

Lions and Tigers and Bears...and Elias!

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Caitie works in educational programming at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. She is an animal lover, and, even better, knows so much about what makes them tick. Elias is her buddy, her protector, and her family member.

In June 2020, Caitie was setting up her first household of her own. While her children would be there some of the time, sometimes she would be there alone. It seemed like the right time to go to the APL and look for a canine pal. The APL adoption staff recommended that she meet Elias, who, they thought, would love a home with kids, and also be sweet, cuddly company for Caitie. Caitie's children, now 11 and 8 years old, came to the APL to meet Elias. All three of them fell for the cheerful pup, and Caitie adopted Elias that day.

Elias couldn't know then how lucky he was. When Caitie made the decision to adopt Elias, she knew she was making a commitment to him for the rest of his life. Whatever problems arose, they would work through them as family. And some problems did arise. Despite his smooth, handsome exterior (he is a striking mix of German Shepherd, Akita, Bulldog, Chow and more), Elias came with some insecurities. The most difficult was the separation anxiety; Elias got extremely nervous when left alone. When Caitie first discovered this, she experimented with adjusting his environment to make him feel more secure. For example, he seemed more upset in his crate than outside of it, so she now leaves him in a small, contained area in the house when she leaves him alone. He tolerates those times much better as a result. She also consulted her veterinarian, who prescribed a mild sedative for Elias to use in particularly stressful times (the family laughingly calls it his "sleepy cheese.") These interventions have decreased his separation anxiety, enabling Elias to live a happier,



Elias smiles for the camera for this photo with his loving mom.

calmer life. Caitie continues to work with Elias on other training as well, including teaching this energetic, loving dog to remain seated when greeting people; at his size and energy level, he can bowl people over in his exuberence!

It's not all work, though. There is plenty of time to play with the kids. He has made a dog buddy (a friend's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) and he's always eager to make more. He loves most every dog and person he meets, and he meets plenty of people. Elias, you see, has an active social life. He goes to Starbarks...er, Starbucks for his pupcups, plays with his pals at doggy daycare, and

Bennie's Blurb

Letter from the President and CEO

Just as I was wondering what to write in this issue of Pet Patter, an email landed in my inbox. It was addressed to our entire staff from our Medical Director. Dr. Allison Lash. Despite her beyond hectic schedule, she took a few minutes to celebrate some notable accomplishments and share gratitude with our team. A team that is paving the way for the Cleveland APL's next chapter in serving the animals and people in our community as an animal resource center and not simply a shelter. Here are the stories that she recounted off the top of her head that played out over a 48-hour

A cat who was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism at the Cleveland APL. Our veterinarians prescribed medication that would be required for the remainder of her life. That day, our adoption team found a family who understood her condition and was committed to treating her and giving her a loving home.

A small dog who was attacked by a big dog. The dog's owner absolutely adored his severely injured pet but only had \$95 to his name. Through the Cleveland APL's project CARE, the poor dog received the care his loving owner was desperate to provide and went back home with the person he loves.

A stray, "feral" cat who came in through our Trap-Neuter-Return program to be neutered. Once he was sedated, our surgeon found extensive wounds on one of his rear legs. Unfortunately, they would require much more care and handling than giving him some antibiotics. Our Animal Welfare

Clinic team kept him overnight to assess his behavior and ability to be treated. When they came in the next day, they described him as the "pick me up we need today!" and "the coolest cat ever!" Treatment was started.

Another friendly, stray cat who came in to be spayed. She seemed healthy, but after testing, we learned she had an infectious and potentially life-threatening virus called feline leukemia. Her finder had nowhere for her to go. Thanks to our Second Chance Program, we were able to perform specialized testing that identifies the stage of disease and helps to determine the cat's prognosis. Happily, results showed that she could go up for adoption to a family who will provide for her special needs.

A cat whose owner had called everywhere trying to get a veterinary appointment. We didn't have open appointments, but our team fit her in. All she needed was a quick visit and a prescription for antibiotics.

