



PAW PRINTS

Visit our website at www.hsop.org

Spring 2026



Gary McIntyre
Executive Director

VACCINES-DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THEM

Two important threats to your dogs are Canine Distemper and Canine Parvovirus. Some important information to know about both of these diseases is provided below.

Canine Distemper

Canine distemper virus (CDV) is a highly contagious and often fatal disease that affects dogs.

Systems affected: respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems.

Symptoms: fever, nasal and eye discharge, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, and in severe cases, paralysis.

Transmission: spread through airborne droplets, direct contact with infected animals, or contaminated objects.

Risk: unvaccinated puppies and dogs are most vulnerable, but all dogs can be infected.

Canine Parvovirus

Canine parvovirus (CPV) is another highly contagious viral disease, particularly dangerous for puppies.

Systems affected: primarily the gastrointestinal tract, sometimes the heart in very young puppies.

Symptoms: severe vomiting, bloody diarrhea, dehydration, lethargy, and rapid decline.

Transmission: virus is shed in large quantities in the feces of infected dogs and can survive in the environment for months.

Risk: without prompt veterinary care, mortality rates can be very high.

Vaccines train your pet's immune system to recognize and fight off specific viruses before they cause illness. For distemper and parvovirus, vaccination is the most reliable way to prevent infection; there is no cure for either disease, only supportive treatment.

When a high percentage of dogs in a community are vaccinated, it makes it more difficult for viruses to spread. This helps protect vulnerable animals, such as puppies too young for full vaccination or dogs with medical conditions that prevent vaccination.

While distemper and parvovirus are **not** zoonotic (they do not infect humans), many other diseases preventable by routine dog vaccines **are** zoonotic or have other public health implications. Examples of these are rabies, leptospirosis, and bordetella.

Modern veterinary vaccines are extensively tested for safety and effectiveness. Side effects are generally mild and short-lived, such as slight soreness at the injection site or temporary lethargy. Severe reactions are rare, and can be managed by your veterinarian, should they occur.

Some Vaccine Safety Tips:

- Always have vaccines administered by a licensed veterinarian.
- Keep accurate vaccination records.
- Follow your vet's recommended schedule for boosters.
- Report any unusual symptoms after vaccination promptly.

The bottom line is that canine distemper and parvovirus are devastating but preventable diseases. Vaccination is a safe, effective, and essential tool to protect your dog's health, safeguard other animals, and in some cases, protect human health as well. By keeping your dog's vaccines up to date, you're making a responsible choice that benefits your pet, your family, and your community.

(Source: Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine)

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 information.**

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Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Cara Blankenbicker

Cara began volunteering with HSOP in 2022 as an evening dog walker, but it didn't take long for her to see the growing need for foster homes. Stepping up without hesitation, she began fostering kittens and occasionally dogs, providing them with the care and comfort they needed to thrive. In 2025, when the demand for puppy fosters surged, Cara once again rose to the challenge—welcoming litters of puppies and their mothers into her home and giving them a safe, loving environment as they prepared for their forever families.

Beyond fostering, Cara generously gives her time to assist with playgroups, prepare enrichment activities, and support adoption events. Her willingness to help wherever needed and her unwavering commitment make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless animals. Thank you, Cara, for your incredible dedication. Your compassion, reliability, and heart for animals embody the very best of HSOP, and we are truly grateful to have you as part of our community.

Remember HSOP

on Tuesday,
May 5, 2026

12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.

visit

www.givelocalmov.org
to donate.



IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

- Paper Gowns
- Booties
- Hair Covers

Meet Cran

Once upon a time, in a cozy animal shelter, there lived a beautiful playful cat named Cran. She was a stunning feline with soft, Black/White fur and bright golden eyes that sparkled with excitement whenever she sensed playtime.

Cran loves two things in life: feather wands and catnip. Whenever a volunteer brings out the feather wand, Cran transforms into a little ball of energy, leaping and pouncing on the toy with glee. Her tail twitches back and forth, and she lets out little meows of joy.

But catnip is her absolute weakness. The moment she catches a whiff of that magical herb, Cran goes into overdrive. She rolls around on the floor, rubbing her face in the scent, and generally making a big show of herself.

Cran is a 3-year-old female looking for the perfect forever home. That home needs to be filled with love, laughter, and plenty of toys. Cran will want to play with her feather wand every day, and she'd need a steady supply of catnip to keep her happy. But in return, she will offer endless snuggles, purrs, and head butts.

If you're looking for a loyal companion who will brighten up your life with her playful antics and affectionate nature, Cran might be the purrfect cat for you. She's ready to bring joy and excitement to her forever home, where she'll spend the rest of her days being loved, cherished, and adored.

Will you be Crans 'forever friend'?



Meet Saint

Saint is a handsome 4-year-old pup who weighs about 72 lbs. He's already neutered and ready to go home with an approved application!

This big sweetheart knows his basic commands — sit, down, and paw — and he's eager to show them off for a treat. Saint is dog selective, so slow introductions are best if there's another dog in the home and a meet and greet is always required. He would thrive in an active household where he can get plenty of exercise, playtime, and love.

If you're looking for a loyal companion to join you on adventures, Saint might be your perfect match!



