

Winter 2012



Humane Society A.L.L. E-newsletter

The Humane Society Animal League for Life of Madison County is a 501(c)3 non-profit, no-kill organization. Your donations are greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible!

**We are located at 128 C Big Hill Avenue
in Richmond** (just below WYCO - The Coyote Radio Station).

ADOPTION DAYS
Saturdays, 12- 5 PM

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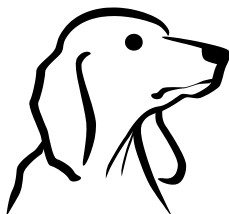
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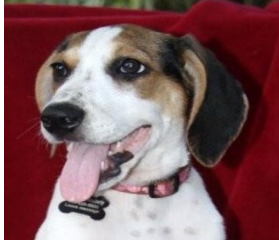


2011 update for HSALL: We took in 121 pets— 99 cats and 22 dogs— and found homes for 115 (94 cats and 21 dogs), up from 73 pets in 2010.

*******Hurray!!!*******

We are also proud to announce that HSALL was the recipient of a \$7,000 grant from Two Mauds, Inc. We are currently in construction of a new low-cost spay/neuter clinic at our Big Hill Avenue Location. Keep checking our website for updates on this exciting information!





Madison County Humane Society A.L.L Fundraiser at CiCi's Pizza in Richmond, KY!

\$5.49 Adult Buffet, \$2.99 Kids Buffet

Friday, January 20th from 4pm to 8pm

Up To 20% of Sales Donated

**Prize Wheel & Prizes!! Face Painting!! Animals for adoption!!
Please Donate Your Receipt @ The Register!!**

**256 Richmond Mall,
Richmond, KY 40475
859.623.1555**



We Are In **NEED OF KITTY LITTER**. Please drop off donations at the Adoption Center on Saturdays from 12-5 or contact us to make other arrangements. Our kitties thank you!



Humane Society's Wish List

Dry and canned cat food, kitten food
 Kitty litter
 Dry dog food, puppy food
 Dog and Cat toys and treats
 Stainless steel dog and cat food bowls
 Dog and Cat collars and leashes
 Plastic pet carriers in all sizes
 Wire dog kennels in all sizes
 Puppy training pads
 Washable cat and dog beds
 Live trap cages (Have-a-Heart style) to catch strays
 Litter pans and litter scoops
 Kitten and puppy milk replacement formula
 Used, clean bath towels, sheets, scatter rugs or blankets for bedding

Medical Supplies:

Flea treatments (Frontline, Revolution or Advantage only) for dogs and cats
 Heartworm prevention pills for dogs
 Terramycin eye ointment
 Ear cleansers
 Small heating pads
 Cotton balls

Cleaning Supplies:

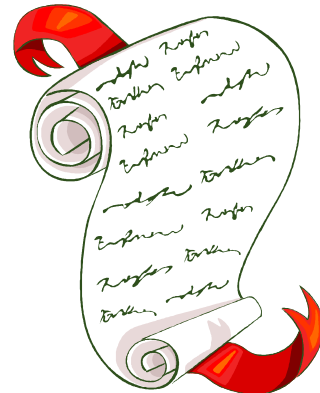
Paper towels
 Bleach
 Ammonia free glass cleaner
 Lysol 3-1 liquid cleaner
 Scented candles
 Liquid laundry detergent
 Garbage bags any size
 Liquid hand sanitizer
 Liquid hand soap

Office supplies

Copy/printer paper
 Mostly any office supplies or organizers
 Used, working digital cameras and laptop computers

OTHER

Foster families
 Volunteers
 Gift cards to Walmart, Kroger, Meijer, Lowes, etc.
 Monetary donations for veterinary bills





The Power of the Internet by Kammy Popiwczak

*I promised you an update on becoming a foster parent to four kittens in the fall newsletter. Sometimes things don't work out quite the way we plan. Instead, I would like to share my thoughts on the internet and its effect on pets, animal rescue and my life. Please keep in mind that these are merely **my** opinions, not those of the Humane Society A.L.L.- Kammy Popiwczak*

I admit I am an internet junkie, Craigslist in particular. I love looking at all the ads listed. I get to see all the “stuff” people have to sell. I also get to sit in my chair at 1 in the morning feeling superior and wishing I could go hug my high school English teacher. I mean, how many ways can people spell Chihuahua?