A cat who came in through our animal admissions department. By the end of that day, she was starting to look a little unwell, so our team tested her for panleukopenia, a highly contagious, often life-threatening virus. She had it. But because of her sparkle and the new spaces where we can more safely treat animals with infectious diseases, she was set up for care.

A dog who came in through our humane law enforcement team. He had been shot and was transferred to the APL by a local emergency veterinary clinic. His case is under investigation, and he will receive the assessment and care that he needs at the APL.

All of this happened in a two-day

Sharon Harvey

span, on top of our "usual" activities, and during a time when our team has been stretched so very thin by the impact of COVID-19. Despite that, our work went on, and everyone stepped up to make sure that we were here to help the animals and people who needed us.

Stories like this play out at the Cleveland APL every single day. To say that I'm proud to work with a team that makes these things possible is an understatement. To say that it's a privilege to provide this level of care to animals and the people who love them is a giant understatement. To say that I'm deeply grateful to you for making this work possible...well, I have no words that would do justice to how I feel.

Thank you for giving Dr. Lash a reason to compose that email and our entire team so much to celebrate. We humbly share our celebration with you and thank you...very sincerely.

Indy's Corner

A Letter from Our Capital Campaign Spokesdog

In a perfect world, this would have been my last letter to you as the Spokesdog for the Cleveland APL's Unleash the Dream Capital Campaign, but the humans keep saying this phrase "global supply chain shortage," which has made everything move a little slower. I don't really get what that means, but they've said it so much that I guess humans everywhere are dealing with it. Bottom line is that it's taking a lot of time to get the stuff that people have ordered—hopefully not my dog food!

My friends at the Cleveland APL had originally hoped to be done with all of their construction by the New Year, but if 2020 and 2021 have taught us anything—it's to expect the unexpected. Now, my friends are being flexible while they wait for the final supplies that are needed to complete construction to arrive at the Cleveland APL.

For example, it was very strange not to have kennels in the dog adoption area. Imagine coming to visit and seeing an empty room where you were used to seeing adoptable dogs! The humans kept promising the kennels would arrive soon, though. Thankfully, my APL friends are really good at adapting and did just that!

While they were waiting, adoptable dogs could be seen in the newly renovated dog holding spaces, which have bigger, nicer kennels, just like the cages that will be in the dog adoption area. It wasn't perfect and my friends struggled at times to find space for more dogs, but they made it work!



The recently renovated dog holding spaces where adoptable dogs are housed while the adoption area is under construction.



Spokesdog Indiana Bones couldn't believe his ears when he learned about "global supply chain shortages."

Another thing that the APL focused on in 2021 was helping animals avoid coming to the shelter at all. Through a number of programs they call "pet retention initiatives," they were able to help animals in ways that meant they didn't have to be admitted to the APL, and that's better for everyone. I mean, the APL is a really, really nice place, but it's still not home. That also made this "global supply chain shortage" thingy and delays in construction more manageable and less stressful for my friends.

I know that's a lot of big words, but what it means in dogterms is that more animals stayed in homes where they were loved and that is the best news! The APL was able to help provide care to pets who have loving owners at affordable prices, helping to avoid surrenders. For other animals, the APL was able to use rehoming programs to help these animals find new homes without having to come to the shelter at all, leaving more space for animals who had absolutely nowhere else to go or were sick or in danger.

When construction is finally over, the Cleveland APL will be ready to help even more animals, and this year will be a great new adventure! I can't wait for you to be able to come and visit the completed new facility. Thank you for being a part of the Cleveland APL's long history of making happily ever afters happen. I hope you're as proud of this amazing organization and all of my friends as I am.

Of course, there's still time to help out the Cleveland APL as they finish raising funds for this amazing project. Please visit www.UnleashtheDream.org to learn more and donate today.

