

CLEVELAND
ANIMAL
PROTECTIVE
LEAGUE

Pet Patter

September 2026

A Southern Guy and a Northern Girl – A Love Story

Letter from CEO - pg. 2
New Facility - pg.3
Fur Ball 2026 - pg. 6

The photographs are, well, breathtaking. He's handsome and clearly happy, mountain climbing and hiking. He's smiling in all of them, enjoying the great outdoors, sun ruffling his hair, his brown eyes gleaming. He's originally from the South, and he may be showing off some of that Southern charm. He's adventurous; he loves backpacking and canoeing. And he's perfectly dressed for every occasion, in colors that flatter him. He's always up for a challenge. Admittedly, he can be a little competitive – especially at the Happy Ratters competitions. Happy Ratters? Is that the name of a European rugby team? More on that later.

The handsome guy's name is Pippin, and he is everything Jewel was looking for in a dog.

When Pippin came to the APL in August 2024, he was just a few months old, and cute as could be. And, he had been saddled with the unfortunate name of Thing.

Thing came to the APL on a transport from Georgia. The Cleveland APL is part of a nationwide network of animal shelters who cooperate to move shelter animals from places facing extreme weather or other disaster conditions to safer areas for adoption. Moving these animals frees up shelter space so that animals who are lost or displaced during the storms can be held until they are claimed by their families.

Jewel was looking for a dog who could join her on adventures. She hoped to find an Australian Shepherd or a Cattle Dog who could be her partner in hiking, backpacking and other outdoor fun. She was committed to finding a rescue dog and not going through a breeder, especially because she knew how hard shelter life could be on a smart, energetic dog. She knew that with these requirements, she might be in for a long wait.



Pippin on an adventure in New River Gorge National Park, West Virginia

But her friend Hannah, who worked at the APL, knew about Jewel's quest, and told her right away when the transport arrived carrying the young cattle dog mix.

Jewel met Thing and fell for him at first sight. It was a match made in heaven, or at least, at the APL.

Jewel immediately changed his name to Pippin, which means awe-inspiring. Completely fitting. And, the adventuring started right away. The two of them have done obedience training and agility training, dock diving and lure chasing. He works hard at whatever he is taught because he wants to please Jewel.

Bennie's BLURB

Letter from the President & CEO

Over the past 20 years, the Cleveland APL has continually evolved to meet the changing needs of animals and the people who love them. Programs such as Trap-Neuter-Return, the Second Chance Program, Foster Care, Enrichment & Wellbeing, and Animal Welfare Spay/Neuter Clinic have transformed how we save lives and improve the quality of life for shelter animals and community cats. Each was created to address a specific need and has had a profound impact on reducing suffering, increasing lifesaving, and ensuring more animals receive the care they deserve.

But two of our newer initiatives, project CARE and the Community Pet Clinic, represent something a little different. Rather than responding after an animal has become homeless or fallen into crisis, these programs are designed to improve quality of life for pets in the community and prevent those situations from happening in the first place. Their focus is on pets who already have loving families and owners who want desperately to keep them, but who may be struggling with temporary hardships or barriers to care. By providing support before a crisis becomes a surrender, these programs help preserve the human-animal bond and keep beloved pets where they belong—at home, with the people who love them.

When people talk about the impact of preventive programs like these, the first things that often come to mind are numbers. How many pets and families were helped? How many vaccines were given? How many pounds of pet food were distributed?

Those numbers matter. They help us understand where help is needed most, ensure resources are being used wisely, and demonstrate a program's reach. But numbers alone can't tell the whole story. Impact isn't always about how much we do. It's about how much it matters.

Many of the families who turn to project CARE are facing real challenges and barriers to providing their pets with the care they need. Some are living on very tight budgets. Others lack transportation. Some are older adults or people with disabilities who depend on their pets for companionship, emotional support, and stability in their daily lives. For many, their pet isn't simply an animal in the household, it's a cherished friend, a source of comfort, and sometimes their closest friend.