Once I read all the categories with all the junk that I don't need, I study the pet section in great detail. I look for all the lost pet ads, hoping maybe I can spot a lost animal and reunite it with its owner. I also read and respond to desperate pet owners looking for advice. Sometimes I find an ad that touches my heart. Sometimes I find one that makes me angry. The ads that read “moving, gotta get rid of” absolutely drive me crazy. First off, my pets are my children. I have moved eight times and ALWAYS take all my pets— even my goldfish. I mean long distance, several states away moves. Many pets, not just one. Secondly, “get rid of?” UGGHH! We **get rid of** trash, fleas, lice, bad politicians and pests in general. Not beloved pets, or family members as I consider them.

The positive influence of the internet was demonstrated by the response to American Airlines debacle of Jack the Cat. The airline lost the cat and did little to help. By posting the owner's plight on Facebook, it gained national and then international media coverage. I checked in daily to Jack's Facebook page to see people mobilizing to find him. Two months later I jumped up and down when Jack was located. Just a few days later, I sobbed after learning he had to be put to sleep. His death, one lone cat, has done so much to spotlight the dangers of placing animals in airline cargo- all because of the internet's global reach.

Last month I was able to include in the newsletter the touching story of a cat reunited with its owners in Wisconsin after a car crash in Berea, KY. The internet made that reunion possible by mobilizing a group of volunteers that coordinated the long drive between states. Would that have been possible a few years back before we all communicated via our computers?

The Power of the Internet Con't...

Petfinder.com is another wonderful internet tool for pet lovers to use. In times of disaster, people can turn to this website to try to locate missing pets. Also, pets that are looking to be adopted are often found on Petfinder.com. I found my beautiful cat Yoshi on this website and then contacted the Humane Society A.L.L. to adopt him. I remember many years ago wanting to adopt a kitten. There were no websites that I was aware of (okay—now you know just how old I am!). My husband and I drove around to various places and finally found a barn that had kittens! Times have certainly changed.

As I try to finish this newsletter so that it can go to distribution, I realize just how much the internet has affected the pets in my life. My family and I rescued a bearded dragon off Craigslist. Spyke is our first reptile and he has taught us so much. I learned that I can love a lizard as much as my cuddly dog or cat and he shows me just as much devotion as my dog. A few months ago, we rescued a snake because of the internet. He was near death because the owners just turned off the heat and pulled away in the moving van, leaving him behind to die. Caesar is now a beloved family member and very spoiled too.

Amazingly, our cats, dogs and reptiles all get along. However, a lot of research and careful thought took place prior to any of the adoptions. Most of the research came from the internet and reputable websites.

Ironically, I am now using the internet to place ads for a dog I found two days ago. In addition to placing signs, calling the shelters and local vets, the internet gives me the power to reach many people. Hopefully, someday all pets are microchipped and no pet is ever separated from its owner, but in the meantime, I will keep my computer on....



Our Featured Adoptable Dog “Desi”



This little beagle/Basset mix is Desi, She is estimated to be 1 1/2 to 2 years old. She is very friendly and loving and loves to meet new people. Like most beagles, Desi loves to be outside and playing in the yard, so it would be great if her future home had a fenced in yard to keep her safe. Desi does well with other dogs and cats as well. She would do well with a young family that will love her and give her a great home. Might that home be yours?

Desi has already been spayed, is up to date on vaccines and is heart worm tested negative. (Which is great!) With an approved application Desi's adoption fee is \$110.00.

If you interested in Desi you can contact Jessica at jessica_adams147@yahoo.com, for an application or for any questions you may have. Desi is fostered in Berea, Ky.

HSALL Partners with the Richmond Petsmart

The Humane Society A.L.L. is proud of its partnership with the Richmond Petsmart. Please stop by the Adoption Center inside the Richmond Petsmart to see many of our great cats available for adoption. HSALL thanks Petsmart for their wonderful support of our organization and many animal welfare organizations around the country. Over 4.8 million great pets have found homes through the Petsmart Adoption program.