To Make a Donation to the APL:

Visit us at www.ClevelandAPL.org or mail your check to the Cleveland Animal Protective League, Attention Development Office, 1729 Willey Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. (Tax ID: 34-0714644)

Another Happy Tale

Frida Katlo: A Purr-fect Happily Ever After

The COVID-19 pandemic has been sad, frustrating, and exhausting. Still, it has enabled some people to make positive changes in their lives. Some have found they like working from home; others have developed closer relationships with family members. And some people who had been considering getting a pet discovered it was the right time to welcome a new family member. That was the case for Erin who came to the APL in March 2020 to look for a cat. Erin is a health care worker, and in March 2020, she could see that significant life restrictions were looming. This was, she reasoned, a good time to get a cat, and get the cat settled in while she was working from home.

And a "home" was something Geller desperately needed. For Geller, the APL had been something of a revolving door. The pretty Tortoiseshell girl first was surrendered with two other cats because their owner was moving and could not take them along. She was at the APL for about a month, and then was adopted. However, that placement was short-lived, when she and her new feline sibling got off on the wrong "paw," and her new owner returned her to the APL after just a couple of weeks.

That's how Geller happened to be at the APL when Erin came in to look for a kitty. Erin had narrowed it down to two cats but decided to take just a final tour around the room. It was then that she saw Geller.

Geller is a beautiful cat; her facial markings are hard to overlook. Erin stopped to scratch Geller's soft head. To Erin's surprise, Geller laid her head on Erin's hand and began to purr. Erin picked Geller's card from her cage and went to the front desk to start the adoption. As she handed over the card, a staff member asked her if she



Frida keeps an eye on her kingdom from the turret of her castle.



Frida's beautiful markings make her hard to overlook!

was sure she wanted this particular cat, explaining that Geller could be a bit...feisty. Erin was undaunted and took Geller home that day.

The first order of business was a new name. Erin had just returned from Mexico. She chose the name Frida Katlo, naming her after the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. As Kahlo was known for her colorful paintings and personality, the name seemed perfect for a spirited cat.

Erin was prepared to release Frida into the apartment room by room, so Frida would be comfortable. Frida had other ideas, though, and immediately toured the whole apartment, locating the most comfortable and interesting places. Frida learned her new name in no time and came when she was called. She slipped out the door a couple of times, but quickly returned, perhaps understanding that the streets couldn't compare with her new home.

Just to sweeten the deal, shortly after Frida came home, Erin made the most of her time in COVID confinement by constructing for Frida, from delivery boxes, a castle of her very own, complete with a drawbridge. Frida understood that she was the princess for whom this magnificent fortress was made, and went inside, peeking her head out the top turret.

Erin and Frida continue to live quite happily. To Erin, Frida's feistiness is simply her personality. As Erin's work-at-home co-worker, Frida has learned the joy of string cheese, the rattle of the wrapper, and the fun of a snack break. Frida tries to reduce Erin's stress by coaxing her away from her work for play breaks, too. Frida flirts shamelessly with Erin's guests, loves snuggling with Erin, and happily sits with her on the second-floor porch, observing her neighborhood subjects.

For Frida, the third time was the charm, and this beauty got the rich life she deserves. If you would like to follow this feline royalty on Instagram, you can do so at @princessfridakatlo.

Making a Difference

Thank you to the 2021 Cage Sponsors!

We are so grateful for the support from the following friends who showed their commitment to our animals by sponsoring a cage in 2021.

Cat Cage Sponsors

Genny Adamo Jerry & Vera Bednarski Courtney & Aviv Ben-Meir **Robin & Steve Bracy** Dick & Barb Chernus Cathy & Bill Christopher April & Joe Clark David Cohen & Angela Ruiz Andrea Hall Corrigan Chris Cox & Lauren Hayes **David Downing** Kara Downing Marianne Eggett Jane Elias & Family Doug & Sheila Epp Phil & Dana Fastenau

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Community News

Pucks and Paws—Save the Date!

Sunday, March 27, 2022

It's FINALLY back! The Cleveland Monsters invite all four-legged friends and their "people" to the 12th Annual Pucks & Paws event at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse on Sunday, March 27, 2022. The Monsters will be playing the Charlotte Checkers, and faceoff is at 3 p.m.

