

CLEVELAND  
ANIMAL  
PROTECTIVE  
LEAGUE



Patter

September 2025

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## Luna: A Once-In-A-Blue-Moon Dog

Danielle was thinking about getting a dog after her Labrador Retriever passed away. She loved him dearly, but, of course, he couldn't be replaced. Danielle thought it might be time for a different kind of dog. She began doing research.

The more she read about Doberman Pinschers, the more convinced Danielle was that a "Dobie" would be a good choice. Danielle learned that Dobermans are very intelligent and in tune with their owners. Her research made up her mind: She would adopt a Doberman puppy.

Adopting a Doberman from an animal shelter might not be as simple as it sounds. Dobermans, particularly purebred Dobermans, don't turn up in shelters regularly. They are kind of a "once-in-a-blue-moon" shelter dog.

But in Greater Cleveland, the stars were beginning to align for the appearance of some hard-to-find shelter dogs. A beautiful Doberman Pinscher had five puppies. The owner found that the five squirming, active puppies were just a bit too much. He surrendered the puppies to the APL and agreed to have the puppies' mom spayed through the Cleveland APL's Spay Mom program.

The pups were quickly sent to a foster home to grow a bit more before heading out into the world. Luckily for the puppies, their foster mom was an experienced dog owner with a Doberman of her own! Some of the puppies needed medical care; the puppy rough-housing had led to some serious scratches. One puppy, April, had an abscess as a result. She also had pneumonia when she was surrendered. With the help of her foster mom, the APL provided medical care, and April mended quickly. It wasn't long before all five puppies were ready to find their new lives.

As it so happened, Danielle's sister-in-law lives next door to the puppies' foster mom. Danielle had told her sister-in-law of her decision to look for a Doberman puppy and days later, they appeared in the yard next door!



Sweet Luna arrived at the APL with her four littermates

Danielle met April and knew she was the one. She adopted her and renamed her Luna, perfect for this once-in-a-blue-moon dog.

Danielle had DNA testing done that confirmed that Luna is 100% Doberman Pinscher. Danielle reports she has all the best characteristics of the breed. She is "the dog you hope you'd get," Danielle says. Even Luna's trainers have told Danielle that Luna is very smart and eager to learn.

# Bennie's BLURB

## Letter from the President & CEO

In a perfect world, every pet owner would have the time, resources, and knowledge to provide their pets with the care they need for a lifetime. But life doesn't always go as planned. Financial challenges, health issues, housing instability, and personal crises can overwhelm even the most well-meaning pet guardians. When that happens, the consequences for pets can range from unintentional neglect to surrender or abandonment. Humane societies like the Cleveland APL can help at this critical juncture—not as adversaries, but as partners.

One of the most powerful shifts in animal welfare in recent years has been the move away from a punishment-first mindset toward increasing emphasis on prevention and support. At the Cleveland APL, we recognize that supporting pet owners is often the most effective way to protect animals. By treating overwhelmed owners with empathy and dignity, we can strengthen and preserve the human-animal bond and create more lasting change for pets and the people who love them. This philosophy is the basis for our Project CARE outreach program, through which we provide basic resources and support to pet owners who come to us for assistance with their pet's care needs. But it doesn't end there.

Cleveland APL Humane Society Agents (HSAs) are specially trained to enforce Ohio's animal protection laws by investigating reports of animal cruelty, neglect, and abandonment; impounding abused or neglected animals who need immediate care or a safe haven; and working with prosecutors to hold offenders accountable. However, today, their mission extends beyond enforcement, seizure, and punishment. In cases where malice is not involved, pets are not at risk or in need of immediate care, and owners are willing, our HSAs often play a crucial, compassionate role—sometimes in conjunction with our Project CARE safety net program—by offering education, reasonable resources, and support, with the goal of improving a pet's welfare in the home before punitive steps become necessary.

The Cleveland APL and our Humane Investigations (HI) and Project CARE programs stand at the intersection of advocacy, animal care, community service, and humane law enforcement. The path to resolution can be a more complex path at times, but so are the situations we often encounter in the field. Whether we're investigating reports of suspected animal cruelty or neglect or proactively arranging support and education for overwhelmed pet owners, we are committed to finding the best possible outcome for pets and the people who love and care for them.

And of course, when that's not possible, we are here to bring in those animals, provide them with the compassionate and critical care they need, and seek justice for the animal victims of human indifference or cruelty.

