

PAW PRINTS

Visit our website at www.hsop.org

Summer 2022

"BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO..."

Gary McIntyre Executive Director



Just as the Carpenters told us back in the 1970's, breaking up is hard to do, but for some of the most consistent, energetic, and important individuals at the Humane Society of Parkersburg, it is a regular thing.

Whether you take in one dog or multiple litters of cats, fostering animals for HSOP requires a huge commitment. In 2021 we had over 800 cats and approximately 100 dogs that spent time with our fosters. Some have dedicated one or more rooms of their home to house and care for these animals who make a stop on the way to adoption, others allow the animals to play with their own pets and become a part of the family-it is always dependent on the animals you are fostering.

In some cases, one person does not make the decision, it may be the entire family-you see, it is impossible for a foster to think only of how volunteering for this key role will affect them, it has an impact on children, spouses, and other family members who may live in the home. Fostering an animal requires that you add them into all your regular routines-what to do while you work your "real job" or take a vacation-pretty much no decision can be spontaneous when you have these additional animals, you must plan.

As of this writing we currently have 35 active fosters for 130 animals. While some of these animals in foster are older and may be ill or have terminal medical conditions, most of the animals we have in foster are or will soon be adoptable. You may be wondering what makes an animal a candidate for fostering-the short answer is, any animal in the shelter who needs a home, but more commonly, these animals are the ones who need more attention than they can get in a shelter environment-bottle fed kittens, a mommy and her new babies who need to stay together, animals with weakened or vulnerable immune systems. It is always our goal to get new kittens and puppies out of the shelter environment as quickly as we can, so they are not compromised by upper respiratory infections or kennel cough. Most are too young to vaccinate for these conditions.

The most challenging time for a shelter foster is when the time comes for the cat, dog, rabbit, kitten, or puppy to move on to their new home. Not only is the break-up hard emotionally, but the time also comes when you realize that just like Taylor and Jake, you "will never, ever be getting back together." I have never fostered, I am no good at break-ups and would end up with foster fails, but from the professionals who have done it, there is a feeling of pride, happiness, and yes, there is some sadness when the time comes, but overall the feeling is one of accomplishment, this is just what they have been training for. Should you be fortunate enough to adopt one of our animals who has been in foster, a little secret is that the fosters always love seeing updates on how the animal is fitting into and enjoying his new home.

As we enter the month of June, National Foster a Pet Month, on behalf of the staff, board of directors and volunteers of HSOP, I would like to say to all our foster parents-current, past or future-we salute you and want you to know the vital role you play in our success.



Bart says "COWABUNGA dude" as he bounces his way right into your heart. This rambunctious boy will flop his whole body into your arms to give you love. However, if he knocks something over in the process, he will always say "I didn't do it man!" or "not my problem,!" He is so focused on having fun that he can't sweat the petty stuff, and you shouldn't pet the sweaty stuff. Instead, pet Bart.

Bart arrived at the shelter in January. He is 2 years old and has already been neutered. He is still very young and full of energy and spunk! Bart weighs 55 pounds, and can sound like a herd of elephants running through the house. If you think Bart is the right man for you, then come to the shelter and meet him in person. Applications are available on our website at https://www.hsop.org/adopt.

THANK YOU to our Donors Donations from January-March 2022

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HSOP Adds Community Cat Room



We are excited to announce a Community Cat Room has been added to the shelter. For those not familiar with the concept, the room provides a cage-free environment more like a home and allows adopters to naturally interact with the cats. The room can house up to six cats that have been determined to be healthy and interact well with each other. The room provides many toys to play with, furniture to curl up on and shelving to climb on. Of course, at times they may just want to snuggle or lay in your lap.







NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022

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Better Together

UNTEER

WEEK

Our Volunteers!

We

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Lori Elliot

Lori is a tireless supporter of HSOP in both her role as Volunteer Coordinator and as a volunteer. On any given day she is coordinating volunteers to assist with adoption events, animal visitations, fundraising events, and other numerous activities in support of the animals in our care. Lori began volunteering at HSOP about four years ago after her own dog passed away. Originally, she wasn't sure if she wanted to adopt another dog and so decided to spend some time getting to know the dogs at the shelter. As some time passed, she decided to devote her time and attention not to just one dog in her home but to many dogs she interacted with every day through volunteering. Lori appreciates all the volunteers from our community and wishes more people would come to volunteer, learn about the shelter, and give what they can. On behalf of all the animals at HSOP, we thank Lori for her support and dedication.

Meet Everest!

Everest is the second longest waiting cat at the shelter. She arrived on March 11 of this year as a stray.

Everest is an 8 year-old domestic short-haired dilute Calico. Since she is front declawed, so she will need to be an indoor only cat

While she sometimes looks grumpy, rest assured she is a very sweet and friendly cat-and has been labeled as a talker.

You can make Everest part of your family with an approved application. Applications are available on our website at https://www.hsop.org/adopt.



Introducing Ebenezer, the most handsome dude in the Mid-Ohio Valley! Ebenezer arrived at the shelter at the end of 2021 and has been patiently waiting for a home ever since. He is estimated to be a one-year-old terrier mix and has won over the hearts of staff and volunteers alike. Ebenezer is still quite young and full of energy and would benefit from some basic obedience training. He hasn't met a dog he doesn't like and would do wonderful in an active home with another furry pal. Just one thing...no cats for this playful fella. He tends to play chase and hasn't made many cat friends during his time at the shelter. Ebenezer has also spent some time at the Boxer's Bed & Biscuits Brat Pack to work on his manners, so he is ready to jump into your home and heart just in time for summer!



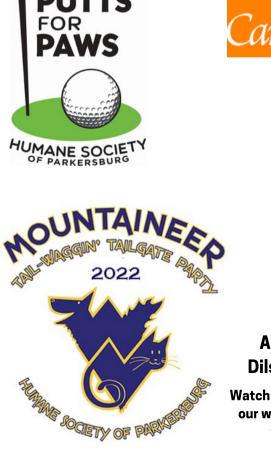
Rescheduled Date June 25, 2022 Worthington Golf Course

UPCOMING EVENTS

29th Annual Elinor K Ross Walk Your Paws



July 9, 2022 Parkersburg City Park





July 11-15, 2022 at HSOP







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

Phone: 304-917-4275 Fax: 304-917-4279



Bingo November 19, 2022 Parkersburg Art Center