The APL has always been the beneficiary of the dog tickets, and again this year we will also receive a portion of the "human" tickets that are bought through this special offer. In order for the APL to receive the additional fundraised portion of the human tickets, please download the flyer on our website, mention the APL when you order your tickets over the phone, or use the pass code "APL21" when purchasing online to buy your tickets to this fun event for you and your pooch!

Visit www.ClevelandAPL.org for more details.





The Cleveland APL Provides Accessibility for All on the Website

The Cleveland APL is thrilled to announce the addition of a new and critical feature on our website—accessibility and language support.

To ensure all of our clients and supporters can access information and services without barriers caused by language and other reading challenges, everyone now can customize their experience on ClevelandAPL.org through a range of tools.

On our website, you can activate this inclusive support simply by clicking Language/Accessibility in the top bar. Choose from a range of features, including translation into over 100 languages, text to speech functionality, reading aids, and styling options. This includes adjustments to color, font type, and size.

Providing an inclusive experience online is extremely important to the Cleveland APL. We are committed to ensuring that access to our programs and services through our website for all who need them is as barrier-free as possible.

Hills Food shelter Nove

The Cleveland APL's animals are fed Hill's® Science Diet® pet food.

Happy Tale Elias

...continued from page 1

Elias loves going on car rides with his mom and is excited about his pupcup!



enjoys car rides with his mom. He loves his time at home, too, where Caitie makes him homemade dog biscuits nearly every day. And there are the stuffies from the Dollar Store—he is working on a world record destuffing time!

Caitie loves Elias and is proud of the progress he has made. And Elias? He's well-loved and lucky to be a part of this family that will be his, forever.

Offsite Adoptions

For dates and times, visit our website at www.ClevelandAPL.org.



Community News

WKYC and the Cleveland APL present:

The 11th Annual Fur-Get-Me-Not Telethon

The Eleventh Annual Fur-Get-Me-Not Telethon will be broadcast on Channel 3 live from the Cleveland APL on Thursday, April 7, from 5 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. This event will bring together the community and inspire viewers to help the thousands of animals that will come to the Cleveland APL for help this year.

Tune in on April 7, and see vignettes that will showcase the diverse and meaningful work the

APL does to rescue, heal, nurture, adopt, and advocate for animals in need. All funds raised during the telethon will benefit the Cleveland APL.







Don't Miss the Chance To Feature Your Furry Friend(s) In The 2023 APL Pet Calendar Contest

If your adorable furry friend is star material, then don't miss the chance to feature them in the 2023 Cleveland APL pet calendar honoring our area's much-beloved pets! To enter the contest, visit our website at www.ClevelandAPL org or call 216-377-1628 for more information. Remember to enter before Saturday, July 23, for the chance to make your furry friend a star!

Also, look for the calendar contest voting again this year on our website in August!







Photos of some of the animals that were entered into the 2022 Pet Calendar Contest by their families.

Volunteer at the APL



Share your love of animals and become a Cleveland Animal Protective League volunteer.

Interested in helping the animals at the Cleveland APL from your own home? Email our foster team at Foster@ClevelandAPL.org to join our amazing foster team today!

Interested in helping the animals of the Cleveland APL in our shelter or at events? Check out our website at www.ClevelandAPL.org for more information and to submit an online volunteer application.

Thanks to our Corporate Champion





Another Happy Tale

Hold onto your Heart—It's Zoya (the Destroya)!

Zoya is living a wonderful life. But Zoya's future didn't look so bright when she first came to the APL.

Zoya, then known as Zoot Suit, arrived as a tiny puppy with a large medical problem; she was a "swimmer puppy." While the name of the condition sounds lighthearted, it can be serious, even life-threatening. Swimmer puppies are born with a flat chest, and their legs splayed out to their sides. They cannot stand or use their legs properly. Their heart and other organs are pushed up toward their lungs, making breathing difficult and sometimes leading to pneumonia.