Because Cleveland APL HSAs enforce Ohio's animal protection laws, many people assume our HI program is financed by government or tax dollars—but it's not. This critical work is funded by donations—donations like yours! And here are some other ways you can make a difference:

**Volunteer:** From fostering or walking dogs to event and office help, there's a role for everyone.

**Educate:** Spread the word about the importance of reaching out for help early and without shame, or report suspected animal cruelty or neglect to your local humane society or law enforcement.

**Advocate:** Support policies and funding that will strengthen animal welfare infrastructure and enhance animal protection and pet support laws in our community.

Thank you for your support and belief in our mission of fostering compassion and ending animal suffering. Without you, we wouldn't be among the leading organizations in the country committed to addressing the root causes of animal suffering—and working to solve them with compassion, not judgment.

Sharon Harvey  
and Bennie



## The Salvation Army & the Cleveland APL Partner to bring Wellness Clinics to the Community

This summer, the Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL) partnered with The Salvation Army of Greater Cleveland to host a series of free pet vaccine and microchip clinics for Cleveland and East Cleveland residents. The first clinic took place on Saturday, May 24, at The Salvation Army East Cleveland Corps Community Center on Doan Avenue. It was followed by additional clinics in June and July. Each clinic served up to 100 pets on a first-come, first-serve basis, and all events drew strong participation from Cleveland and East Cleveland residents.

These events provided much-needed preventive care to dogs and cats between the ages of six months and six years—the age group considered most at risk for preventable diseases. Dogs received DAPP and Rabies vaccinations, while cats were vaccinated for FVRCP and Rabies. We're grateful for the support from Merck that made free vaccinations possible.

Our friends at Cleveland Animal Care and Control, also known as City Dogs Cleveland, played a key role in these events by providing free microchips for dogs, while the Cleveland APL provided free microchips for cats.

"This was a vital opportunity for families to protect their pets and help reduce preventable illness in our community," said Sharon Harvey, President & CEO of the Cleveland APL. "We're incredibly grateful to our partners at The Salvation Army, Merck, and Cleveland Animal Care and Control for teaming up with us to make these events possible."

As the success of the summer clinics has shown, this partnership plays a crucial role in supporting the health and well-being of pets in the community. Another clinic is scheduled for September 27, from 12pm to 3pm, at The Salvation Army Community Center on Grovewood Avenue.

These clinics are open to the public. Pets must be between six months and six years old. All dogs must be on leashes, and cats must be secured in carriers.

The Cleveland APL and The Salvation Army remain committed to providing access to preventive veterinary care for those who need it most—strengthening not only the health of animals but also the bonds between pets and their families.



Back Row from left to right: Gina Campbell (TSA), Eric Kaiser (APL volunteer), Betsy Kaiser (APL volunteer), Katie Zehr (APL volunteer), Mandy Hoover (TSA, Development and Public Relations Manager), Erica Browning (APL volunteer), Captain Travis Barton (TSA)

Front row from left to right: Bryana Polen (Project CARE Manager), and Hannah MacIntyre (Annual Fund and Database Manager)

## Visit the APL

*Make sure to check our website at [ClevelandAPL.org](http://ClevelandAPL.org) for the most up-to-date open information. Hours may be subject to change.*

### Animal Resource Center Hours:

Monday–Saturday: 10:00 AM–5:30 PM  
Sunday–Closed

### Community Pet Clinic Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 AM–5:30 PM  
Thursday: 11:00 AM–5:30 PM  
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

### Animal Intake Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday: 9:00 AM–5:30 PM  
Thursday: 11:00 AM–5:30 PM  
Sunday: Closed

### Project CARE Hours:

Monday–Friday: 9:00 AM–5:30 PM  
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

### affoGATO Cat Cafe (Cat Lounge)

761 Starkweather Ave, Cleveland, OH 44113  
440-941-5130  
Visit [www.affogatocatcafe.com](http://www.affogatocatcafe.com) to make a reservation.





# Madisyn and Mandy: A Perfect Match



Mandy (Formerly Paisley) when she first arrived at the APL

Some matches are made in Heaven. Others are made at the APL, perhaps with divine assistance.

In early 2025, Madisyn suffered two great losses. First, her dog Daisy passed away. Then, shortly after that, her other dog, Shelby, died. Madisyn believes it was from a broken heart after Daisy's passing. The loss of her dogs hit Madisyn hard. Shelby, in particular, had been Madisyn's emotional support dog. The grief was overwhelming.

