

Happy Tails

Cleveland Animal Protective League

March 2009

Newsletter for Volunteers



Program Spotlight

Meet Your Match™

As you may be aware, we are working to implement the ASPCA's Meet Your Match™ program in its entirety at the Cleveland APL. Meet Your Match™ aims to match shelter animals with potential adopters through a fun and informative process.

Volunteers who work or would like to work in adoptions or offsite adoptions are required to attend an upcoming training session to prepare you for your role in helping us become a "learning-centered" adoption shelter. Training will be no more than 90 minutes with Adoptions Supervisor Katy Fuerst.

In addition, volunteer assignments with adoptions at the shelter have been updated and will be reviewed at the training sessions. The three assignments are: Adoptions Specialist–Greeter, Adoptions Specialist–Floor–Dogs and/or Cats, and Adoptions Specialist–Front Desk.

Please R.S.V.P. to Katy at kfuerst@ClevelandAPL.org or 216-771-8819 for training and/or to notify her that you would like to join the adoption team. Katy will be able to provide you with current available openings at the training.

Dates and times for the training are Saturday, April 4, at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 11, at 10 a.m. and Tuesday, April 14, at 4:30 p.m.

Pledge for Pets Radiothon

The 4th Annual Q104/Cleveland APL Pledge for Pets Radiothon is just around the corner!

Q104 morning show hosts Rebecca Wilde & Allan Fee will be broadcasting live from the Cleveland APL on Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9, raising funds—and awareness for the APL.

Now is the time to sign up to become a Q Cash Captain or Q Cash Kid and start collecting Doggy Dollars and Kitty Kash!

Just collect spare change and donations from everyone you know with the official collection kit we will send you after you register. Turn in your life-saving funds, have them counted, and meet Wilde & Fee at the Doggy Dollars/Kitty Kash Bash at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's RainForest on Wednesday, May 6, from 6 to 8 p.m.

NEW THIS YEAR! Online Fund Raising—an easy way to raise Doggy Dollars & Kitty Kash!! When you sign up to be a Q Cash Captain, you will be able to create your own website, add pictures of your pets, set a fundraising goal, and raise money by sending an e-mail to your friends and family.

Last year, Q Cash Captains and Q Cash Kids collected almost \$70,000 in change!

For more information about becoming a Q Cash Captain or Q Cash Kid for the 4th Annual Q104/Cleveland APL Pledge for Pets Radiothon, please visit www.ClevelandAPL.org or call Development Associate Joy Foreman at 216-377-1628.



Help Wanted

The Lake Erie Monsters are inviting dogs and their people to this Sunday's game at the Q.

The Pucks & Paws fund-raiser for the Cleveland APL also presents a unique opportunity for our volunteers. We'll need at least five of you to work from 3:30 to 8 p.m. as APL Greeters/Representatives. You will answer questions about the APL, staff the table, direct guests and dogs sitting in the "Paws" section of Quicken Loans Area, direct guests to outside watering and potty areas for dogs, monitor their behavior and clean up and watch over the dog section. Admission will be free for volunteers, but the parking will not be.

We're looking for volunteers with excellent communication and customer service skills who are knowledgeable about the APL and its programs and services, have knowledge of canine behavior, are comfortable around dogs, and can stand for long periods. You will report directly to Director of Development Judy Hunter for this assignment. If you are interested, please contact Danielle at dbegalla@ClevelandAPL.org or 216-377-1627.

If you prefer to be a spectator, bring your dog and come cheer on the Monsters against the Grand Rapids Griffins. The game starts at 5 p.m. and all proceeds from the sale of \$5 pooch tickets will benefit the Cleveland APL.

For more information, go to www.lakeeriemonsters.com/pucksandpaws.



You're Invited!

We're gearing up for our two major fund-raising events of the year and we want you to get involved.

If you want to volunteer for either the Pledge for Pets Radiothon or the Fur Ball, (or both!) please join us this Thursday, March 19, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at the Cleveland APL.

This year's Radiothon will be Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9, here at the APL. The Fur Ball will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Intercontinental Hotel.

