1913. Over the years, we’ve played many different roles, but one thing that has remained unchanged has been our steadfast commitment to fostering compassion and ending animal suffering.

With the support of caring people like you, we have been able to implement and sustain lifesaving programs that give hope to homeless animals, and animals who have been neglected, abused, or abandoned—animals who simply need a little help, love, and a second chance.

As you read this report, I hope you’ll not only recognize the incredible progress and accomplishments that have been achieved by our entire team, but also the progressive thinking that has positioned the Cleveland APL as a respected leader and model organization in the national animal welfare arena.

There are lots of numbers in this report. But behind each number was a beating heart that needed us. Every animal we help, every individual life we touch, whether we’re working in the field or at our animal care facilities, takes us one step closer to a day when they will all have the love, care, and life they so deserve.

Without you, nothing on these pages would be possible. Thank you for your belief in our mission and of the value of animals in our society.

Sincerely,

Laura Koballa Hudak
Chair, Board of Directors

2013 ANNUAL REPORT
The Cleveland APL has been creating "happily ever afters" since 1913 through our learning-centered adoption program. We now operate two adoption centers that are open every day of the week—one in our beautiful animal care facility on Willey Avenue in Cleveland and one in our new PetSmart Charities® Everyday Adoption Center (EAC) in the PetSmart® store in Parma.

Incorporated in 1913, the Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL) is a private, 501(c)(3), nonprofit humane society and progressive leader in animal welfare. We operate a 30,000-square-foot animal shelter in the beautiful Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland and a 2,000-square-foot PetSmart Charities® Everyday Adoption Center (EAC) in the PetSmart® store in Parma.

Our mission is to foster compassion and end animal suffering. Every day, we rescue abused and neglected animals, offer shelter to homeless pets, promote compassionate and responsible pet guardianship, and strive to elevate the status of companion animals in our society.

We never turn companion animals in need away due to their age, health, or temperament. This year, thousands of injured, abused, or homeless animals will come through our doors. Once inside, they receive the food, shelter, and medical care they so desperately need. For some, it is the only human kindness they have ever known.

We have achieved 100% placement of healthy, friendly animals, and through our Second Chance Program, we now provide additional care to animals with treatable illnesses and injuries and modifiable behavioral issues. There are no time limits at the APL. Friendly, healthy animals, and animals whose illnesses and injuries we can treat will stay in our adoption centers until they find their new home.

6,325 Adoptions

Animals were transferred to other shelters or rescues or returned to their owners

The Cleveland APL has been creating "happily ever afters" since 1913 through our learning-centered adoption program. We now operate two adoption centers that are open every day of the week—one in our beautiful animal care facility on Willey Avenue in Cleveland and one in our new PetSmart Charities® Everyday Adoption Center at the PetSmart® store on Ridge Road in Parma. The APL has also partnered with local Petco, PetSmart, and Pet Supplies Plus stores to shelter and adopt cats directly from the stores. Finally, during the spring, summer, and fall months, our mobile adoption unit "Rover" makes stops at convenient locations all around the area filled with fabulous adoptable cats and dogs.
HUMANE INVESTIGATIONS

Animal abuse is a crime. Our Humane Investigations team, also known as Cuyahoga County’s “Animal Cops,” rescues animals from life-threatening situations, investigates cases of suspected animal abuse and neglect, and works with prosecutors to seek justice for the victims and punishment for the offenders. As there is such a strong link between animal abuse and human violence, our humane agents are also mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and work closely with Child & Family Services to protect both animals and children.

SHELTER MEDICINE

Our APL veterinarians provide anything from basic to emergency veterinary care to the hundreds of animals who could be in our facility or foster homes at any given time. They assess incoming animals, perform diagnostic work-ups, provide medical treatment, and perform surgeries that improve and save lives. Through donations to our Second Chance Program, our veterinary team performed diagnostic testing and/or provided treatment to 2,704 cats and 1,406 dogs who were sick, injured, or had special needs. Through this program, we can do more than just believe they deserve this second chance. We can actually give them that chance—a chance not only to survive, but to heal and start a new, healthy, happy life with a loving family.
10,494
Animals sterilized

4,837
“Community” cats sterilized through our Trap-Neuter-Return program

866
Adoptable animals from other shelters and rescue groups sterilized

4,791
APL animals sterilized prior to adoption

SPAY AND NEUTER

Every dog, cat and rabbit adopted from the Cleveland APL is spayed or neutered prior to adoption.

Our Animal Welfare Clinic (AWC) provides:

1. Low-cost spay/neuter surgery for adoptable animals from other local municipal shelters and 501(c)(3) humane societies and rescue groups.

2. Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) services for the trappers and caretakers of free-roaming, community cats. Through our progressive spay/neuter initiatives, we're working toward a day when there will be no more animals born without homes.

FOSTER CARE

Our dedicated, caring network of foster care volunteers provide in-home, individualized care and love to special-needs animals—underweight kittens and puppies, moms and litters, orphans who need to be fed by bottle, victims of neglect or abuse who need to learn to trust again, timid animals who need a little socialization, and animals who are recovering from an illness, injury, or surgery. They also provide temporary shelter for incoming animals when there aren't enough cages at the APL. Our foster volunteers are always ready and willing to offer a warm bed and caring hands to heal wounded spirits and bodies whenever there's a need.

Our Foster to Surrender (FtS) program enlists community participation to save more animals. Initially funded through a grant from the ASPCA®, the FtS program is now fully supported by donations to the Cleveland APL. Through it, community members who bring sick, underweight, or underaged animals to the shelter are asked to keep the animals until they are ready for adoption. The APL provides everything needed to keep the animal in a home (including food, litter, and medical expenses) until that animal can be admitted to the APL.