It came at a difficult time, too. Madisyn was moving to Cleveland to start college. She and her boyfriend Caleb would be getting an apartment. Madisyn knew that even if she was ready, the apartment would be no place for a dog.

Caleb has a cat of his own, Smudgy. He persuaded Madisyn to consider getting a cat of her own. She thought about it, and talked to friends and family, who encouraged her to look at male cats, who they said would be "sweeter" than female cats, or a kitten, for the same reason. They also advised avoiding cats with health issues. The couple went to the APL to meet some cats and see if any of them clicked with Madisyn. Paisley, a five-year-old female cat, was the first cat they saw, and it was love at first sight.

That Paisley would connect with anyone was something of a miracle. Paisley had been surrendered by her owner when the owner was being evicted.

Our Humane Investigations team became involved when we learned that more than 30 cats and four dogs were living in the same unit in horrible conditions. Several of the animals were not in good health.

Meeting Paisley pushed aside all the advice Madisyn had received. Paisley pressed up against the cage for some petting and even rolled over for a belly rub. Caleb walked through the shelter with a staff member, looking at other cats. Madisyn didn't see one other cat that day. She had found her match.

When Madisyn heard Paisley's story, it confirmed that Paisley was the cat for her. Paisley has health issues and scars, like Madisyn herself, who lives with chronic health conditions and has had several surgeries. Paisley, renamed Mandy, is getting better every day and has turned out to be exactly the cuddly comfort cat that Madisyn wanted.

Madisyn says that ignoring all the well-meaning advice and following her heart was "the best decision" of her life. With their similar names, Madisyn and Mandy calm and cheer one another. Madisyn says Mandy has "saved my life and given me hope." Madisyn's message for others is to not overlook the "imperfect pets," because they need care and affection too. As she starts college, Madisyn is happy to have her beautiful girl, "Mandy Candy," by her side.

Madisyn believes that Daisy and Shelby may have had a hand in sending Mandy to her. And who would argue with that? Thank you, Madisyn, for giving Mandy the life and love she deserves.



Mandy is a true lap cat and is always eager for long snuggles

Barbara Reitzloff, APL Volunteer, assisted in the writing of this issue's Happy Tales.

# Thank you WKYC Channel 3 for Hosting the 14th Annual Fur-Get-Me-Not Telethon

Community News

The 14th annual Fur-Get-Me-Not Telethon aired on Thursday, April 10, on WKYC Channel 3. This wonderful event was hosted by Joe Cronauer. Between 5 am and 7:30 pm, viewers saw vignettes that showcased the diverse and meaningful work the APL does to rescue, heal, nurture, adopt, and advocate for animals in need. The event brought the community together and inspired viewers to donate to help the thousands of animals who will be assisted by the Cleveland APL this year.

Our Fur-Get-Me-Not Telethon yet again invited both the team from WKYC and our phone bank volunteers into the same room at the APL. And thanks to the overwhelming support of the community, we continue to raise even more money to help the animals! This year, more than \$147,000 was raised to support the lifesaving work we do here at the Cleveland APL when we went off the air.

Your support continued to roll in, and more than \$155,000 was raised for this year's event. We are so grateful to our friends on Channel 3, celebrity host Joe Cronauer, and all the sponsors who made this event possible during such a critical time.



From left, Joe Cronauer, WKYC; Sharon Harvey, President & CEO of the APL; Madi Maruna, Cavitch; Paulina Kossakowski, Animal Care Manager at the APL; and Abby Miller, Events Manager at the APL. Photo credit: Mike Petcher

We Wish to Thank the Sponsors:

**CAVITCH**  
FAMILIO & DURKIN

**CROSSCOUNTRY**  
MORTGAGE®

**MEDVET**  
Leading Specialty Healthcare for Pets

## The Cleveland Guardians Volunteer at the APL and host Bark in the Park!



Guardians doggy fans and their humans enjoying the game!

The Cleveland APL is so grateful for the Cleveland Guardians continued support of our mission. The Cleveland Guardians players, staff, and their families recently visited the APL to volunteer and tour the facility. They spent a few hours of their morning building dog beds; crafting blankets, cat toys, and dog enrichment items for the APL's animals; and even enjoyed getting to meet adoptable puppies and kittens.