Luckily for Zoot Suit, the amazing veterinary team at the APL has experience with swimmer puppies, and knows the care needed to help ensure they lead happy, normal lives. Along with excellent nutrition, swimmer puppies may need water therapy, massage, and repeated practice standing and walking with assistance. To provide this intensive therapy, the APL staff turns to experienced animal lovers who can devote the necessary time: foster parents. Foster parents are a vital part of the work done at the APL. Every year, hundreds of animals are sent into the care of these big-hearted foster families, who, in exchange for love and kisses, provide love, medication, and exercise to animals who need it. Then, the foster families say a hard goodbye, and send their foster animal on to his or her new home.

Zoot Suit's foster hero was Kelly, an experienced foster mom. Kelly previously foster "failed" with Blue, a senior boxer who Kelly fostered then adopted from the APL. Blue passed away in late 2020, and Kelly decided to take a break from fostering. But then she saw the video of 5-week-old Zoot Suit, and she knew she could help. Kelly brought Zoot Suit home,



Zoya with one of her new siblings!



Zoya loves her new life, and stick collecting in particular!

"with a strict conviction that this was just a foster and I would NOT keep her."

Kelly worked with Zoot Suit to get her legs fully functional, watching her grow strong and celebrating milestones specific to swimmer puppies, like the first time she was able to sleep on her side. Zoot Suit adored another of Kelly's boxers, Suzie, and Kelly's "two one-eyed cats." She quickly settled into life at her foster home. She even got a new name, to reflect her fighting spirit. She was christened "Zoya" (and nicknamed "Zoya the Destroya"). And, yes, Kelly decided that Zoya had found her permanent home as well.

Zoya has been paying back all the love that Kelly gave her. When boxer Suzie recently passed away, Zoya was a great comfort to Kelly. And Zoya has made a best friend, a "17-year-old blind and diabetic Miniature Pinscher." Zoya is great with senior animals yet still loves rambunctious play. She has her forever family—the people and animals she loves deeply. She cherishes her stuffed toys, enjoys doggie day care, and delights in running on the beach. She "loves a good stick" and collecting them on her walks. And, she has won the hearts of her grandparents.

So, Zoya, the puppy who was not going to stay, will never have to leave.

Kelly recalls fondly, "the thing that really stole my heart was how sweet and gentle and quirky she was. Zoya is clunky and klutzy and snores like a bear. She is a great dog."

Thank you, Kelly, for falling in love with a foster dog and giving her the best happily-ever-after and what truly is a foster success story!

Making a Difference

Thank You So Much!

Edgewater Yacht Club

For donating to the Cleveland APL through its Doggy Day donation.

Giant Eagle—West 117th

For hosting its annual holiday pet supply drive benefitting the Cleveland APL.

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

For donating to the Cleveland APL as a part of its pet blessing service.

Nurenberg Paris

For choosing the Cleveland APL as its October NP4CLE charity of the month.

Pinecrest

For hosting its Halloween 5k Fun Run benefitting the Cleveland APL.

Propaganda Coffee

For donating to the Cleveland APL through its Brunch Without Villainy series.

Sherwin-Williams

For donating to the Cleveland APL through its PAWS (Pet Advocates Within Sherwin-Williams) fundraiser.

Tremont Athletic Club (TAC)

For collecting Wish List donations from their members to support the Cleveland APL.

Thanks to the generosity and efforts of everyone involved in these events, more than \$3,000 was raised to help the Cleveland APL and our animals.

We also appreciate the additional in-kind donations we have received from our friends and supporters.

Thank You to Our Friends at the Wenk Family Charitable Foundation

This holiday season, our friends at the Wenk Family Charitable Foundation helped people realize that you can't buy love, but you can adopt it. Over the course of two weeks, the adoption fees of all adult dogs and all cats were reduced thanks to a generous grant from the Wenk Family Charitable Foundation.

In those two weeks, a total of 233 animals were adopted thanks to Wenk Family Charitable Foundation's support—208 cats and 25 dogs went home, animals like long-term resident Clinton. We're grateful for the support of the Wenk Family Charitable Foundation and all of the caring adopters who helped give these amazing animals homes for the holidays!



