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Winter 2011

A newsletter for the friends of animals

The Pet Orphanage Times

Xbox 360 raffle results

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Fall Xbox raffle a big success. We netted nearly \$1,000 after expenses, and those funds will be put to good use. For example, \$1,000 could pay for 33 cat neuters!

The first prize, an Xbox 360 with Halo Reach, plus \$70 in Walmart gift cards, was awarded to Lindsey Stout. Second prize, a \$25 gift certificate to Texas Roadhouse, went to Mary Sen. Darlene Savely won the third prize, a \$25 Kroger gift card. Congratulations to our winners.

We are grateful to the Logan Walmart for donating the gift cards; and to the Lancaster Texas Roadhouse for donating their gift certificate and to the Logan Kroger for

their gift card. These organizations really support our community with their generosity.

We also need to thank the businesses that offered to sell raffle tickets for us: Flowers by Darlene, Logan; Grandma Faye's, Logan; Abfall Veterinary Clinic, The Plains; and Graphic Creations, Laurelville. We also were allowed to set up ticket sale tables in Logan at Tractor Supply and Kroger; and at Young's Family Market in Laurel-



Lindsey Stout, winner of the Xbox 360 game system

ville.

Finally, we offer a big thank you to each and every person who purchased a raffle ticket. Your support raised \$1,000 to help animals in need in our community.

An ounce of prevention

Canine parvovirus is the cause of a highly contagious disease that can affect dogs of any age. It can linger for many months in the ground where an infected dog has eliminated. It causes extreme vomiting and diarrhea and is especially deadly to puppies. If you suspect your dog may have parvo, early diagnosis and

treatment are critical to giving your dog the best chance of recovery. Symptoms include loss of appetite, lethargy, fever, vomiting, abdominal distention, and dehydration. A simple test can be performed at your vet's office to detect the virus. Though no vaccine is foolproof, a series of vaccinations will protect most

dogs from contracting the disease. Your vet can advise you about a vaccination schedule for this and other canine diseases.

For more information about parvovirus, please visit: VeterinaryPartner.com and search for "parvovirus information center."

Remembering Sherry Seymour

By Susan Davis

“Sherry was often on a mission of mercy, usually to help an animal.”

The Pet Orphanage has suffered many losses over the years, but none greater than the loss of our beloved friend, Sherry Seymour. On December 13, 2009, Sherry’s SUV slid on ice as she was heading to be with her ailing father. She did not survive the accident.

Sherry was often on a mission of mercy, usually to help an animal. She had a special love for cats, and she always had several at her house that she was nursing back to health, trying to socialize or looking to place in permanent homes. She was notorious for coming up with colorful names for them, like Viper and Crabapple.

We started The Pet Orphanage in January 2000, funding it mostly out of our own pockets. In April of that year, we received a check for \$140 from Sherry. She sent a note saying she had raffled off an Easter basket on our behalf at Grandma Faye’s, her general store near Old Man’s Cave. That was our introduction to Sherry. To steal a line from the movie *Casablanca*, it was “... the beginning of a beautiful friendship.”

Sherry always had cats spayed or neutered at her own expense before she adopted them out. So she began bringing them to our low-cost spay/neuter clinics and The Pet Orphanage would cover the cost. Eventually, we convinced her to become an alternate on our board of directors. We all valued her opinion and enjoyed her sense of humor and stories about her encounters with some pretty tough characters, both animal and human.

She was nothing if not spunky. When a guy stole The Pet Orphanage’s donation jar from her store, she got a picture of him from the surveillance camera and put it on another jar to try to identify him. She even got a \$20 donation from the detective who came to investigate. Classic Sherry.

Sherry will always be missed by those who knew and loved her. She made the world a better place while she was here, and her untimely passing is a tragic loss to people and animals alike. We realize that our sorrow cannot compare to that of her family and our hearts go out to them.

Sherry was truly irreplaceable. It’s still hard to believe she’s gone. On a personal note, I was usually on the phone with Sherry several times per week, trying to help some cats, or sometimes just to talk. No matter how busy she was, she always somehow managed to make time for you. She was special, she was unique, and I feel honored to have called her my friend.

Note: Sherry left behind over twenty cats and kittens in her shelter. We are happy to report that all have found new homes, with the exception of Old Tom and Buddy whom Sherry’s husband David has kept, along with their “house” cats. Lana and Sue of Springwood Cabins worked tirelessly to care for the cats and find them new homes, with the full cooperation and support of David, Amy of Grandma Faye’s, and supporters of The Pet Orphanage.



Did you know?

Female cats and dogs become sexually mature at 5 to 6 months, although some may mature earlier. Dogs typically come into heat 2 to 3 times per year, but cats can cycle in and out of heat every few weeks until they are bred or spayed. After conception, it only takes about 9 weeks for the puppies or kittens to be born. The Pet Orphanage receives on average 1 to 2 calls per day from people wanting us to take animals, especially cats and kittens. Please help us stem the tide. Spay now... or pay later.

Stray cats in Logan

“The long term solution—the humane solution—is to control the population through spay/neuter.”

In July of 2010, a Logan resident alerted The Pet Orphanage that a petition had been presented to Logan City Council by a group of Friesner Avenue residents, asking the City to remove the stray cats in their neighborhood. They said the cats were creating a nuisance by eliminating in their yards and sleeping on their porch furniture. Two special meetings were held to give citizens a chance to voice their opinions on the matter.

Representatives from The Pet Orphanage attended both meetings. We proposed Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) to help ease the situation. This would have stabilized the cat population in the area, and over time the number of cats would have decreased. It would also have lessened nuisance behaviors such as spraying and fighting. It would not have been a “quick fix” and it would have required the combined efforts of the residents, The Pet Orphanage and the City. The Pet Orphanage proposed that instead of hiring a “pest control”

company to remove the cats, as had been suggested by a council member and the city law director, the money would be better spent by investing in an aggressive spay/neuter program.