At Thursday's meeting, you'll have an opportunity to learn more about these events and sign up for volunteer assignments. We're confident you'll find at least one assignment that's just right for you.

Our special events are a lot of fun and, best of all, they support all the great work we do at the Cleveland APL. Please know that your help is key to these successful events.

Please contact Danielle at dbegalla@ClevelandAPL.org or 216-377-1627 if you plan to attend Thursday's meeting. Hope to see all of you there!

Kudos To:

Volunteers **Kirk Bolden, Tom Krych, Cindy Krych, Sue LaSalvia, Cindy Ward, Nikki Ward and Sarah Zinsmeister**, who helped Cleveland APL staff members with the phone bank event at the WOIO Channel 19 studios on Friday, Feb. 27. This was the first time we participated in the phone bank and we were very grateful to have the volunteers on hand. They helped answer callers' questions about the Cleveland APL in general and fielded inquiries about animals available for adoption. They also kept the APL dogs on their best behavior while the animals appeared on camera several times during the live broadcast. As an added bonus, we had 41 animals adopted the next day, and many of the people who came to the shelter that day said they had heard about us and learned about our available dogs during the broadcast.

Volunteers **Milton Lorrington, David Ager, Sue LaSalvia, Jenn Kubala, Melissa McConnell, Diane Russo, Jonathan Russo, Ann Hunter, Patti Frank, Jenn Gilleo, Kathie Newton, Dawn Lorrington, Alison Wieber, Natalie Haynes, Browning Haynes, Justine Helm, Dave Walchanowicz, Lorie Walchanowicz, Carrie B. Smith, Lisa Breen, Lisa Dessecker, Kathleen Erzen, Linda Vukmire, Michael Golenberke, Della DiSalino, Tom Krych and Cindy Krych** for their help at the Home and Garden Show, where 38 animals were adopted, 37 APL magnets were sold and \$1,868 in donations was raised from Feb 7-15.



Photo by Creed Woodka



Photo by Jason Miller



Photo by Rachel Okrez

Critter Corner

Help our animals put their best "paw" forward in finding a new home! We would like to enhance the adoptable animal photographs on our website with your help.

In this assignment, volunteers would photograph our adoptable animals, download, edit and size photographs, then upload the photos to the corresponding animal record in our Pet Point database system.

Volunteers must be able to take quality, candid photographs of adoptable animals, be willing to work well with others when coordinating animal handling and photography, must be flexible, able to follow directions, meet deadlines and work independently once trained, have their own personal digital camera for photography and components to download and upload photographs and be familiar with photo editing and sizing software packages to produce the final product.

Volunteers must be trained in animal handling through our Dog Enrichment and/or Cat Care training. This opportunity requires a consistent weekly commitment of at least three hours per week with availability of seven days per week after initial training.

If you are interested, please contact Intake Supervisor Amanda Butts at abutts@ClevelandAPL.org or 216-377-1635.

The photographs above are among the many wonderful portraits taken by our volunteers Creed, Jason and Rachel each week and used in various media.

From The Volunteer Office

Each volunteer who works in the shelter is issued a security card to enter designated areas of the building.

As our volunteer program has grown, we have had to purchase additional cards. To save us this expense, we ask that those of you who are no longer holding an active regular weekly volunteer shift at the shelter return your cards to the volunteer office.

We can recycle those cards by issuing them to new volunteers.

You can return the cards in person or mail them to:

Danielle Begalla
Volunteer Coordinator
Cleveland APL
1729 Willey Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44113

Happy Tails Staff

Sharon Harvey
Executive Director

Danielle Begalla
Volunteer Coordinator

Molly Callahan
Office and Development
Assistant

'Unleash the Love' A Sweet Success

Many of you helped with our "Unleash the Love" adoption campaign, a Valentine's Day-themed promotion that took place Feb. 14-28.

You'll be happy to learn that the promotion resulted in 254 adoptions during those two weeks, four more than our goal! It also was 22 more than we adopted out during the same period last year. Those of you who have wondered about the "254" sign on Executive Director Sharon Harvey's office door now know what it means.

February also was a good month for offsite adoptions, with 104 APL animals finding new homes. This total was in addition to the 254 animals adopted from the shelter last month.