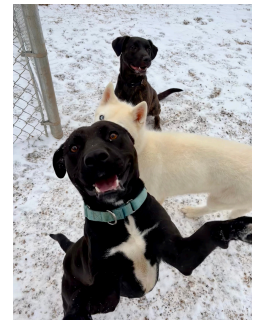
The importance of Play Groups

by Leah Martino, Behaviorist

Since our play group play yard was completed, there has been a significant decrease in kennel stress from our dogs. It is a wonderful form of enrichment for them, as well as building their social skills, boosting their confidence, and increasing their chances of being adopted quickly. This gives insight into any problematic behaviors such as the potential for resource guarding and allows staff to implement the behavior modification plans necessary for each dog.

Be watching our next newsletter for some exciting changes that make our play group play yard even better for our animals and the staff and volunteers that work with them daily. Photos of some of our play group fun are on the right.

Hint: There will be less mud and more green.



Dear Friend of the Animals:

The Humane Society of Parkersburg (HSOP) invites you to support this year's **Putts for Paws Golf Tournament!** This year's tournament, held at Worthington Golf Club on June 27, is sure to be a paw-some good time! 144 golfers and 20+ volunteers will enjoy a full day of fun including an 18-hole scramble, lunch catered by Da Vinci's, beverages throughout the course, chances to win great prizes, and so much more – all to benefit animals of HSOP.

Each year, HSOP goes above and beyond to care for and adopt over 2,700 homeless animals, educate the community on lifelong, responsible pet ownership, and provide over 5,400 free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries to families who otherwise could not afford to alter their pets.

Your support of this year's Putts for Paws Golf Tournament, one of our largest fundraisers, will allow us to continue to provide these and other important services!

Although our teams are fully committed, we still need community members, animal lovers, and other caring people to make a difference by sponsoring this year's tournament. *Can you help?*

Tournament Sponsor – recognition on event banners, towels, PLUS 1 foursome!

Towel Sponsor – name on towels that every golfer receives!

Hole-in-On Sponsor – signage at 4 holes!

Lunch Sponsor – signage at 3 lunch stations!

Beverage Sponsor – signage at 3 beverage stations!

Halfway House Sponsor – signage at "The Dog Pen" hot dog stand at the turn!

Snack Sponsor – signage on 72 golf carts!

Hole Sponsor – signage on tee/greens throughout the course!

With your help, we hope to raise much-needed funds for the thousands of deserving animals HSOP cares for each year. Simply fill out the attached Putts for Paws Golf Tournament Sponsorship Form and email it to adminassistant@hsop.org or mail directly to the shelter at Humane Society of Parkersburg, PO BOX 392, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

Please make your contribution today! Each year we proudly raise over \$25,000 and we couldn't do this without the support of our strong community and sponsors like you!

Thank you,
HSOP Fundraising Committee

Please direct questions to Rachel Bailey at rachel.l.bailey@outlook.com or Erica Bailey at erica.bailey20@gmail.com.

Golf Tournament Sponsorship Form



WHEN: Saturday, June 27, 2026
WHERE: Worthington Golf Club



Sponsorship Opportunities

- \$1,500 – Tournament Sponsor (Deadline June 1st)** – Name on event banner, name/logo on towels, promotional materials, social media recognition, 1 foursome including lunch
- \$850 – Towel Sponsor (Deadline June 1st)** – Name on towels, event banner, promotional materials, social media recognition
- \$500 – Hole in One Sponsor** – Signage at 4 par 3 holes, name on event banner, promotional materials, social media recognition
- \$500 – Lunch Sponsor** – Name on a sign at lunch, on event banner, promotional materials, social media recognition
- \$350 – Beverage Sponsor** – Signage at beverage cart/stations during the event, name on event banner, promotional materials, social media recognition
- \$250 – Halfway House Sponsor** – Signage at “The Dog Pen” hot dog station during the event, name on event banner, promotional materials, social media recognition
- \$150 – Snack Sponsor** – Signage in each golf cart and social media recognition
- \$100 – Hole Sponsor** – Signage on tee/green and social media recognition

All proceeds from this event benefit the Humane Society of Parkersburg.

Text on Tee sign to read (3 lines maximum - text only):

**Please complete and mail this form to:
Humane Society of Parkersburg, PO Box 392, Parkersburg, WV 26102**

Company: _____ Contact: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed is my check payable to “HSOP” in the amount of: \$ _____

Please check this box if you would like someone to contact you for a credit card payment.



P.O. Box 392
Parkersburg, WV 26102-0392

Humane Society of Parkersburg

Mailing Address:

PO Box 392, Parkersburg, WV 26102

Physical Address:

530 29th Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101

Phone: 304-422-5541

Fax: 304-485-4261

Emergency: 860-674-5080

Shelter Hours

Monday - Friday: 10:30 to 5:00

Saturday: 10:30 to 4:00

SPOT Clinic

Mailing & Physical Address:

506 29th Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101

SPOT Clinic Hours-

The Clinic is open from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday for wellness visits and Monday, Wednesday and Friday for surgery by appointment.

Phone: 304-917-4275

Fax: 304-917-4279

Use this QR
code
to access our
adoption
application.