Project CARE's Crisis Foster Safety Net Program, which is overseen by a licensed social worker, illustrates this in an especially powerful way.

Through the program, we provide temporary foster or boarding care for pets whose owners are experiencing a serious but temporary crisis—situations such as losing housing, escaping domestic violence, or facing a major health challenge.

When someone knows their pet is safe, an incredibly difficult situation becomes a little easier to face. A person fleeing domestic violence may be able to seek safety sooner. Someone entering the hospital can focus on healing instead of worrying about the animal they love. A family experiencing a housing crisis may gain the time they need to regain stability without having to surrender a beloved companion.

In these moments, the true value of the program isn't measured solely by the number of pets in temporary care. It's measured in relief. In hope. In peace of mind. It's measured in keeping families together when they need each other most.

The numbers may be modest compared to other programs, but the impact is profound. Thanks to your support and belief that these families, the pets and their people alike, deserve compassion and care, their stories can be filled with hope. Thank you.

P.S. If you are interested in helping the APL to expand the impact, both large and small, of project CARE's critical work, please visit our website at clevelandapl.org/make-a-donation.

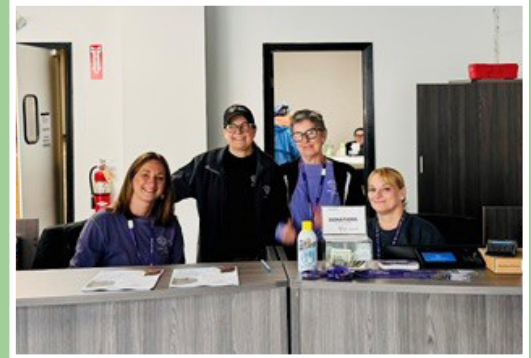
Sharon Harvey, Bennie, and Oliver



Expanding Access to Care: New Community Resource Center

We're excited to share that we have leased a space on the near east side of Cleveland that will serve as project CARE's Community Resource Center (CRC)! Located at 1728 St. Clair Avenue NE, the 4,000-square-foot facility has been equipped and furnished to support and expand project CARE's outreach efforts, such as our community wellness clinics and pet food pantry, providing greater access to pet resources and services for financially qualified Cleveland pet owners.

Bordering the eastern edge of Downtown Cleveland and the St. Clair-Superior District, this location was deliberately chosen due to the lack of accessible and affordable resources for pet owners who live on the near east side of Cleveland. As part of our initiative to expand services through our PetSmart Charities Incubator Grant, this area has been a primary focus for our project CARE team for the last two years. We have made progress in expanding access to care for pet owners who are facing financial hardships, and the creation of our CRC will continue to increase those efforts.



APL staff at the front desk of resource center



APL volunteer assists community member

A primary goal for our new space is expansion of our pet food pantry. The CRC provides storage capacity to meet the growing needs in our community. By transitioning our project CARE operations to the new space, we will be able to accept a higher volume of incoming donations of pet food and other products, such as leashes, collars, crates, toys, beds, and enrichment items. We will also be able to distribute more to our shelter partners and mobile pet food banks in partnership with local food banks, such as the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, the Hunger Network's Midtown Market, The Friendly Inn, and the Famicos Foundation. We will begin with one pet food distribution day a week at the CRC and when staffed will expand to five days a week. In 2023, we distributed just over 3 tons of pet food to pet owners, last year we distributed 29 tons, and already this year are on track to exceed that number!

Another goal for the CRC is to offer low-cost wellness and preventative care to financially qualified Cleveland pet owners. Appointments and walk-ins will receive wellness exams, treatment of minor medical ailments, vaccinations, flea and tick medication, microchips, and nail trims. Wellness care will be offered on a regular basis as we increase staff at the location.

For more information on services and appointments, contact our project CARE team at 216-377-1633 or email projectcare@clevelandapl.org.

Visit the APL

For the latest hours and information, please visit our website at ClevelandAPL.org. Please note that hours may occasionally 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 to make a reservation.