The Guardians also invited dogs and their owners to three Bark in the Park games earlier this season, with the fourth and final Bark in the Park game coming up on Monday, September 8. For each dog ticket purchased, \$5 was donated to the APL. Attendees also received Guardians-branded goodies for their pet, a food buffet ticket, and a Pup Pack provided by Milk-Bone and Pup-Peroni. Our volunteers assisted at each game by greeting guests at the entrance and checking their dogs' vaccination records to ensure the safety of all visitors and their dogs. We are grateful for our continued partnership with the Cleveland Guardians and appreciate the staff and players for donating their time and proceeds from tickets to support the APL.





## Upcoming Events

# Fur Ball 2025: Shake, Rattle & Roll Over

Mark your calendar today! This year's Fur Ball Gala will take place on Saturday, November 1, at the InterContinental Cleveland Hotel. You can attend the event in person or watch it from the comfort of your own home. In-person guests can enjoy wonderful food stations, fabulous live and silent auction items, and an in-person appearance from a VIP (Very Important Pooch), while virtual guests can still participate in the live and silent auctions, view the entire program from the comfort of their homes, and get a copy of the Cleveland APL's 2026 calendar!

Our annual Fur Ball Gala is a critical event for our organization because it is a special opportunity to raise money for our Second Chance Program. All animals deserve the medical care and loving attention they need while they are at the APL, and our Second Chance Program, which is funded solely by donations from compassionate people like you, helps us provide that care for animals who have nowhere else to turn.

Fur Ball will celebrate the animals who have been given second chances thanks to your support. We all know how essential a second chance is, and your continued support will be just that for the animals who have yet to come to the APL in need. We hope you'll join us for a memorable and unique experience that will benefit the Cleveland APL's Second Chance Program.

There are many opportunities to participate:

- Purchase tickets and invite friends, family, colleagues, or clients. In-person tickets are \$250, virtual tickets are \$50, or purchase a Patron Table for 10 for \$2,500.
- Consider corporate sponsorship opportunities that range from \$650 to \$10,000.
- Donate an item or service to our live or silent auction, or a bottle of wine for our wine pull. Popular items from past auctions include artwork, loge or box tickets to sporting events, restaurant gift certificates, vacation packages, and behind-the-scenes tours and experiences.

To learn more about this year's event and how you can get involved, please visit our website at [www.ClevelandAPL.org/Fur-Ball](http://www.ClevelandAPL.org/Fur-Ball) or call 216-377-1628. You can also scan the QR code to buy tickets and sponsorships, or to donate an auction item.



Scan QR Code

## Tune In for Dick Goddard's APL Telethon



Fox 8's Natalie Herbeck with Ayse Dunlap, VP of Operations at the Cleveland APL holding a duck.  
Photo credit: Mike Petcher

Save the date for the 11th annual Dick Goddard APL Telethon, which will air on Fox 8 from 6 am to 7:30 pm, on Wednesday, September 10. Funds raised during the event will help thousands of animals the Cleveland APL cares for every year. Help keep Dick Goddard's memory alive and help the various furry, scaly, feathered, and everything-in-between animals we work tirelessly to save by tuning in. Throughout the day, you will hear stories about the many wonderful animals who are at the APL waiting for loving homes and learn what your donation can do to support the Cleveland APL's life-saving programs and services.

For more information about the telethon and ways in which you can help, please visit [www.ClevelandAPL.org](http://www.ClevelandAPL.org).



# Opportunities to Give

## Ways to Support

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. Federal employees also can give to the APL through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The Cleveland APL's Combined Federal Campaign number is 29857. The Cleveland APL's Tax ID number is 34-0714644.

## Thank You So Much!

*Thanks to the generosity and efforts of everyone involved in these events, more than \$15,000 was raised to help the Cleveland APL and our animals.*

**Canterbury Elementary School** for raising money for the Cleveland APL through its flower kit fundraiser.

**Cleveland Clinic Nursing** for collecting funds and wish list donations for the Cleveland APL.

**Jack Cleveland Casino** for collecting donations for the Cleveland APL through its Change for Charity program.

**Raising Cane's Lakewood** for hosting a Give Back Day benefitting the Cleveland APL.

**Rock-N-Roll City Harley Davidson** for donating proceeds from its Puppy Love Poker Walk to the Cleveland APL.

**The Uncommon Aroid** for donating Plant Bingo proceeds to the Cleveland APL.

**Third Federal Savings & Loan** for donating to the Cleveland APL.

**Westside Buzz, Voyager Beverage, and Rozi's Wine House** for hosting a wine fundraiser benefitting the APL.

We also appreciate the additional in-kind donations we have received from our friends and supporters. To learn about how your business or organization can host your own Community Fundraiser, please call Abby Miller, Events Manager, at 216-377-1628. You can also visit our website, [www.ClevelandAPL.org](http://www.ClevelandAPL.org) to view our Community Fundraiser Policies and Application.