Our featured Adoptable Cat “Misty”



Misty is a very sweet short haired Russian Blue mixed cat. She loves being held and petted and has a great temperament. She is about two years old as of 04/16/11 and is ready to find a loving permanent home. Misty has already been combo tested and was negative for Feline Aids and Feline Leukemia (hurray!) and has been dewormed.

If you might be interested in Misty, please email Jamie at j.bratcher@yahoo.com for more information and/or to request an adoption application (this is the first step). You may also call Jamie at 859-582-2612 if you have any specific questions. Misty is being fostered in Richmond, Kentucky. Her adoption donation is \$75 which includes her vaccinations and spay.

Become A Member of Humane Society Animal League

Membership Form		
Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Home Phone		Work Phone
Fax		E-Mail
TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP		
<input type="checkbox"/> individual \$15 annually	<input type="checkbox"/> life membership \$250 (one time)	
<input type="checkbox"/> family \$25 annually	<input type="checkbox"/> memorial \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> business \$50 annually	<input type="checkbox"/> donation \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> corporate \$200 annually		
Comments		

Please mail membership / donation forms to:

Humane Society A.L.L. of Madison County
P.O. Box 2094
Richmond, Kentucky 40476-2094

Thank You!



White Hall Elementary School's Green Club celebrated America Recycles Day on November 15. This is a nationally recognized day to encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle items.

Students asked classmates to bring in used towels, blankets, washcloths and rugs. Over 100 pounds of these items were collected. The Green Club gave the items to the Madison County Humane Society A.L.L. to REUSE in their work with homeless animals.

Way to go White Hall Elementary! We Thank You!



A HUGE SHOUT OUT TO CAUDILL MIDDLE SCHOOL ART CLASS!

Art students at Caudill Middle School made Christmas ornaments and sold them, raising \$100 for our spay and neuter clinic. THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!

A special thank you to our anonymous donor who covered half of the adoption fees for all the animals adopted during the month of December!

FALL-LA-LA-IN-LOVE by Diana Flener

I put up the last ornament and lit the lights of my Christmas tree. As I stood back, taking in the view, I noticed someone else captivated by the Christmas tree's magic. My view of the tree was now seen through the back of my stray cat's head. *There is nothing more innocent than looking at a cat from behind with their ears erect.* There she sat in perfect stance-staring up at the tree's 1500 sparkling lights. She slowly took in each one of them as she watched their reflections dance off the glistening ornaments. My heart felt like that moment in, "The Grinch That Stole Christmas"-it literally grew two sizes and sent a warm pulse through my entire body!

Seven months earlier, I had cringed when my husband called out, "There's a cat on our porch." I looked out to see this crazed cat leap off the porch and run helter-skelter to the middle of the yard-exposed! She ran back and forth frantically in every direction-panic stricken. It was like she was on FIRE! She ran across the street, hiding in the tall field grass. I could see her ears peering through. She was acting like a cat that had been dumped into the perils of the outdoors and who had learned to trust no one. It did not surprise me... She was not the first cat to come to my porch for refuge. Two years earlier, after adopting a tortoise-colored cat, I had ordered a kitty condo. I anxiously kept looking out the door expecting a big box from the postman. Instead it was another tortoise cat! Then, the condo came later and she was laying on top the box. That new arrival had put us up to a 4 count! Therefore, I was not thrilled with this new intruder. I closed the door and told my husband to wipe the smile off his face-this was not going to turn out well at all. But as all of us animal lovers do-I put food out late that night when I could still see those ears peeking through grass.

She would not let us near her-EVER. She would only come back at dusk each night to finish an entire bowl of food in one sitting. She even came in the middle of torrential rains. She obviously had no other choices. She would spook easily-even sensing if I was looking at her through the window. After a week of this, I happened to pass by the glass door, just as she was ascending the stairs and looked her eye to eye. She had BLUE eyes! The back of her head, ears, body and tail looked Siamese, but her face and body parts had tortoise/calico markings as well. After a couple weeks, my husband and I peeked carefully through the shades watching her dart her head back and forth suspiciously and wildly as she ate her food-gulping it down quickly as possible. My husband remarked, "This cat can never be a pet- she is feral acting." This would explain why no one had answered my many flyers placed in mailboxes or my ad in the newspaper. She was NOT a missing beloved- pet. I agreed-she would never be sweet and tame-until one night, I looked out to see her playing with a bug as it danced in the light. I also saw her scooting acorns around my porch that I had left out for a chipmunk. My heart ached for her looking so lonely and ached even more the next night, when I spied her peering from under a bush at me and my other cats through the window. Our eyes met again for a brief second.