Top Hat Finds Love in a Cleveland Cafe



Top Hat in his favorite spot

Caitlyn and Joe will always remember the little café where they met and fell in love. With Agatha Christie and Top Hat.

The café was AffoGATO, a charming spot in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood, not far from the Cleveland APL. AffoGATO offers drinks (including Pawfee, Espurresso, and Kit-Tea), vegan pastries, cat merchandise, and plenty of cat puns. And the loveable, adoptable cats are all rescues looking for loving homes.

One part of AffoGATO is the café itself, where the refreshments are served. The other is the Cat Lounge, where cat-loving guests can enjoy their drinks while they snuggle, play with, and relax around the adoptable cats. Cat lovers get their cat "fix," the cats get helpful socialization time, and, sometimes, a match is made, and a lucky cat finds their new home. Since the café opened in 2019, more than 1,700 cats have been adopted from the Cleveland APL through AffoGATO!

Two of those lucky cats were Agatha Christie and Top Hat. Caitlyn grew up with cats. One in particular, an orange Siamese mix named Sierra, held a special place in her heart. When Caitlyn moved away from home, she noticed right away how lonely a home could be without a pet. It soon became time to look for a cat of her own.

Caitlyn and her boyfriend Joe headed to AffoGATO, to visit the cats and see if they might find a new family member there.

Joe fell instantly for Agatha Christie, named after his

favorite author. Caitlyn was happy to adopt Agatha, but then saw Top Hat, lying on a cabinet, playing with another cat. Top Hat reminded Caitlyn so much of Sierra. She instantly knew—they were getting two cats. Agatha Christie and Top Hat found their new home.

And what a purrfect home it turned out to be (AffoGATO hasn't cornered the market on cat puns!). Caitlyn and Joe kept the two new family members separate at first, as instructed. In just a few hours, Top Hat declared the apartment his and began investigating. Agatha Christie was a bit shy, but within a few days had settled in and was playing with her new brother.

Despite their rather sophisticated names (which Caitlyn and Joe kept), their interests are a bit more down-to-earth. The apartment has tall windows through which Agatha and Top Hat can watch the world and pounce at Mayflies. Top Hat sleeps comfortably in the humans' bed, while Agatha has a variety of beds from which to choose, including one called the Princess Bed, located strategically in the window. Still, she often sleeps under Caitlyn and Joe's bed, to be close to her humans and Top Hat. Top Hat is a bit more into his toys. He loves toy springs, batting them around the apartment. He has even taught himself to play fetch with them! Caitlyn recently bought a bag of 60, to ensure he never runs out. His favorite toy, though, may be his Jellycat Football, which he snuggles and wrestles through the apartment.

Fate conspired in that small café to create a love story for animal aficionados—two humans, two cats, one very happy life. Thank you, Caitlyn, Joe, and AffoGATO for giving Agatha Christie and Top Hat the happily-ever-after they deserve.



Top Hat and Agatha Christie snuggling on the couch

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

Thank you WKYC Channel 3 for hosting the 15th Annual Fur-Get-Me-Not Telethon

Community News

The 15th annual Fur-Get-Me-Not Telethon aired on Thursday, March 19, on WKYC Channel 3. This wonderful event was hosted by Joe Cronauer. Between 5 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., 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 brought together both the team from WKYC and our phone bank volunteers 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 \$157,000 was raised to support the lifesaving work we do here at the Cleveland APL.

We are so grateful to our friends on Channel 3, celebrity host Joe Cronauer, and all the sponsors and volunteers who made this event possible. A special thank you to Presenting Sponsors:



From left to right: Hannah MacIntyre, Events & Social Media Manager; Judy Hunter, Vice President of Philanthropy and Communications; WKYC's Joe Cronauer, Sharon Harvey, APL President & CEO; Paulina Kossakowski, Animal Care Manager, and Dan Hudak, APL Volunteer

CAVITCH
FAMILIO & DURKIN

CROSSCOUNTRY
MORTGAGE

SUBARU

Ken Ganley
SUBARU WICKLIFFE
SUBARU BEDFORD

NORTHEAST
FACTORY
DIRECT

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



Guardians doggy and human fans 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 our 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 14. 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 2026: Paws Ahoy!