The Hocking County Humane Society offered to accept stray cats from residents who would trap them. They planned to hold the cats for 10 days and advertise them to give owners a chance to claim any that were not truly strays. However, at the end of 10 days, unclaimed cats would be euthanized.

During the meetings, there was discussion of licensing for all cats. The Pet Orphanage opposes licensing because it could induce owners to abandon their own cats and it would keep people who feed strays from coming forward to get them spayed or neutered. It would also be nearly impossible to enforce.

In the end, City Council decided they could not afford to implement either a pest control program or trap-neuter-release.

They concluded that individual property owners could trap cats and take them to the Humane Society if they chose.

The Pet Orphanage recognizes that there are far too many stray cats everywhere, and it is a huge, ongoing problem. However, we maintain that these cats are victims of their own fertility and that the answer to problem is not to round them up and kill them. We believe that euthanasia should be reserved for cases where the animal is so sick or injured that putting it down is the only merciful thing to do. In fact, we often pay for this service to be performed at local vets. The long term solution – the humane solution—is to control the population through spay/neuter.

Postscript: Due to the illness of the Hocking County Humane Agent, the Hocking County Humane Society has not yet been able to accept stray cats, hold them temporarily and then euthanize unclaimed animals.

Ohio Pet Fund: support spay/neuter with your license plate

The Ohio Pet license plates that you may have noticed on many cars and trucks provide funding for education, spay/neuter of pets for low income families, as well as for dogs and cats in qualifying shelters.

The Pet Orphanage was awarded a \$5,000 grant for cat spay/neuter from this fund in

2009, and just reapplied for another grant (as soon as we were eligible). The tags cost an additional \$25 and feature some super cute images. Check them out at petsohio.com. To purchase, visit Oplates.com, visit your Deputy Registrar, or call 1-800-589-TAGS.



**Cat Spay/Neuter
Clinic Schedule**

<u>Sign up</u>	<u>Clinic</u>
Feb 5	Feb 19 & 20
March 6	March 13
April 2	April 10**
May 14	May 22
June 25	July 10
August 7	August 14
Sept 10*	Sept 18**
Oct 1	Oct 10 & 30
Nov 12	Nov 20, Dec 3 & 4

Sign Up Time and Location: 9-10:30 am at the Hocking County Fairgrounds Youth Building, except for *Sept 10 Sign UP TBD.

Clinic Locations: Hocking County Fairgrounds Youth Building except for **April 10 & Sept 18 Clinics at Logan Hocking Activity Center, 1593 E. Front St (back of building).



Spay/neuter assistance programs for cats and dogs

The Pet Orphanage recently was granted a renewal of a dog spay/neuter contract to help reduce the number of homeless dogs in Hocking county and nearby areas. Grant funds are now available to provide financial assistance to dog owners who cannot afford to have their pets "fixed." Dogs of any size are eligible, although program emphasis is on large dogs.

This grant helps pay for spay/neuter of "owned" dogs and is not intended for breeders or dogs in shelters or foster care.

It is helpful to know the dog's weight before calling The Pet Orphanage since weight determines the cost of surgery. Owners will be asked how much they can contribute toward surgery, and grant funds will pay the balance. Even a small contribution helps stretch grant funds to assist more owners. Vouchers will be issued to owners for use at local veterinary clinics which are familiar with this outreach program. In addition, we will refer owners to our SOS Ohio transport ser-

vice, in which dogs travel to Columbus by van for surgery in the morning, then are returned to Logan in the evening.

We have also recently received a spay/neuter grant from the ASPCA for both dogs and cats. Owners who do not meet the requirements of one grant program may be able to use the other. For more information about dog spay/neuter assistance, contact Mary Marsh at 740-332-9202. For cat spay/neuter assistance, call the main Pet Orphanage number, 740-380-3002.

Low-cost spay/neuter alternatives for cats

Although The Pet Orphanage has scheduled 15 low-cost spay/neuter clinics for cats this year, there are usually more cats that need to be spayed than can be scheduled into our clinics. Masterson Veterinary Clinic in Somerset, OH, charges \$55 for female cat spays and \$30 for male neutering. They also provide sterilization for dogs as well as a full range of veterinary services. While The Pet Orphanage does not promote one vet over another, we think it's important to let people know about vets who per-

form low-cost spays and neuters, especially for cats. Their phone number is 740-743-1426.

Shelter Outreach Services of Ohio (SOS Ohio) also offers low-cost spay/neuter for both dogs and cats. This clinic is located in Columbus. From March through October, The Pet Orphanage arranges a monthly transport service to the clinic so that local owners do not have to make the trip on their own. However, anyone can make an appointment and drive their cat or dog to Columbus to take advantage of their low rates.

SOS Ohio charges \$55 for female cat spays and \$40 for male cat neuters. For female dogs up to 85 lbs, the spay charge is \$85. For male dogs up to 85 lbs, the neuter charge is \$65. All pets will receive a rabies vaccination (\$6) unless the owner presents evidence of a current vaccination. Visit the SOS Ohio website at www.sosohio.org or call them at 614-396-8707. For information about the transport service to Columbus beginning in March, please call Mary at 740-332-9202.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION SUPPORTS OUR SPAY/NEUTER & FOSTER CARE SERVICES

The Pet Orphanage is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

\$10	_____
\$20	_____
\$50	_____
Other	_____

Please mail check to: The Pet Orphanage
 PO Box 906
 Logan, OH 43138

Or use your credit card online at:
thepetorphanage.org