A month had gone by when I made the responsible decision to trap her. With help from an angel-volunteer with the Humane Society: Animal League For Life, I caught her with tempting tuna put in a humane catch and release trap. We had her spayed, vaccinated and clipped her ear for a "feral trap and release", but once caught-she purred! She seemed relieved to be caught. How could I release a purring cat to the outdoors when it seemed the outdoors was what overwhelmed her? Seems this stray/feral cat had learned some ways of the wild. She would hiss and pant any time she followed me-stepping in front of me as if to herd me to feed her. She would charge, lunge, chase and attack my other cats even after proper introductions were made through weeks of patience. She would attack me unprovoked and constantly stalk the perimeters of a room, never settling anywhere. How would I ever find a home for her?

The HSALLL agreed to take her into their program if I would foster her, but I was not naïve. This girl could end up being a lifer! She may have exotic looks, but who would want a wild, territorial cat who bites and scratches. Her picture on Pet-finder had the dreaded triple threat warnings: no kids, no cats, no dogs! I named her Harlow, because of her movie star looks and hoped I would find someone who chose a pet for shallow reasons, like a catchy name or good looks. Meanwhile, I would have to research on the internet about how to tame a stray or feral.

There are many sites available on the internet to help a person in this situation. There are feral organizations, ASPCA, feral blogs and rescue sights willing to give advice and answer questions. To sum up all advice: First, keep in quiet room, alone. Secondly, win trust with one person. Next, bring her out in a carrier only to smell and become familiar with others and routines. Meanwhile, use TREATS anytime she had contact with the other cats through her carrier, so they would all equate her visits to good moments. Keep meetings short and successful. Allow for plenty of private play time, so that she could burn off energy. Keep it SLOW! But with months of consistency, this cat could come back around or NOT, but I had to try. She soon learned to love her carrier-entering voluntarily to find treats and get out of her room for awhile. I also might add that stray cats never get over their obsession with food, so food rewards work remarkably well. Play therapy went well, but important to mention, that when the cat gets too wound up and aggressive-STOP-don't retaliate because they get aroused even more. Just leave the room and come back later. I learned this the hard way! Same strategy works with teen-agers, for I am a middle school teacher.

After a few weeks, I showed her for adoption at PetsMart. But, anytime I checked on her, she had her back turned to the window and audience. No one would ever see her eyes! Throughout the summer, she would stay two weeks then come home with me. I did notice she was friendlier each time she returned. Was she relieved to be home? Lord, did she think my house was her home? After her last visit to PetsMart, she was ushered out early because she scratched a volunteer. I was on vacation at the time healing my own scabs and wounds. I picked her up at the center, and they had a sheet over her cage, so I guess her attitude had not adjusted days later.

I continued my cat therapy sessions and followed all routines. I was now able to let her out of carrier for short interactions. When she would attack, I would clap my hands and separate. This took all summer. But then the visits became longer, scratches and bite marks less deep. My cats realized that she was all smoke and mirrors. She didn't really attack; she would merely rush them and retreat, creating a safe perimeter around herself. She continued to stalk, not to be territorial, but because she was nervous; until one day, we actually saw her lying on the ottoman-STILL! Then another day I caught her jumping around the corner to elicit play with my male cat, who started cooing back to her, and let her chase him playfully. She would know what I was going to do before I did it, prancing in front of me (without hissing) at dinner time, play time, bedtime. She would make a purring cry much like a trumpet player as she followed me here and there. She was no longer just surviving-she was enjoying life and trusting her schedule. When she came rushing down the stairs one day, not to chase the cats, but to give each one a kiss on the nose, I realized she was feeling secure and no longer lonely. We could love her now, because she apparently loved us and our lifestyle.