The Cleveland APL's Annual Gala—Celebrate with Us

Mark your calendar today! This year's Fur Ball Gala will take place on **Saturday, November 7, 2026**, 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 2027 calendar!

Our annual Fur Ball Gala is a critical event for our organization because it is a special opportunity to raise funds 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 people 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 www.ClevelandAPL.org/Fur-Ball or call 216-377-1628. You can also scan the QR code below to buy tickets and sponsorships, or to donate an auction item.



Tune In for Dick Goddard's APL Telethon



One of the adorable cats featured in 2025

Save the date for the 12th annual Dick Goddard APL Telethon, which will air on Fox 8 from 6 am to 7:30 pm, on Wednesday, September 16. 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 care for 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.



Thank You So Much!

Thanks to the generosity and efforts of everyone involved in these events, more than \$13,000 was raised to help the Cleveland APL and our animals.

American Public Works Association for supporting the Cleveland APL at their North American Snow Conference.

A New HoriZen for donating proceeds from their Kitten Yoga class.

Campus International School for collecting wish list items for the Cleveland APL.

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

Cleveland Heart Lab Quest Diagnostics for hosting a donation drive and fundraiser.

Dudes of Cleveland for hosting Amped Up for Animals and donating proceeds to the Cleveland APL.

For the Love of Bay Village Dogs for donating to the Cleveland APL.

Ghostbusters Cleveland for raising funds for the Cleveland APL.

Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM) for donating to the Cleveland APL.

Little Green Apple Hallmark for donating a portion of proceeds from their Gift of Giving ornament sales.

Marshall Flooring for supporting the Cleveland APL through their Spring Celebration Fundraiser in honor of their 60th anniversary.

Orange Theory Fitness Lakewood for collecting wish list items and donations.

Roxboro Elementary School students and families for raising money through a fundraiser to support the APL.

S&T Bank for donating proceeds from their Jeans Day Fundraising Event.

Third Federal Saving & Loan for donating to the Cleveland APL through their Fun Month fundraiser.

UNVOW for donating all door proceeds from Mutts and Metal at Happy Dog.

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 Hannah MacIntyre, Events & Social Media Manager, at (216)377-1628. You can also visit our website, www.ClevelandAPL.org to view our Community Fundraiser Policies and Application.

Ways to Support

Opportunities 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. 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.

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 #627DV357
- 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.

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



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



Happy Tale Cont.

His favorite competition is the Happy Ratter, which is not a rugby match, but, rather, a humane rat-finding hunt game.

Pippin is a ball of energy. He recharges while Jewel is at work, but when she's home, he springs into action. Jewel describes Pippin as both smart and stubborn. She and her boyfriend Shawn work hard to keep Pippin occupied and channel his energy. They create activities for him, including nested cardboard boxes that he loves to shred to get the treat inside. He does love to destroy toys, and Jewel and Shawn are always on the hunt for toys that will withstand his energetic "attack." He likes playing with other dogs that he knows, and he is even good with their cat, Grimalkin.

Still, Pippin's favorite thing in the world is hanging out with Jewel. And it's clear when Jewel talks about Pippin that she feels the same way. These two were made for each other. And the Cleveland APL is so happy to have been part of the 800-mile journey to bring them together!



Pippin in Hocking Hills State Park, Ohio

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 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



Duke Ellington was with us
7 months and 22 days.
Adopted!

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

Cat Cage Sponsorship



Hugo was with us
2 months and 18 days.
Adopted!

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

Small Mammal Cage Sponsorship



Meyers was with us
1 month and 19 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 or
contact Michelle Papachristou, Annual Fund and Database Manager, at
216-255-5024 or mpapachristou@clevelandapl.org for more information.