

Happy Tails

Cleveland Animal Protective League

September 2010

Newsletter for Volunteers

Program Spotlight

Animal Care

More than five years ago, Debbie Conway came to the Cleveland APL looking to adopt a dog.

"I was very moved by the experience I had as a client and left without a dog but with an application," she recalled. "I wanted to make a difference as well as a career change, and the Cleveland APL seemed like a good fit. I am very happy with the decision I made and love what I do."

And what she does encompasses a lot! As Animal Care Supervisor, Debbie supervises the Intake Associates, Intake Receptionist, Foster Care Coordinator, Canine Enrichment and Transfer Coordinator, Animal Care Leads, and Animal Care Technicians. Her main function is to manage the flow of animals throughout the shelter and monitor all animals in the APL's care.

With so much work and so many people to oversee, Debbie is especially grateful for the contributions of our animal care volunteers. They walk dogs, care for cats, help with cleaning and take animals' photos.



Photo by Debbie Conway

Puppy break! Debbie cuddles with Marceaux.

"Without the assistance of volunteers throughout the department, a number of programs would not exist," she said.

One area in which Debbie would like to see volunteer growth is animal photography. Professional-looking photos of our animals make our website listings much more appealing to potential adopters. The photos also are used in various in-house publications and appear in local media coverage of the Cleveland APL.

Anyone interested in this opportunity can find out more by attending the next Volunteer Orientation on Saturday, Oct. 23, at 10:30 a.m. at the APL. No advance registration or arrangements are required.

Before joining the Cleveland APL staff, Debbie worked as a case manager in a state prison and as a corrections officer in a county jail. Difficult situations, decisions and people were part of those jobs and the same can be said for her current job. The key is knowing how to handle them.

"Surrendering an animal is an emotional time for people and often emotions can cloud judgment," Debbie said. "It is important for me to treat both clients and animals with the same compassion and caring that I would expect if I were in their situation."

"After a difficult client, situation, or day I am able to go back to my office and look at the photos of all of the animals that I have made a difference with. Happy tales are the reason I do what I do."

Staff Snapshot

Name: Debbie Conway

Title: Animal Care Supervisor

Years at Cleveland APL: 5

Background: Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Two weeks away from earning an M.B.A.

Mission: "I was working in the prison system and decided I needed a career change. I wanted to do something more meaningful that I felt good about when I went home at night."

At Home: One dog and one cat, a foster she wound up adopting.

Fun Fact: Debbie co-owns a dance studio and has been a dance teacher for 10 years.

Cleveland APL Honors Volunteers of Year

Three people whose dedication and giving spirit has helped countless animals over the years were honored as 2009 Cleveland APL Volunteers of the Year.

Dave Ager, Roberta Barry and Kirk Bolden each received the prestigious award for their extraordinary service. They also were among the 11 Cleveland APL volunteers who earned President's Gold Service Awards based upon the number of hours contributed last year. Cleveland APL Executive Director Sharon Harvey announced the awards on July 27 during the APL's annual Volunteer Appreciation ceremony.

Dave was recognized for his tireless commitment to our dogs and his special work with those who need extra TLC. He also was honored for his participation in many off-site adoption events and his dedicated work as a foster care volunteer.

Roberta was recognized for her efforts in caring for the animals that come to us the most seriously injured or ill. She will foster any animal in need, and she does so with love, compassion, and such a caring heart that we are in awe every time she says, "yes" to our request.

Kirk was recognized for his outstanding work on the adoption floor and his "whatever is needed" role at our special events. Quite simply, Kirk is the APL's "go-to" guy, as he just seems to be everywhere we need him to be and always goes above and beyond for the APL and our animals.

All three volunteers expressed their gratitude in accepting their awards.

"I'm very honored to be recognized by the APL with this award," Dave said. "I never expected it, and am truly thankful for all the opportunities that the APL provides me with to help animals."

More than 65 volunteers and staff members attended the event, generously sponsored by Fresh Butcher Deli, Grumpy's, LaBodega, Marigold Catering, and Rockne's.

The delicious fare helped make the evening shine in accordance with the theme of the evening "Volunteers are Shining Stars".

In all, 729 volunteers helped to change the world for Cleveland's homeless animals in 2009 by contributing over 56,411 hours - the equivalent of 27 full-time employees!



Roberta Barry, left, accepts her award as Foster Care Volunteer of the Year from Cleveland APL Executive Director Sharon Harvey, center, and Foster Care Coordinator Alyson Manningham.



Sharon Harvey and Volunteer Coordinator Danielle Begalla flank honoree Dave Ager.

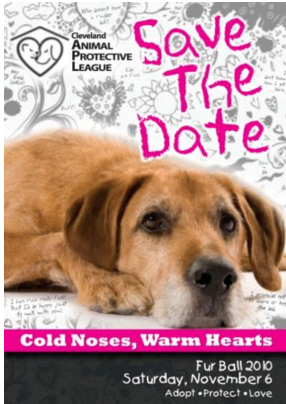


Kirk Bolden, the APL's "go-to" guy during special events, poses with his award.