So as I watched her looking up at the tree that day, I knew that, "call of the wild," she still hears faintly. So, I am always one step ahead of her to ensure her success- the proactive approach. I quickly got her kitty condo and placed it safely against the tree. Hopefully, that would squelch her desire to climb it. I snapped the picture, and admired it on the camera screen. I knew then I had the best gift under the tree this year. Santa did not deliver it down the chimney, but on a front porch- some assembly was required and no refunds or exchanges, but satisfaction is guaranteed! I had fall-la-la in love!



Harlow

Ginger Gets a HOME for the Holidays!

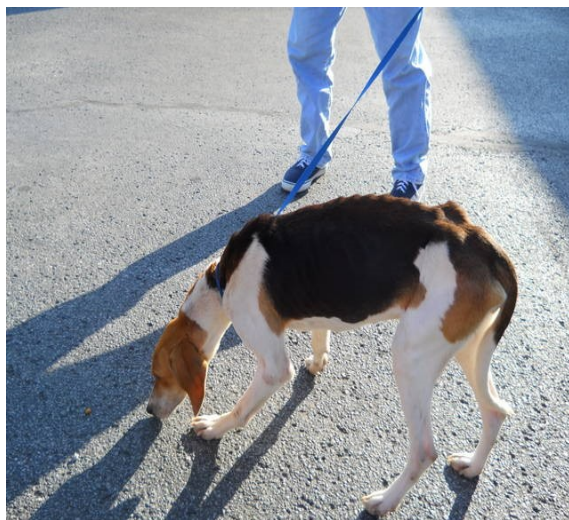
For all those who are familiar with Ginger's story, you will be happy to hear about her happy HOME for the Holidays story! Ginger, a beagle boxer mix, was brought to HSALL in January of 2011. She was emaciated, heartworm positive, and suffered from severe neglect. Ginger underwent two rounds of heartworm treatment, was spayed, and over time, achieved a healthy weight. By August, Ginger was finally deemed healthy enough to be put up for adoption. All of this was possible due to the contributions HSALL received from generous donors!

Just before Thanksgiving, Ginger found a loving couple who said they were "smitten" as soon as they saw her and her loving personality. A few weeks later, Ginger found her way home to her new family. A recent picture showed Ginger curled up in her fluffy dog bed wearing a Christmas Sweater!

We are so pleased to share heartwarming stories such as Ginger's! Thank you to everyone who helped make Ginger's journey from starvation and neglect to a warm and happy future!

Foxy Lady Gets A Second Chance

One of our long time supporters was on her way to our adoption center to drop of some donations when she came upon this little girl (dog) walking down the road. She said her heart sank immediately and she just needed to get this dog some help. We took one look at that dog and just knew it needed our help desperately. We named her Foxy Lady. We took her to the vet and her blood work came back normal, heartworm tested negative, the vet said she was a little anemic and just in need of food. She is such a happy girl and her tail is always wagging. One of our board members volunteered to take her home where she is warm, happy, and has a belly full of food. In a few months Foxy Lady will be ready to find a home where she can have a second chance at life.



Foxy Lady, thin, but now safe with an HSALL volunteer. Foxy Lady now has a second chance at life.

Upcoming Dates to Remember 2012



JANUARY 20, 2012– CICI's PIZZA FUNDRAISER- RICHMOND

APRIL 13, 2012– CHILI SUPPER- ACTON FOLK CENTER, BEREA

JUNE 30, 2012– GOLF TOURNAMENT– BATTLEFIELD G.C. RICHMOND

FAST FACT...

KEEPING THE TOILET LIDS CLOSED AT ALL TIMES WILL PROTECT YOUR PETS. NOT ONLY ARE PUPPIES AND KITTENS ABLE TO DROWN FROM FALLING IN AN OPEN TOILET, OLDER PETS CAN GET SICK AND POSSIBLY DIE FROM DRINKING TOILET WATER. CHEMICALS USED TO CLEAN TOILETS CAN CAUSE KIDNEY FAILURE. EVEN TOILETS WITHOUT CHEMICALS HAVE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS BACTERIA! BOTTOM LINE...BE SAFE AND CLOSE THAT LID!



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR CURRENT INFORMATION AT:

www.humanesocietyall.com

To join or remove your name from our mailing list, please let us know at :

newsletter@humanesocietyall.com

Your comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated. Please share this e-newsletter with your family and friends. We thank you for your support!