

December 10, 2020



# the insider

Your Employee Newsletter

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## Paws from the Heart

Submitted by: Trent Owens, Donor Events Manager

Since their arrival back in October, our South Korean rescues have made tremendous strides! They've come a mighty long way, to say the very least, and are learning how to simply be...happy dogs. Everything is new to them, and they've been patient with our dedicated staff - learning how to trust and embrace the human touch. In an effort to provide continuous enrichment to these precious dogs, we've engaged them in a pet friendly arts activity!

**Paws from the Heart** launches today at Noon. This includes a Silent Auction viewable through [spcacincinnati.org](http://spcacincinnati.org). If you, or anyone you may know, is interested in bidding on these exclusive paintings, please go to our website. You'll also uncover a heart-warming video showcasing how these amazing paintings came to life!



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IN THE KNOW  
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and MORE!

# Daisy Award Winner

Submitted by: SPCA Human Resources

What brought me to the SPCA Cincinnati is my love for fur babies! If I could travel anywhere in the world today, I'd choose France. I want to experience their culture and view their country up-close and personal. If granted just one wish, it would be for everyone to have peace and happiness.

I don't have a favorite animal; no preference. If I had to choose though, I'd say cows. In times like these we're living in, what inspires me the most and keeps me going is always thinking positively. The best advice I have to give is for everyone to love one another. Also, take one day at a time because tomorrow is never promised.



**Congratulations to Lori Dennon!**

## Message from Jake

Submitted by Jake White, President & CEO

A special "Thank You" this December...

I think that we can all agree that 2020 was not what we all expected it was going to be. We were (and still are) faced with restrictions, regulations, closures, separation from the Dog Warden duties, workflow difficulties and worse yet... no toilet paper.

We were also offered the opportunity to make much needed changes. A paperless worksite, synced data systems, online adoptions and marketing, reduced pet-fights in the shelter, higher adoption rates, lower return rates, managed intake, expanded K9 kennels, virtual special events, new Volunteer Services offices, Shelter2Shelter Pet Transport, feeding the pets from Meals on Wheels clients, Chow Now Pantry, better communications via social media, a cleaner/sterile facility, and a much-improved Farm.

Although we are not able to meet as a team for our annual Christmas party, I want to show our gratitude for all you have successfully accomplished during these difficult times. **Please check your account TODAY for an additional deposit!**

## You are appreciated!

It might not be a big party with presents, but please know that we are grateful for all you do and your commitment & dedication to our pets. Stay safe, healthy and happy during your holiday travels and visits. Merry Christmas.

~Jake

# What In the SPCA?

## NEW FEATURE ALERT

In the previous edition of **'the insider'**, we introduced this newsletter feature, which puts your Pictionary skills to the test! Were you able to solve what the last 4 photos meant to our organization? If you've guessed: **Together We Are Strong**, you are correct! Congratulations to **Jessica Choate**. She is our very first team member to be awarded.

To your right are four more photos. Each one of them represents a single word or perhaps contracted words. Your job is to place said words together in a complete sentence to reveal a positive and uplifting statement.

Once you are confident in your answer, you **MUST** text: **GOT IT** to 513-526-3767. Include your name and the answer to the current Pictionary in the text message. The first team member with the correct answer by 6:00pm, on the day of the newsletter's distribution, will receive a sponsored prize! If no one guesses correctly, the prize will roll over to the next **'insider'**.

For this edition, the prize is another \$10 gift card sponsored in-part by the Donor Relations department and our good friends at Dunkin'. If you follow the SPCA Cincinnati on Facebook, this is EASY. Don't overthink it!

The winner's prize will be dropped off at the front desk for claiming. If there are any questions, reach Nyketa Gaffney at [ngaffney@spcacincinnati.org](mailto:ngaffney@spcacincinnati.org).

If you have ideas that you'd like to contribute to this publication, you may also send them to the email address above!

What in the SPCA is going on here?



What land animal has the longest life span?

Fun Fact on Page 6! Read on...