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

Harriet Tubman

Countdown to Fur Ball



Saturday, Nov. 6 - Our annual gala fund-raiser that benefits the APL's Second Chance Program. The event starts at 6 p.m. at the Inter-Continental Hotel Cleveland.

Friday, Oct. 1 - Deadline for receipt of all items for live and silent auctions.

Saturdays, Oct. 23 and 30 - Packaging parties at Cleveland APL, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 5 - E-mail will go out to volunteers detailing opportunities available at Fur Ball 2010.



The Indians welcomed 267 dogs and 461 humans to Puppypalooza, a fund-raiser for the Cleveland APL on Aug. 26.

We had a ball at Puppypalooza!

Nearly 500 people accepted the Indians' invitation to bring their dogs to the ballgame, and the real winner was the Cleveland APL!

The first such event at Progressive Field not only raised money for the APL,

but it attracted a lot of media attention and brought dog-loving fans from out of town and even out of state to the game.

We extend a special thank you to the many volunteers who made this event possible.

Kudos to:

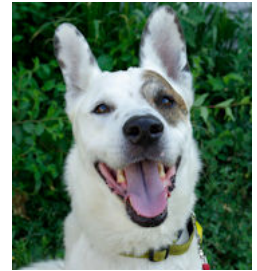
Susan Scaparotti, who designs jewelry, for coordinating a raffle that raised \$1,600 for the Animal Welfare Clinic program.

Lori Puchalski, a Dog Enrichment Volunteer, for making dog cookies for us to sell, with proceeds benefiting the Cleveland APL.

All Beer Slide volunteers for giving up part of their Labor Day weekend to work at this special event fund-raiser during the Taste of Cleveland. Your hard work raised \$1,598.60 for the Cleveland APL! Thank you!!

Congratulations to:

Sue and Andy Richmond, who adopted Al Green, a wonderful dog who kept getting overlooked in his kennel. Sue and Andy got to know and love Al through their volunteer work here, and decided to bring him home.



Ashley Sorensen, who volunteered in Development, Cat Care and Foster Care, for getting a new job in the Case Western Reserve University Alumni Office. Unfortunately, Ashley will have to curtail her volunteer work because of her new job, but we hope to have her back for some special events as her schedule permits.

Next Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, Oct. 23

10:30 a.m.

APL Community Room

Happy Tails Staff

Sharon Harvey

Executive Director

Danielle Begalla

Volunteer Coordinator

Molly Callahan

Office & Development

Assistant

In Memoriam

The Cleveland APL recently lost one of its longest-serving and dedicated volunteers with the passing of Joanne Holl. "Our Joanne," as many of us referred to her, had a special place in her heart for APL dogs and worked hard to get them adopted into loving homes. In a couple of cases, that home was her own.

As a tribute to Joanne, we are sharing this feature on her that appeared in *Happy Tails* in October 2007.

Volunteer Salute

Joanne Holl, Adoptions Support Associate

Being an APL volunteer is "a dream come true" for Joanne Holl.

Joanne, an Adoptions Support Associate, joined the APL four years ago. With retirement from her job at the Cleveland Clinic on the horizon, she was looking for something she could continue doing after she stopped working. She found it at the APL.

"Bringing together a person or family with a dog who needs love and a home is absolutely awesome," said Joanne, who has four dogs of her own.

Joanne can remember many wonderful moments from her work at the shelter, but one stands out.

"I always try to check on people in the kennels to see if they need any help," she recalled. "One morning a young couple was standing in front of a kennel where a little dog was cowering in the back. The lady said to me 'Oh my, I guess she needs some time before she is ready for adoption.' I encouraged them to talk quietly to the little dog, and in no time she was responding. I asked them if they wanted to see her in the get-acquainted room. I left them in the room for a couple of minutes to check on something at the front desk, and when I returned and looked in the room, there sat the lady with a huge smile on her face -- she was looking down at this little dog who was sitting in her lap and giving her kisses. And, of course, they took her home. And you ask: Why do I volunteer!!!"



Joanne Holl loves her work as an Adoptions Support Associate.

Joanne shares her home with Letterman, Mimi, Jazz and Mo, all rescues.

"Letterman is some kind of a terrier whose little face grabbed me -- just a little picture on the Internet. After many back and forth e-mails, we drove almost to the Indiana line to get him. He is the love of my life. He was only 9 months old and is now 7."

"Mimi is a retired racing Greyhound. She was chosen for me by a rescue group and I adore her. Greyhounds are very unique and special creatures. Mimi is 7 years and I have had her for 4 years."

"Jazz is an English Pointer mix. She was an APL dog who didn't seem to be going anywhere. One day the county shelter came and picked her up. I was in tears. I hadn't realized how much I loved her and kept calling the county kennel to check on her. Then when I saw her on TV with Dick Goddard's dogs, she looked awful. That did it. I picked her up and brought her home the next day. I had promised myself that when I retired I could have a third dog and suddenly Jazz was it."

"Mo is an APL dog and is a very long story. I don't know how Mo happened -- except that it had something to do with my heart. You know the story."