1,922
Animals fostered

338
Animals saved through the Foster to Surrender program
Project CARE (Community Animal Retention Effort) was implemented in April 2013 and is funded by a grant from the ASPCA®. Its mission is to provide outreach support for pet-owning residents in a targeted one-square-mile area that had the highest animal intake at both the Cleveland APL’s and Cleveland Division of Animal Control’s shelters. Project CARE takes a grassroots, door-to-door approach, and focuses on building individual relationships with community members, organizations, and individual pet owners so that good people can keep their pets. Through project CARE we provide spay/neuter and other resources to pet owners with the goal of reducing community pet overpopulation and shelter intake from that area.

1,230 Animals helped through project CARE

DOG TRANSFER PROGRAM

Our success in getting dogs adopted into loving homes extends outside of the walls of the Cleveland APL. Every week, dogs from our partner shelters are transferred to the APL where their hope for finding a new home will continue. Through these partnerships between the APL and other shelters that are committed to ending the euthanasia of adoptable dogs, we’re creating more happy endings than ever before.

1,213 Dogs transferred in from overcrowded shelters

139 Dogs in the shelter received additional behavioral support through project STAR

PROJECT STAR

Project STAR’s (Shelter Training for Adoption and Rehoming) mission is to increase the rate of successful dog adoptions at the Cleveland APL. The program was implemented in May 2013 and provides basic training, behavior modification, and enrichment for dogs in the shelter. The goal is to get dogs ready for their new homes by teaching them good manners and skills that will make them better family members. The methods used to teach the dogs are strictly based on positive reinforcement and training. Project STAR relies upon a team of specially-trained, exceptional volunteers led by the APL’s Dog Behavior Manager. Dogs are chosen for the program based upon their behavioral needs, length of stay, and developmental stage.
2013 KEY STATISTICS

Live Release Rate (LRR)

Save Rate (SR)

Species of Animals Admitted to Shelter

Animals Assisted

Shelter Animal Outcomes

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do at the APL, and the more volunteers we have, the more animals we can help! Dog and Cat Enrichment volunteers provide socialization and exercise for animals while they wait to go home. Volunteers also help with training dogs, adoptions, offsite adoption events, animal transportation, shelter dog training, fundraising and special events, and office work; they work in the clinic; and they take animal photographs for our website. Without our volunteers, we couldn’t do what we do.

67,675 Volunteer Hours
(Equivalent to 32.5 full-time employees)

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2013 KEY STATISTICS

Live Release Rate is the percentage of animals who were admitted to the shelter and had been placed in homes or had other live outcomes during the course of that year.

Save Rate is the percentage of animals who were admitted to the shelter but not euthanized during the course of that year.

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(Equivalent to 32.5 full-time employees)
On June 12, 1912, twelve women met at the home of Stella Hatch and formed an association called the Animal Protective League that was incorporated on February 7, 1913. Its purpose was to “alleviate the suffering in animals, the education of the public in humane principles, the establishment and maintenance of a refuge for lost, homeless, sick and unwanted animals until homes could be found for them, or their hopeless suffering ended mercifully.”

A five-room cottage located on Willey Avenue in Cleveland opened as the Cleveland APL’s first shelter on January 1, 1917. Today, the Cleveland APL’s animal care and adoption facility sits in the same location but is a beautiful, visitor-friendly, 30,000-square-foot facility. Joseph Amelin, the APL’s first humane agent, went out with a cat cage on street cars in response to calls for help in cases of injured or cruelly treated animals. Today, our humane agents respond to thousands of calls a year in the state-of-art animal transport vehicles.

Despite all of the changes over the years, there’s one thing that hasn’t changed a bit … our unwavering commitment to fostering compassion and ending animal suffering and being a voice for homeless animals. It’s thanks to that commitment and voice that we are able to celebrate every happy ending that has been created for adopted animals and their people over the last century.

As we begin our next hundred years, we’re proud to celebrate our incredible accomplishments and thank our supporters for being a part of our journey. We’re already dreaming about where the APL will be in another 100 years. We hope you’ll continue to support our mission and help us create more happy endings than ever before in the years to come.
Honors and Accolades

Western Reserve Historical Society’s 100 Year Club
The Cleveland Animal Protective League was honored to be inducted into Western Reserve Historical Society’s Exclusive 100 Year Club in November 2013. The group of inductees included businesses, non-profit organizations, and educational and cultural institutions that have been serving the Greater Cleveland area for a century and making a positive impact on our community.

Scene Magazine’s Best of Cleveland 2013
Thanks to our supportive community, for the second year in a row, the Cleveland Animal Protective League was voted Best Local Nonprofit/Charity in Scene Magazine’s “Best of Cleveland” issue.

Top 10,000 Most Viewed Organizations on GuideStar
In 2013, the Cleveland Animal Protective League was ranked one of the elite top 10,000 most viewed organizations on GuideStar. GuideStar is one of the largest nonprofit profile directories and donor resource sites in the world. Their website includes profiles of more than 1.8 million IRS-recognized organizations and reaches 7 million visitors a year.

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Cleveland APL
Adoption Center, Animal Care Center and Admissions
(at the Cleveland APL’s main facility)
1729 Willey Avenue
Cleveland, OH  44113
(216) 771-4616

PetSmart Charities®
Everyday Adoption Center (EAC)
(inside the PetSmart® store)
6870 Ridge Road
Parma, OH  44129
(440) 845-9592, ext. 5

www.ClevelandAPL.org

Download the free Cleveland APL adoption app available for iOS and Android devices!

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The Cleveland Animal Protective League is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. (Federal Tax ID #34-0714644)