#1



#2



#3



#4





## Important Business

Submitted by: Ben Coffey, Finance Director



Please, take a look at your most recent check stub to ensure your address is correct and up-to-date. **This is the address that your W2 will be mailed to via USPS no later than January 31, 2021.**

If you need to update your address you can either request the update through Bamboo, or send an email to Jessica Choate and Ben Coffey requesting the change:

[jchoate@spcacincinnati.org](mailto:jchoate@spcacincinnati.org)

[bcoffey@spcacincinnati.org](mailto:bcoffey@spcacincinnati.org)

**Updates need to be made by December 15, 2020.** Employees who fail to update their address will need to wait until January 31, 2021 to request a duplicate copy of the W2.



**SHOUT OUT**



Special thank you to **IAMS™**, longtime community partner and friend of the SPCA Cincinnati, who delivered **43,000 lbs.** of pet food to our facility yesterday! **IAMS™** pet food is tailored to bring out the unique best in our shelter companions. The SPCA Cincinnati is abundantly grateful for their continued commitment to animal welfare in Greater Cincinnati! **View photo on page 7.**

## HR Corner

Submitted by: Jessica Choate, HR Facilitator

Anyone employed with SPCA Cincinnati can find resources to assist with life events through EAP (the Employee Assistance Program)! Log-on now to obtain information on a variety of wellness topics. In order to use the website, follow these steps: Go to [www.anthemcap.com](http://www.anthemcap.com) → Click on the Member log-in button → Company name enter: SPCA of Cincinnati.

December topics related to: "balancing work, personal priorities, and creating stronger relationships".



Whether it's your family, your coworkers or your significant other, maintaining good relationships take some work! EAP can help by showing you how to positively communicate and address conflicts. For example, if money is stressing your relationship, you may want to get help from a financial guide. Or if your relationship is suffering because you don't have enough time in your life, you can tap into referrals for everything from housekeepers to dog walkers.

**FIND MORE** on the Anthem website!

# Medically Speaking!

Submitted by: Dr. Smith, Veterinarian

These striking images tell only a small portion of just how incredible the SPCA Cincinnati's medical staff is! Dr. Smith sent these photos last week of **M&M** who is now adopted. These pictures demonstrate that with the right medical care, therapy, time, and lots of LOVE animals that come through our shelter doors have a fighting chance at a good life. They are not as they came; they are stronger. They are brave! Thus, we send a very warm thanks to our Vets, Vet Techs, and medical volunteers. Their commitment and expertise help our organization accomplish our mission in saving lives!

**Note:** when **M&M** came to us, she was a starved little kitten who was weak, wobbly and with one eye matted shut!



## Volunteer Services

Submitted by: Erin Lawson, Volunteer Services and Foster Manager

**In the last week, we have had 41 adoptions (29 cats and 12 dogs)!**

**Out of Office:** Some of you may have noticed that I have been out of the office and working from home this week. That means the door to the Volunteer wing may be locked. If this is the case, please go to the front of the building and wait for an employee to let you in. You can also walk around to the back of the building and enter through one of those doors then make your way to the Volunteer Workroom.

**Monday Walk Teams:** We are continuing our Monday walk teams - special shoutout to Caroline Gady and Shirley Alexander for leading the first Monday team last month. This is awesome since we now have walk teams 6 days a week! We are still looking for someone to lead our Thursday team - if you'd be interested in stepping into this role please let me know!

**COVID Update:** Cases are still on the rise and it is up to all of us to stop the spread! If you have been exposed to COVID, please do not come to volunteer. If you are feeling sick whatsoever, please don't take any risks by coming in. Not volunteering during the pandemic will not affect your volunteer status.

## Volunteer Services cont.

We're in this together! Keep washing your hands, wearing your mask, and taking your temperature when you arrive at the shelter. Don't forget to fill out the questionnaire each day you volunteer (this is requirement by the CDC).

**Foster Animal of the Week:** Meet **Whisper!** Whisper is a young, energetic guy who needs a strong person to show him how to be the best version of himself. He is eager to learn and is very treat motivated, so he is easy to train. However, he does get overly excited and can get a little mouthy. He means well and is just trying to play! Whisper is a resource guarder, so you cannot take his toys or food by force and would need to use treats to "trade." Whisper is a lovable goof, and we would love to see him in a home where he can work on his manners and finish up his medical treatment. If you want an energetic friend to keep you company (and keep you busy), please reach out to me and we can talk more about this big-headed fella!