## Other Ways to Give

The Cleveland Animal Protective League's programs and services are made possible through donations from caring people like you. Here are just a few of the ways you can give to the Cleveland APL, allowing us to continue our life-saving work, while receiving tax benefits as well.

- You can make a gift of stock to the Cleveland APL. Here is the information you will need to gift stock:  
Raymond James  
DTC Participant #725  
For further credit to: Animal Protective League a/c #8855Y413
- Your investment in a donor-advised fund provides an immediate tax benefit for you, and that means your donations go even further to help the causes closest to your heart.
- If you have an IRA and are over 70½ years old, you can reduce your taxable income by directly transferring your required minimum distribution to a qualified charity such as the Cleveland APL.



Scan QR Code to Give

For more information about any of these giving options, please call Judy Hunter, Vice President of Philanthropy and Communications, at 216-344-1353.

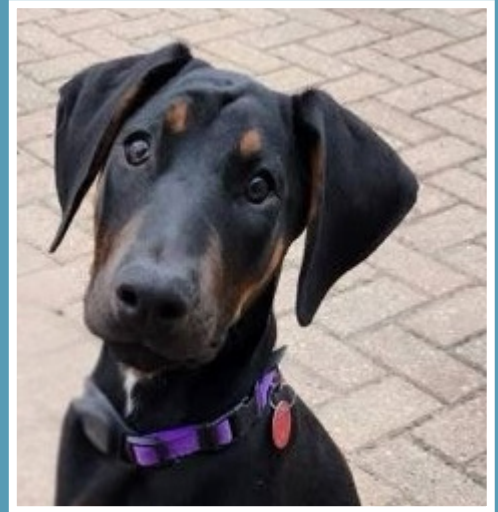
Please note: Tributes and Memorials at \$100 and above are now listed on our website. Please visit [www.clevelandapl.org/about-us/pet-patter/](http://www.clevelandapl.org/about-us/pet-patter/) to see the listings.



## Happy Tale Cont.

### Luna Continued...

Luna is living a wonderful life. She has taken field trips to the Metroparks and has been camping in Pennsylvania. She loves to be outside, where she likes to chase the birds and watch the squirrels. She has bonded with Danielle's two sons and her husband, and Danielle's two young nieces. But mostly, Danielle is Luna's human. Which is only right, given that Danielle did the research that led to the decision that she shared with her sister-in-law, that led to Luna's foster mom, that led to Danielle adopting Luna. Sometimes the road is winding, but as long as it ends in the right place, that's okay. It brought Luna home to Danielle. Who could ask for more?



Luna thriving in her new home

## Make A Difference, Become a Cage Sponsor

At the Cleveland Animal Protective League, healthy, friendly animals stay with us as long as it takes to find a forever home, receiving the care they need and deserve. With your one-year, renewable cage sponsorship, you help provide a safe, temporary haven for these animals. Each sponsorship is recognized with a plaque, which can honor a loved one or promote your business.

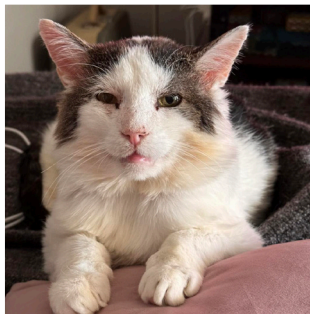
#### **Dog** Cage Sponsorship



Spike was with us  
8 months and 19 days.  
Adopted!

**One Year: \$1,800**  
Monthly (12x a year): \$150

#### **Cat** Cage Sponsorship



Kipper was with us  
5 months and 22 days.  
Adopted!

**One Year: \$1,500**  
Monthly (12x a year): \$125

#### **Small Mammal** Cage Sponsorship



Checkers was with us  
1 month and 15 days.  
Adopted!

**One Year: \$1,300**  
Monthly (12x a year): \$108.33

## Interested in becoming a cage sponsor or renewing your current one?



Scan QR Code

Visit [clevelandapl.org/sponsor-a-cage](https://clevelandapl.org/sponsor-a-cage) or  
contact Hannah MacIntyre, Annual Fund and Database Manager, at  
216-255-5024 or [hmacintyre@clevelandapl.org](mailto:hmacintyre@clevelandapl.org) for more information.