WENK
FAMILY CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION
Healing Cultivating Enriching lives

Clinton on his adoption day with his new family!

Thanks to our Friends at Giant Eagle West 117th

This holiday season, our friends at Giant Eagle West 117th decided to offer their resources to help the Cleveland APL and were able to collect a truck-full of dog food, treats, toys, and accessories, as well as a monetary donation to help the animals at the Cleveland APL. As encouraged by Giant Eagle Store Leaders, the West 117th store chose the Cleveland APL based on their team's passion for animals in hopes that their donation could help four-legged animals in need in our community. Thank you so much for this amazing donation that made a difference for our animals!



March 2022 Adopt · Protect · Love

Making a Difference

Other Ways to Give

Many generous individuals choose to donate to the Cleveland APL in lieu of giving gifts for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, Bat Mitzvahs, Bar Mitzvahs, etc. Their thoughtfulness is a wonderful tribute to their love for animals. Call 216-344-1353 if you would like to learn more about how your celebration can help the APL's homeless animals.

In addition, many individuals choose to give through a workplace giving program.

The Cleveland Animal Protective League is a member of Greater Cleveland Community Shares. Community Shares supports local nonprofit organizations working for long-term, sustainable solutions to build a stronger Cleveland. Learn more about Community Shares at www.communityshares.org, and please consider supporting the APL through workplace giving.

Federal employees also have the opportunity to give to the APL through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, costefficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

The Cleveland APL's Combined Federal Campaign number is 29857.

The Cleveland APL's Tax ID number is 34-0714644.



Visit the APL

Make sure to check our website at www.GevelandAPLorg for the most up-to-date open hours.

Shelter Adoption Center Hours

Mon., Wed., Fri. & Sat. Tuesday & Thursday Sunday

Phone Number:

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Noon to 4 p.m. 216-771-4616

216-771-8825

Animal Surrender Hours (Intake)

Monday - Friday 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Phone Number:

affoGATO Cat Café Hours

Cat lounge hangouts and adoptions by appointment only.

Phone Number: 440-941-5130

Tributes

The following tribute gifts were received between October 2021 and December 2021.

A tribute gift of \$75 or more is recognized in Pet Patter.

Tribute donations are a very special way to remember and honor loved ones and pets. Notification will be sent to whomever you ask us to notify.

In Memory of Individual

Alex Bill and Charlene Burges Sandra N. Ananewich Thomas Hlavaty

Shelby Lipps Anderson Jean Lipps Catherine Antoszkiewicz Bob and Carol Antoskiewicz; David and Frances Dickenson; J.L. Thomas & Company, Inc.; Kris and Sandy Krems; Nancy, Phil, Michael and Max Trexler; Joe and Rosanne Uvegas; Dan and Peggy Zahn

Otto Artbauer, Jr The Andrews Family; Friends and Family of Otto Artbauer; Mary Hromco; Stuart, Tom and Marcia Pasch

Regina Bednarski Jerry and Vera Bednarski

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The Cleveland Animal Protective League lovingly cares for thousands of homeless, injured and abused animals each year. For some, their cage at the APL, complete with a warm bed, toys, plenty of food and water, and lots of TLC, is the only "home" they have ever known. For others, it's a temporary home until they find the love of another family. For all of them, it's the reason they're getting a second chance. Our annual cage sponsors bring hope and comfort to our animals while they wait for their future mom or dad to adopt them and take them



us 11 months and 21 days. Adopted!



Walker was with us 6 months and 24 days. Adopted!

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At the Cleveland Animal Protective League, healthy, friendly animals stay with us until they are adopted. We all know a cage in a shelter is not a permanent home, but with your cage sponsorship, we can make it a temporary home away from home until they have one of their own by providing all the care that is needed—and that they so rightfully deserve.

For cage sponsorship opportunities please see above.



Peter Pan was with us 3 months and 10 days. Adopted!