**Holiday Walk Teams:** Due to the shelter being closed, we will not be having walk teams on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Please feel free to help out with other walk teams throughout those weeks!

Fear Free Sheltering offers a free certification you can obtain as a volunteer! You'll also learn about ways to decrease stress in animals while they are in our care. Check out their website for more information: <https://fearfreeshelters.com/>.

### Upcoming Events:

- December 18th, 19th, and 20th: Chow Now Pantry Collection at Sharonville (HELP NEEDED)
- December 24th and 25th: CLOSED
- December 31st and January 1st: CLOSED
- January 2nd and 3rd: Chow Now Pantry Collection at Sharonville (HELP NEEDED)
- January 15th, 16th, and 17th: Chow Now Pantry Collection at Sharonville (HELP NEEDED)



**Whisper**



Currently the world's oldest known land animal is Jonathan! He is a 183-year-old Aldabra Giant Tortoise who lives on the grounds of the governor's mansion in St. Helena, an island off West Africa. On average, the life span of a Giant Tortoise is 150 to 177 years of age. This indeed makes them the longest-living animals on the planet!



## December Birthdays

- Tracy Buckmeier
- Maria Miller

## December Anniversaries

- Kat Gibson—1 year
- Dr. Smith—1 year
- Nyketa Gaffney—3 years
- Ashley Lehmann—3 years
- Ben Coffey—5 years

## December Awareness

- National Mutt Day—12/2
- National Underdog Day—12/21
- Operation Santa Paws—All month

## Upcoming Events



[www.spcacincinnati.org](http://www.spcacincinnati.org)



**IAMS™**, an incredible community partner!!

## SPCA Campaigns



For a limited time, **Pet Valu - US** calendars are in-store w/ over \$100 in coupons! Proceeds benefit the SPCA Cincinnati. Visit <http://us.petvalu.com/>

For locations, before stores close!



We are thrilled to begin our FREE dog adoption EACH day sponsored by our good friends **Raising Cane's** in 2021!

This season, RC's Holiday Plush Cane is back. Proceeds from these popular collectibles benefit the animals in our care. Tell a friend to tell a friend!

Also, keep a look out for the SPCA's: **Where in the World Is Cane?!** Beginning tomorrow on social.

# Good Pet Samaritan Award

It started with an idea! Denise Jones, Senior Operations Manager at the SPCA Cincinnati, spotted a fantastic deed online and decided then that our shelter should do something! Here's the back story, which was sent to local media affiliates. A Miami Township Police dispatcher sent Officer Evans to Buckwheat Rd. to retrieve a dog. The dog was very skeptical at first, but Officer Evans was able to coax him with treats and eventually put him on a leash. He then took the dog back to the station so that he could scan the dog for a microchip. He was able to make contact with the dog mom - who is Burlington, Kentucky resident! 47 minutes away from Miami Township. When Officer Evans sent her a photo of the dog, she shouted with joy, "That's him, 100%!" There is no record of the dog being cared for by any other persons. Rocket is the dog's name. Rocket clearly has tremendous bravery and tenacity to have survived without his family for 5 years!

The SPCA Cincinnati learned of this story via Facebook and desired to personally congratulate Officer Evans with our very first Good Pet Samaritan Award! He helped Rocket immediately, seeing his reunion with his family completely through - helping Rocket avoid any time spent in a shelter. Denise sat down with Officer Evans for a Facebook live interview Tuesday afternoon to cover more on this reunion. She emphasized the importance a microchip has on keeping pets safe and at home, but also how this story helps aid in the education of the microchip. Ms. Jones says, "The microchip allows us to work together as a community, and we are extremely grateful to Officer Evans for what he has done for Rocket."

"Talk about how crazy 2020 has been, we need feel good stories! It's easy to focus on the negative, but it's great to be able to share the positive." Says Officer Evans

"Thank you for this certificate, it warms my heart...and will stay with me."



**Channel 5, WLWT:** View this good news in the media! [Click Here.](#)